

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 25:6-10

On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will prepare for all people a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines, of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines.

On this mountain he will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples, and the shroud enwrapping all nations, he will destroy Death for ever.

The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek; he will take away his people's shame everywhere on earth,

for the Lord has said so.

That day, it will be said: See, this is our God in whom we hoped for salvation;

the Lord is the one in whom we hoped.

We exult and we rejoice

that he has saved us;

for the hand of the Lord

rests on this mountain.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R./ I shall live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life.*

SECOND READING

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20*

I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich too. I have been through my initiation and now I am ready for anything anywhere: full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or plenty. There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength. All the same, it was good of you to share with me in my hardships. In return my God will fulfil all your needs, in Christ Jesus, as lavishly as only God can. Glory to God, our Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

*May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our heart*

*that we might see how great is the hope
to which we are called.*

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew 22:1-14*

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come. Next he sent some more servants. "Tell those who have been invited" he said "that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding." But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He dispatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding." So these servants went out onto the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests. When the king came in to look at the guests he noticed one man who was not wearing a wedding garment, and said to him, "How did you get in here, my friend, without a wedding garment?" And the man was silent. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



2027 Columban Calendars will be available to buy for \$11 this weekend in the **Piety Stall**, as well as Christmas Cards for \$6.00 per pack. Please visit our friendly volunteers to purchase.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PARISH

19 Forest Road, Ferntree Gully, 3156

Phone: 9758 1029

Email: office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au



28th Sunday in Ordinary Time- YRA - Year of St Francis
10th/11th October, 2026

FOCUS ON THE WORD: In order to build a peaceful society,' Pope Leo says, 'we must not only reform structures but also **renew our hearts.**' Each one of us is called to reflect on the 'ethical and cultural crisis' that besets our world, and the part each of us plays in it.

The Pope wants us to see that the path of the Kingdom of Heaven is one which rejects much that the worldly hold dear. In our time, he laments, there has been 'the loss of a sense of limits, the desire for domination, the pursuit of immediate profit, and the inability to recognise the God-given dignity of each human person.'

As the Pope reflects, Jesus '**invites us to transform harm into life**', seeking to '**reorder our desires, heal our wounds and help us grow in virtue.**' **Good and bad are invited to the feast, but truly attending means being transformed.**

We are thus invited to enter the feast 'where hearts are renewed, new possibilities begin to open.' **Each one of us is called** to become an agent of joyful peace, which 'begins in the heart and flows outward to our relationships, communities and the broader world.' 'Let us imagine', the Pope encourages us, 'a world in which the energies currently invested in war are directed toward integral human development, to overcoming poverty, protecting human dignity and reconciling divided peoples. Such a vision reflects faith in the coming of God's Kingdom.' © Nick Brodie



32. Synodality and families

Families are schools of synodality, where listening, patience and forgiveness are lived daily. The Church learns synodality from family life.

The synod assembly will be held across the weekend of 4-6 December 2026, more information is available at melbournecatholic.org/synod2026

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN: The Parish of St John the Baptist, and the Archdiocese of Melbourne are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and vulnerable people in our community. May our message be **that child protection and the dignity of every person is the responsibility of everyone.** You can find out more about the church's work in this area at: www.catholic.org.au/responseandprevention **safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.**



MEMORIALS/FEASTS – OCTOBER MONTH OF THE ROSARY

Wed 14th Oct St Callistus Thurs 15th Oct St Teresa of Jesus

Fri 16th Oct St Hedwig, St Margaret Mary Alacoque

I have come that you may have life and have it to the full
(John 10:10)

PARISH LEADERSHIP & MINISTRY TEAM

PARISH PRIEST:
Fr Thomas Kuruvila 9758 1029
Email: thomas@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

ASSISTANT PRIEST:
Fr Peter (Doan Ngoc) Nguyen 9758 1029
Email: Peter.Nguyen@cam.org.au

DEACON:
Rev. Peter Stringfellow 9758 1029
Email: Peter.Stringfellow@cam.org.au

FAITH DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR
Mary Makarucha 9758 1029
Tuesdays and Wednesdays. 10.00am -2.00pm
Email: marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

PARISH OFFICE: 9758 1029
Monday Tuesday 10.00am-4.00pm
Wednesday to Friday 9.00am -3.00pm

Secretaries: Charmaine Premaratne & Maree Wilson
Accountant: Bernard Negline
Email: office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

