FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Exodus 22:20-26

The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the sons of Israel this, "You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

"If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

"If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity."

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/ I love You, Lord, my strength.

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians 1:5-10

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

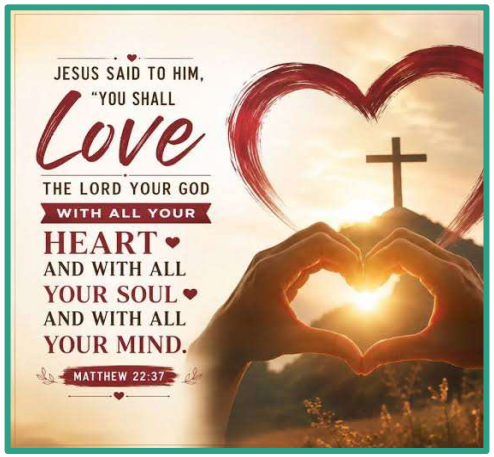
Alleluia, alleluia!
All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them
and we will come to them.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 22:34-40

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

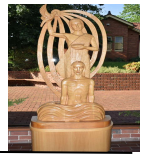
The Gospel of the Lord.



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



30th Sunday in Ordinary Time- *YR A - Year of St Francis*
24th/25th October, 2026

FOCUS ON THE WORD: The question and response that we see in this gospel passage was a common form of scholarly debate in the Jewish tradition. The Pharisees ask Jesus **which of the commandments is the greatest.** Jesus responds by directly quoting the commandment from the ancient scriptures. His reply, **'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind,' comes directly from Deuteronomy 6:4. Further, Jesus' followup, 'you must love your neighbour as yourself,'** comes from Leviticus 19:18. Deuteronomy and Leviticus are two of the first five books of the Bible that make up the Jewish Torah, or Law.

Jesus' words call us to love our neighbour as ourselves. We are called to treat others as we would like to be treated ourselves. To be able to do this, we need to picture ourselves in their place – experiencing all that they are experiencing; not imposing our own values and circumstances. To see ourselves in the place of another is the key to responding with compassion. The origin of the word 'compassion' means experiencing with. If we are able to truly 'experience with' another person perhaps then we can genuinely recognise and respond to their needs. © Greg Sunter

34. Synodality prevents isolation

When leaders and communities walk together, no one carries the burden alone. Synodality builds shared responsibility.

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.**

October Month of The Holy Rosary

MEMORIALS/FEASTS – OCTOBER / NOVEMBER
Wed 28th Oct Sts Simon & Jude
All Saints Day - Sun 1st Nov – Regular Mass Times
All Souls Day - Mon 2nd Nov- Mass 9am Belgrave and 7pm Ferntree Gully.

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

30th Sunday in Ordinary - Yr A
24th /25th October 2026 - Year of St Francis

PRAYING FOR…

All who have died recently:
Pauline Nixon

Those who we remember at this time Ted M Judit, Penry White, Pius Silva, Daisy Sason-Lim, Giovanni Francesca, Christopher Civelli, Danny Rossi, Teresa Starrs, Vicenzo Catalano

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 SOCIAL PICKLEBALL GAME Join us for 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! E:sjtbyouth@gmail.com All welcome.

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

AUSSIE CAMINO PILGRIMAGE 2027 The Aussie Camino is **a ten-day pilgrimage from Portland in Victoria to Penola in South Australia,** following in the footsteps of St Mary MacKillop — from the town where she began her teaching, to the place where she co-founded the Sisters of St Joseph with Fr Julian Tenison Woods. Book or enquire using the getaway trekking website here: The Aussie Camino Pilgrimage - Trek Portland to Penola - Getaway Trekking and Adventures

LITURGY†	† NEWS	NOV 2026
ALL SAINTS DAY	1.11.2026	Regular Mass times
ALL SOULS DAY	Mon 2.11.2026	9am Belgrave 7pm Ferntree Gully
Melb. Cup Day	Tues 2.11.26	Public Holiday Parish Office Closed.
YOUTH World Youth Day info	4.11.2026	At St Christopher's Syndal 7pm
WEEK DAY MASS changes	6.10.26- 4.12.2026	During Fr Peter's Leave.
First Friday	6.11.2026	Holy Hour from 10
Annual Memorial Mass	Tues 17.11.2026	All Parishioners are invited to support.

