

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 45:1. 4-6

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more: It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, of Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, conferring a title though you do not know me.

I am the Lord, unrivalled; there is no other God besides me. Though you do not know me, I arm you that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/ Give the Lord glory and honour.

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians 1:1-5

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!
Shine on the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 22:15-21

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'

The Gospel of the Lord



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



29th Sunday in Ordinary Time- YR A - Year of St Francis
17th /18th October, 2026 - World Mission Sunday

FOCUS ON THE WORD: The gospel writer presents this gospel episode as a deliberate attempt by the Pharisees to trap Jesus and turn the people against him... Instead of falling into the trap set by the Pharisees, Jesus approaches the question in a completely different way. He asks them to show him the money with which they pay the tax. Immediately, he has turned the tables on them. Jesus then closes the dispute by instructing them to render (give) to Caesar what belongs to Caesar **but, more importantly, render to God what belongs to God.** In a very simple way Jesus has shown up the Pharisees' disciples as being collaborators with the Roman authority and placing that authority above the authority of God. He reminds the listeners that regardless of earthly authority, the first duty is owed to God. © Greg Sunter

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY Over one billion Catholics all over the world observe today as *World Mission Sunday*. The theme announced by the Vatican for 2026 is: **"ONE IN CHRIST, UNITED IN MISSION."** On World Mission Sunday, Catholics gather to celebrate the Eucharist and to contribute to a collection for the work of evangelization around the world. This annual celebration gives us a chance to reflect on the importance of mission work for the life of the Church. It reminds us that we are one with the Church around the world and **that we are all committed to carrying on the mission of Christ, however different our situations may be.**



Joke of the Day

1: 97% of the world has heard of Coca-Cola,
2% of the world has seen a can of Coca-Cola,
51% of the world has tasted a can of Coca-Cola,

Coke has only been around since 1880 . If God had given the task of world evangelization to the Coke company it would probably be done by now!



32. Synodality and mission beyond the Church

A synodal Church listens not only inwardly but outwardly, engaging respectfully with society and culture.

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 Mon 19th Oct St John de Brebeuf and Isaac Jogues, priests, companions, martyrs and St Paul of the Cross. Thurs 22nd Oct St John Paul II, pope.

Fri 23rd Oct St John of Capistrano

Sat 24th Oct St Anthony Claret.



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

	Emerald and	FTG	6:00 pm
Saturday Vigil	Belgrave 8.30am	FTG	10.30 am
Sunday	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 Friday 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



29th Sunday in Ordinary - Yr A
17th /18th October 2026 - Year of St Francis

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently: Bernardo Romeo
Franz Edlinger

Those who we remember at this time Filonila Lobo; Wilma Neville, Angelo, Giuseppina, Andy, Federico & Silvia Zarro; Margherita, Damiano, Luigi, Cosimo & Jilda Coviello, Danny Rossi, Mary Kift, Rosemary Power. **The sick:** Bradley McCullum, Angela Lorusso, Rosa Lisle, Lyle & Bonnie Hoefer, 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** 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://melbourne.catholic.org/wyd27> E: sjtbtyouth@gmail.com



YOUTH GROUP SOCIAL PICKLEBALL GAME -

All welcome! The Parish Youth Group will be hosting a social game of pickleball at the Eastern Indoor Sports Centre (1642 Ferntree Gully Rd, Knoxfield 3180) **from 4-5pm next Saturday 24th of October.** Whether you've never played before, or you're a pickleball pro, everyone is welcome to come along for a fun, casual game. Please text Vicente on 0420450604 if you plan to come along!

SMART LOVING MENTOR COUPLES GATHERING

Sat 17 October 2026, **Please note time change:** Begins at 8.45am and conclude at 11.30am., 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](https://www.proclaimcam.org.au), Email: proclaim@cam.org.au



POPE LEO XIV'S RECENT DIAGNOSIS OF LUNG CANCER. A 90-minute surgery on 13th October in which surgeons removed the lower lobe of the Pope's right lung has revealed Cancer. **Let us unite with people around the world in prayer for the Holy Father, anchored in faith and in the hope to be found in Christ.** Read [more here](#)

LECTOR'S & EUCHARIST MINISTER 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 Oct at 7:30pm** (after mass) **Eucharist Minister formation will take place on Tuesday 27th Oct at 7:30pm** (after mass)