PPG CHAIR Carolyn Sombekke
Email: csombekkesjb@gmail.com

OUR PARISH SCHOOLS:

St John the Baptist 9758 1013
Principal: Kelli Johnston
Email: kjohnston@sjferntreegully.catholic.edu.au

St. Joseph's College 9758 2000
Principal: Catherine Livingston

Mater Christi College 9754 6611
Principal: Maria Haggett

REGULAR MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil	Emerald and	FTG	6:00 pm
Sunday	Belgrave 8.30am	FTG	10.30 am
	Gembrook 9am	Monbulk	11.00am
Tuesday	Belgrave 9am	FTG	7:00pm
Wednesday	Belgrave 9am	FTG	9.15am
& Thurs	Belgrave 9am	FTG	9.15am
Friday	Belgrave 9am	FTG	11.00 am

RECONCILIATION: Saturdays 5.15 pm

GLENGOLLAN VILLAGE MASS 1st Friday 2pm
WILLOWBROOK MASS 2nd Thursday 11am

BAPTISMS: are celebrated either during the weekend Masses on the second Sunday at any of the Mass center's, or at 12:00 pm on the second Sunday of the month at St John's, Ferntree Gully. A six weeks' notice is required. Please refer to our Guidelines for Infant Baptism on the Parish website. Contact the Parish Office on 97581029 or via email at marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au.

WEDDINGS: By appointment, 6 months' notice required. Saturdays or weekdays (not Sundays). Contact the Parish Office: on 9758 1029.

COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISH RAFFLE. please continue selling our raffle tickets. See our friendly ticket sellers in the foyer after Mass. **1st Prize is a \$12,000 Coles/ Myer Gift card.** Drawn 5th December, 2026. Good luck everyone

28th Sunday in Ordinary - Yr A
10th /11th October 2026 - Year of St Francis

PRAYING FOR...
All who have died recently:
Bridget Wahalatantri, Mary Ann Fernando
Those who we remember at this time Brian Walker, Evelina Prodocimi, Brian Johnson, Denis Buckley Kay Daraio, Stephen Noth
The sick: Angela Lorusso, Rosa Lisle, Lyle & Bonnie Hoefler, Barbara Kenny, Lucy Hosemans.

ROSARY the Rosary will be recited 30 minutes prior to all weekday Masses in the Church. All welcome

GROUP ROSARY SESSION FOR PEACE
When: First Saturday of the Month Please contact Joan Ryan on 0408 411 096 for information.

CHILDREN' LITURGY Our children's liturgy sessions are held in the room at the rear of the church. All welcome

ST. JOHN'S CHARISMATIC PRAYER on Tuesday Mornings in the Parish Community Centre, doors open 10am, for a 10.30am start. Praise & Worship, intercessory prayer and a shared lunch, fun and fellowship.

FRIENDSHIP GATHERING Come and join us each Thurs Morning at 10am in the Parish Community Centre, a great space to meet new people, or chat with old friends. ALL WELCOME.

PARENTS AND KIDS GROUP will meet after the 10.30am Mass Every First & Third Sunday of the Month of school term Resuming Sunday 18th October, 2026 in the Parish Community Centre. For fun, craft activities, fellowship & cuppa. Email jacquiandcarlos@gmail.com.

YOUTH GROUP/YOUNG ADULTS WYD 2027 INFORMATION SESSIONS Wed 4th November 7pm-9pm St Christopher's Church Syndal. Where we will unpack the three pilgrimage options (direct to Seoul, via Incheon, via Japan) along with costs, what to expect, past pilgrims stories and find out more: <https://melbournecatholic.org/wyd27> E: sjbyyouth@gmail.com

PARISH CENSUS. Our parish is currently undertaking a Parish Census to help us better understand our parish community and support its ongoing life and mission. By completing the census form available at Mass, we can register the number of our parish members and better understand the needs of our community. Data from this census will also assist the parish to plan effectively for ministries, important events, and future parish initiatives. Your privacy is essential, and all information will be treated with confidentiality. Thank you for your Participation.

SMART LOVING MENTOR COUPLES GATHERING Sat 17 October 2026, 9am-1pm, Cardinal Knox Centre, East Melbourne Mentor couples and couples married for five years or more who are interested in becoming mentors are invited to a relaxed morning of connection and formation. Register [here](#).

FRIENDLY REQUEST REGARDING ADORATION AT THE MARIAN STATUE Fr Thomas has made a request, that those wanting to pray or honour our lady, during the month of October, when the statue is displayed in the sanctuary, please do not go up onto the altar sanctuary, but simply kneel in the front pew. Thank you for your understanding..