EUCHARIST MINISTER FORMATION – ST JOHN THE BAPTIST Thanks to all the lectors who attended the Tuesday Training. We really appreciate your commitment and help. **This week is the opportunity for all our Eucharistic Ministers** to refresh their skills and gifts. All current Eucharistic ministers and anyone interested in becoming involved in this ministry are invited. **Eucharist Minister formation will take place on Tuesday 27th Oct at 7:30pm (after mass)**

SAFE TRAVELS FR PETER From Monday 26TH October, Fr Peter will be away on leave. We wish Fr Peter, a safe and happy holiday. This will have a bearing on our Weekday Mass Times. Fr Thomas will move alternately weekly between the FTG & Belgrave.



Tues 27th Weekday Masses will be as normal at St John's – **Wed 28 No Belgrave Weekday Mass**
Thurs 29th No Belgrave Weekday Mass.
Friday's will be as normal for both Parishes. This will alternate weekly.

KNITTERS FOR K.O.G.O CHARITY – The last bags of knits will be sent in mid-November. So please put items into the bag or office soon. We have received a letter of appreciation for your good work- ***"Thankyou from the bottom of our hearts for the lovely items you have sent us. At K.O.G.O we recognize and deeply appreciate the effort and skill that has gone into making them. We know that the people who receive them will feel cared for and valued in turn."***

WORLD YOUTH DAY SEOUL 2027 will take place from **3 to 8 August 2027.** The Archdiocese of Melbourne is offering three pilgrimage options: via Japan, via the Diocese of Incheon, or direct to Seoul. **The Information session is on Wednesday 4th Nov, at St Christopher's Parish Syndal at 7pm** More at melbournecatholic.org/wyd27.

NOVEMBER CROSS. November is the **month of the Holy Souls** where we pray for parishioners, friends and members of our families who have died. **For those who would like to have a Mass offered** for their deceased relatives and friends, **November offering envelopes will be available on the trolleys.**

FIRST FRIDAY MASS 3rd November Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament from 10 am.
Mass at 11 am
Please stay for a cup of tea/coffee after Mass.

RAISING OUR VOICES In the face of rapid, often destabilising social and technological change, we are called to raise our voices in defence of our humanity. In an opinion piece published today in the Herald Sun, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli asks: who will stand for the least among us? Pointing to the horror felt by many at a recent failed execution in the United States, he contends that 'the termination of the unborn at one end of life and the terminally ill at the other end is just as brutal and should be just as shocking.' As we approach the upcoming state election, he prays that our elected leaders 'will govern wisely and prudently, upholding the good of all, especially the least among us'. Click on the link above to read more.



ADVENT DAILY REFLECTIONS BOOKLET last chance to order -by 26th October please.

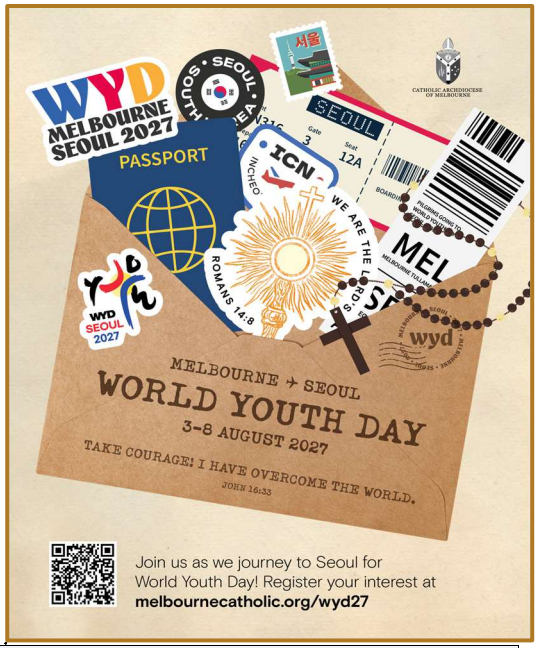


This Advent and Christmas, discover the God who is closer than we think. **Presence: Advent & Christmas Daily Reflections** 2026 is a beautifully presented, 84-page, full-colour book of daily reflections inviting you to slow down, become attentive, and rediscover the presence of Christ in your everyday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