THANK YOU - ST JOHN'S PARISH SOCIAL DAY

On behalf of Fr Thomas and Fr Peter and the planning group, sincere thanks for your contribution and participation in last Sunday's social lunch. Thank you for:

- Kind donations of savoury/ finger food/ desserts/sweets
- Very generous donations of a wonderful selection of raffle prizes
- For the contributions of music from Kevin; Maya
- For the contributions of the Children's liturgy team
- For the contributions of the Young Families team
- For the generous time of volunteers for the setting up and clearing up afterwards.
- Our School-For the generous use of the School Hall.
- Volunteers for the raffle/ door prize/ ice breaker. - What a wonderful get together!

LOOKING FOR FLEXIBLE WORK AND A CHANCE TO SUPPORT PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS?

Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) Australia is seeking a Diocesan Outreach Assistant to give short presentations at weekend Masses across the Archdiocese of Melbourne. This part-time role involves sharing stories of the suffering Church and helping build prayerful support within parish communities. If you are comfortable speaking in front of others and have a heart for this mission, we would love to hear from you.

For details: www.aidtochurch.org/work

2027 Columban Calendars will be available to buy for \$11,-please visit our Piety Stall in the Foyer.

YOUTH LEADERS TRAINING - SAFEGUARDING.

SATURDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2026, 9am-3pm, St Cardinal Knox Centre, East Melbourne. Youth and young adult leaders will be equipped to recognise risks, respond appropriately and strengthen a culture of safeguarding. As leaders, this is an essential part of our mission. [Register now](#)

THIS YEAR, WORLD MISSION SUNDAY, CELEBRATED ON 18 OCTOBER, MARKS 100 YEARS

since its establishment by Pope Pius XI in 1926.

In a special video message, Pope Leo XIV recalls how World Mission Sunday shaped his own missionary vocation. As a young boy in the United States, the prayers and generosity of Catholics inspired him to become a missionary and later supported his ministry in Peru.

Reflecting on this year's theme, "One in Christ, United in Mission," Pope Leo reminds us that through Baptism we are all members of one family in Christ, called to share God's love with the world.

He encourages everyone to support the Church's mission through prayer, generosity and practical help, especially for the poorest and most vulnerable.

In Australia, Catholic Mission leads the annual appeal, supporting the Church's work wherever the need is greatest. The Pope's message is simple: Mission is a work of love, and every one of us has a part to play. For more information, visit catholicmission.org.au/worldmissionmonth.



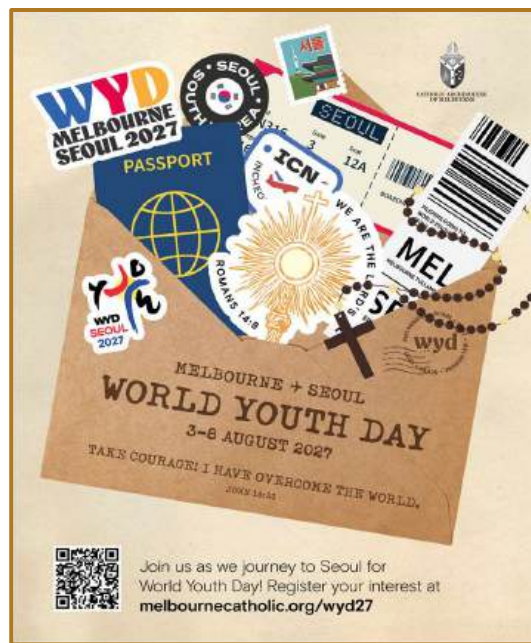
ADVENT DAILY REFLECTIONS BOOKLET

This Advent and Christmas, discover the God who is closer than we think. Presence: Advent & Christmas Daily Reflections 2026 is a beautifully presented, 84-page, full-colour book of daily reflections inviting you to slow down, become attentive, and rediscover the presence of Christ in your everyday life. Beginning on the First Sunday of Advent (29 November 2026) and continuing through to the Baptism of the Lord (10 January 2027), Presence offers a prayerful companion for the entire Advent and Christmas journey. **Cost: \$6.60 +GST & postage per copy.**