Join us in honoring Our Lady of the Rosary this October. We will recite the Rosary before weekend Masses at the following times:

- Saturdays at 5:30 pm (Before 6:00 pm Mass—arrive early for Reconciliation!)
- Sundays at 10:00 am (Before 10:30 am Mass)

We are seeking parishioners to lead the Rosary over the four weekends of October. Please accept this special grace and contact Mary-our Faith coordinator, if you are able to assist. Let us all join together to draw closer to Jesus and Mary.

FORMATION – ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Dear Parishioners, Fr Thomas will conduct a formation session for all our Lectors and Eucharist Ministers. This is an opportunity for all to refresh their skills and gifts in these special liturgical ministries. All current lectors and ministers are invited! It also gives the opportunity for any parishioners who are considering to join these ministries, to join, at this time, and to take advantage of this training. Please note the dates below: **Lector formation will take place on Tuesday 20th October at 7:30pm** (after mass) **Eucharist Minister formation will take place on Tuesday 27th October at 7:30pm** (after mass)

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY 2026 Saturday is World Mental Health Day when people are asked to support people with mental health problems. The 2026 theme is, *'Lived experiences heard: real voices, real change'*.

Every human person is deserving of dignity and respect, no matter their circumstance which is in line with Catholic social teachings. As Christians, we follow the example of Jesus who showed how we should treat others. In a new video, Pope Leo asks forgiveness for the times when Christians have looked the other way and not accepted people with a mental illness (see story). He prays the Church may become "a safe space where everyone has a place". perhaps take a minute or two to reflect about those who are struggling. So, perhaps this Saturday take a minute to reflect, Think! How can I better support them? Can I do more? What support would I like if I was in their position?

Prayer: *Dear Lord, when life feels overwhelming, help us to slow down, find peace and remember that we are never alone. Bring hope to our hearts and strength for each new day. Amen.*

STEPFAMILIES -THROUGH YOUR CHILDREN'S EYES This 3-hour workshop focuses on the unique experience of living in a stepfamily through your children's eyes. It is designed for couples or individuals at any stage of their stepfamily journey. **On-line** :Thurs 26 Nov-5-8pm - FREE Details: Catholiccare [Link here](#)

BAPTISMS Congratulations to Benjamin Townsend son of Kan and Adelia, and Harlow Pope daughter of Edward & Leanne who are to be baptised this weekend. The Church of God welcomes you with great joy.



ST JOHN'S PARISH SOCIAL LUNCH the SJB Parish Community are gathering this Sunday the 11th of October

St John's PARISH SOCIAL LUNCH
Food, Fellowship & Fun for the Whole Family!

11TH OCT 12 TO 3 PM

VENUE: ST JOHN'S SCHOOL HALL

FINGER FOOD (including a sweet/dessert dish)

FOR ALL AGES

DOOR PRICES (including a sweet/dessert dish)

RAFFLE TICKETS (including a sweet/dessert dish)

Let's come together as a community!

HOW CHRIST FORMS PARTICIPANTS ON THE BETHANY WAY People across the Archdiocese are invited to experience the Bethany Way at a free introductory retreat on Saturday 31st October, giving them a taste of the Archdiocese's flagship formation initiative. Inspired by Martha, Mary and



Lazarus of Bethany, the **Bethany Way** invites participants to sit at the feet of Jesus through six retreats and weekly online formation. **Three of our very own parishioners Gordon, Eduard and Sofia**

attended an introductory retreat in 2025. They were drawn to the story of Martha, Mary and Lazarus. "The central idea about knowing more about God our Father while reading and discussing this dialogue between Jesus and his friends really caught our attention." Their response has been a renewed commitment to living out their faith in their whole life: in parish, family and workplace. **REGISTRATIONS FOR THE BETHANY WAY Introductory Retreat on Saturday 31 October are NOW OPEN.** For registration details, go to <https://melbournecatholic.org/live/proclaim-office-for-mission-renewal/bethanyway>

ROSTERS: Mon 12th Oct to Sun 18th October 2026	
Flowers	Sue & Lynne
Linen	Laurel S
Welcomers	6.00pm Myra N Wilma H 10.30am Peter C, Joanna C, Terry S
Lectors	6.00pm Alvi M 10.30am Shamindri A
Counters	Tony B, Steph H, Peter Finn, Rosina L
Gardening	Roger K & Henner T