BEYOND BOTANY BAY concert presented by Excelsis Choir – celebrating contemporary Australian choral composers and their music. Including works from Paul Jarman, Eric Bogle, Daniel Brinsmead. Fri 30th Oct, 2026 at 7.30pm Venue: Melbourne Recital Centre (Elizabeth Murdoch Hall, Southbank. Bookings: Melbourne Recital Centre - Beyond Botany Bay - Cost: A$40 Con $35

ROSTERS: Mon 26th Oct to Sun 1st November 2026

Flowers	Genevieve & Tess
Linen	Alvi M
Welcomers	6.00pm Myra N 10.30am Johanna C, Thelma C, Terry S
Lectors	6.00pm Louise D 10.30am Christopher G
Counters	Bryon M, Guil Walter
Gardening	Carlos E



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.

Lifeboat Geelong FOUNDATION

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 happing 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
- **School Engagement Administration Assistant** Cardinal Knox Centre 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 Secretary – Western Port Parish Hastings**
- **Pastoral Worker & Youth Co-ordinator – Immaculate Conception Parish Westernport**
- **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.

VMCH (Villa Maria Catholic Homes) also has multiple positions available on their website

https://careers.vmch.com.au/jobs/search

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.**







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

THE CARMELITES' HIDDEN TREASURY OF SPIRITUAL WISDOM. Nestled next to the Carmelite church our Lady of Mt Carmel Middle Park is one of the country's most remarkable theological libraries. It's collection ranges from Carmelite Spirituality and Mariology to Jewish mysticism, Buddhist texts and Indigenous Australian Spiritual traditions attracting everyone from doctoral researchers to people simply searching for wisdom, meaning and a place to reflect.



Fr Paul Chandler (O Carm), the library's director, says it is an 'extraordinary resource' of important heritage that the Carmelites would like to keep developing – but they need help to do so.

Fr Paul believes that library's collection of Carmelite material – known as Carmelita- may be the forth largest collection in the world. Several of the rare books dating back to the 16th & 17th centuries.

"We see this as a kind of resource for connecting with the wisdom of the elders of different kinds.' **An open library and an uncertain future.** The library is unusual in another respect: it is open to anyone. Fr Paul believes it may be the only theological library in Australia that anyone can come into. For now, however, the library is struggling to maintain even its basic operations. Staffing has been reduced from four days a week to one, opening hours have been cut, and new acquisitions are increasingly difficult to make.

'We've got this extraordinary resource that has taken 140 years to build, and it's at a very high level of excellence. We would just like to keep developing it and keep it available not only as heritage but also as kind of mission into the future.' Read more at: The Carmelites' hidden treasury of spiritual… | Melbourne Catholic



SAVE THE DATE:

RED NOVEMBER: This year the **18th November, 2026** is the day for in prayer for the persecuted church.

Pray, Support, Act.

Aid to the Church in Need.

CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE Online Information Session for Prospective Students

Monday 26 October 2026

7.00pm–8.00pm

Interested in exploring study in theology, philosophy, spirituality, biblical studies, pastoral and spiritual care, and ministry? Catholic Theological College would like to invite you to an online information session on Monday 26 October at 7pm (AEDT). Learn about CTC's courses, units and available study options.Meet course advisers.Explore the college's areas ...

MORE INFO https://melbournecatholic.org/events/catholic-theological-college-online-information-session-for-prospective-students