Please contact the parish office at office@stjohnthebaptist.net if you wish to order this years Advent booklet **no later than the 26th October 2026**, or use the sign-up sheet in the church. You can peruse a visual example at the following link: [Presence Advent & Christmas Daily Reflections](#)

ROSTERS: Mon 19th Oct to Sun 25th October 2026	
Flowers	Sue & Lynne
Linen	Sue N
Welcomers	6.00pm Lia U & Help needed 10.30am Peter C, Joanna C, Terry S
Lectors	6.00pm Gab C 10.30am Vincente M
Counters	Tony B, Steph H, Peter Finn, Rosina L
Gardening	Roger K & Henner T



CAN YOU HELP PEOPLE WHO HAVE SUFFERED CHURCH-RELATED ABUSE?

For fourteen years, the Lifeboat Geelong Foundation has been assisting victims of church-related sexual abuse from all over Australia. In recent years, generous supporters have donated a number of motor vehicles of varied value (from \$500 to



\$20,000!), including cars from deceased estates or which are no longer required. Some have been directly gifted to a victim/survivor in need, while others have been sold to generate funds required to assist victims in a multitude of ways e.g. counselling, rent, utilities and other domestic and personal necessities.

You could help this important work both by simply by bringing it to the attention of people who might consider donating a motor vehicle, if possible in roadworthy or near-roadworthy condition and which for whatever reason is no longer required, or contact:

Fr. Kevin Dillon (0421 777 360 or frkdillon@outlook.com.au)

or
Damian Coyne (0400 170 374 or dkcoyne@hotmail.com) for more information.



MELBOURNE SYNOD: WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

A total of 224 responses were received from parishes, individuals and groups across the Archdiocese as part of the



upcoming Melbourne Synod's consultation phase, and representatives of 106 parishes attended the regional consultation meetings held throughout the Archdiocese in August. Synod Program Lead Cathy Jenkins updates us on what's been happening since then.

[Continue reading: Melbourne Synod: what's been happening](#)

JOB VACANCIES: -COME WORK WITH US

Applications are currently open for the following positions:

Archdiocese of Melbourne

- **Administration Assistant**—Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Victoria, Thornbury
- **Head of Aboriginal Catholic Ministry**—Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Victoria, Thornbury
- **Discipleship Internship 2027**—Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne, East Melbourne

Parishes

- **Pastoral Worker**—St Joseph's Parish, South Yarra
- **Pastoral Assistant**—Holy Trinity, Bentleigh East
- **Pastoral Co-ordinator**—at the St Paul's Pastoral Centre, Bentleigh
- **Parish Office Administrator**—Christ Our Light Parish, Cheltenham. Permanent Part Time 25 hrs per week.

Other

- **Community Engagement Officer**—CDF, East Melbourne

If you are interested in applying for any of the above positions, further details can be found [here](#).

This year marks 100years of World Mission Day, a time in which the global Church celebrates God's mission through prayer and generosity.

Today, that mission continues in places like Malawi, where communities are rebuilding after devastating floods and families are striving to create a future for their children.

In the coming weeks we will share how the Church is walking alongside these communities, and how you can be part of this living mission of love.

To learn more about Catholic Mission and our work, please go to catholicmission.org.au

WORLD FOOD DAY 2026



World Food Day is observed globally on the 16th of October to raise awareness about global hunger, promote food security, and encourage action to eradicate malnutrition and poverty. For more details visit:

<https://www.fao.org/world-food-day/en>



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.

DISCIPLESHIP INTERNSHIP- APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2027 INTAKE ARE OPEN

Applications are now open for this opportunity for university student studying and living in the Archdiocese of Melbourne who want to live out their faith in a different way. They will be formed as a disciple of Jesus and use their gifts to go on mission in Melbourne. Being an intern is about being a light of Christ unto others. To radiate Christ's love. Please pass this invitation on to students in your communities. **Applications close 9 November.**



SOUTHERN STARS & YOUNG STARS SOCIAL

CLUB PARTY NIGHT Party for single Catholic's in the 28 to 60 age group on When? **Sat: 24th October**

Time: **8pm**

Location: **St Benedicts Parish Hall** Central Ave, Burwood Melway Map 60 H6

Cost: Non members - \$13.00 Members - \$7.00 Includes supper and Lucky Door Prizes Enquiries: Peter 9885 2167



