FIRST READING

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse Rev: 7:2-4, 9-14

I, John, saw another angel rising where the sun rises, carrying the seal of the living God; he called in a powerful voice to the four angels whose duty was to devastate land and sea, 'Wait before you do any damage on land or at sea or to the trees, until we have put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.' Then I heard how many were sealed: a hundred and forty-four thousand, out of all the tribes of Israel.
After that I saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. They shouted aloud, 'Victory to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels who were standing in a circle round the throne, surrounding the elders and the four animals, prostrated themselves before the throne, and touched the ground with their foreheads, worshipping God with these words, 'Amen. Praise and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and strength to our God for ever and ever. Amen.'
One of the elders then spoke, and asked me, 'Do you know who these people are, dressed in white robes, and where they have come from?' I answered him, 'You can tell me, my Lord.' Then he said, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/ Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St John 1 John 3:1-3

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children;
and that is what we are.
Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us.
My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed;
all we know is, that when it is revealed
we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is. Surely everyone who entertains this hope must purify himself, must try to be as pure as Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Come to me, all you that labour and are burdened,
and I will give you rest, says the Lord.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 5:1-12

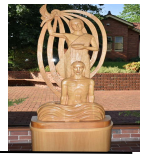
Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:
'How happy are the poor in spirit:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Happy the gentle:
they shall have the earth for their heritage.
Happy those who mourn:
they shall be comforted.
Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:
they shall be satisfied.
Happy the merciful:
they shall have mercy shown them.
Happy the pure in heart:
they shall see God.
Happy the peacemakers:
they shall be called sons of God.
Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

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





ALL SAINTS DAY- 1st November - *YR A* - *Year of St Francis*
ALL SOULS DAY - Monday 2nd November, 2026

FOCUS ON THE WORD: Saints are sometimes regarded as 'Catholic superheroes'. Stories of miraculous and remarkable deeds abound, though more in the vein of conversions and cures than speeding bullets and tall buildings. But to get caught up on the Saints of the stained glass windows is to overlook the vast majority of saints. **You see, a saint is anybody whose soul is in heaven.** The Church celebrates a certain number of Saints whose lives provide a glimpse of God for the rest of the Church. But there are many, many more saints whose glimpse of God was only ever experienced by their family, friends and those with whom they worked**. The feast of ALL Saints is an opportunity to remember and reflect on the lives of those saints who've been known and loved by just a few and whose sphere of influence was such that they will never be recognised as Saints by the universal Church. Today's gospel, the Beatitudes**, from the Sermon on the Mount describes perfectly those 'lower case s' saints we celebrate on this feast day. The Beatitudes are sometimes referred to in parallel with the Ten Commandments. However, the Beatitudes are not 'rules' or 'instructions' for life as the Commandments are. They are more in line with a strategy that today we would call 'positive reinforcement'. They celebrate those who respond to God's call through particular attitudes towards life and towards others. Jesus presents them to the disciples and the crowd as images to inspire imitation. They're not hard and fast rules for life, but attitudes for life; the Be-Attitudes, so to speak. **Those who live with these attitudes in this life are to be celebrated – 'Happy are you' – for they will be saints. They will be welcomed into communion with God in heaven**.© Greg Sunter

35. Synodality and courage

Listening honestly may reveal uncomfortable truths. Synodality requires courage to face them with faith.

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 – NOVEMBER All Saints Day - Sun 1st Nov – Regular Mass Times
All Souls Day - Mon 2nd Nov- Mass 9am Belgrave and 7pm Ferntree Gully.
Tues 3rd Nov **St Martin de Porres** Wed 4th Nov **St Charles Borromeo**
Wed 4TH Nov **Anglican-Roman Catholic Reconciliation**

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 – please note temporary changes

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	No Mass this week	
Wednesday	Belgrave no Mass	FTG	No Mass this week	
& Thurs	Belgrave 9am	FTG	No Mass this week	
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.

THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES The stewardship envelopes are available for collection at the back of the church. If you give using this method, please kindly pick up your envelopes to save postage fees. Thank you all. 😊 Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

All SAINTS / ALL SOULS Solemnity - Yr A
31st Oct / 1st Nov, 2026 Year of St Francis

PRAYING FOR…

All who have died recently:
Lucienne Hosemans , Rosetta Nicosia

Those who we remember at this time Fr. Bill Bainbridge, David Howell, Joseph & Lucy Kuek, Dennis, Bernard, & Josephine Kuek, Dean Platt, Carmela Mazzeo, Maria D'Alessio, Umberto Paternoster.

The sick:, Bradley McCullum, Angela Lorusso, Rosa Lisle, Lyle & Bonnie Hoefer, Barbara Kenny,



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, fun & 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 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

FUNERAL MASS for the late **Rosetta Nicosia** will be celebrated here **at St John's** Church on **Wed 4th November** Rosary 11.30am, Funeral Mass 12pm.
FUNERAL MASS for the late **Lucienne Hosemans** will be celebrated **at St Thomas's** Church on **Wed 4th November** at 11.00am.

LITURGY†	† NEWS	NOV 2026
Melb. Cup Day	Tues 3.11.26	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.

MASS TIMES FOR ALL SAINTS DAY AND ALL SOULS DAY

All Saints Day - Sun 1st Nov – Regular Mass Times
All Souls Day - Mon 2nd Nov- Mass 9am Belgrave and 7pm Ferntree Gully 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.**

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."***

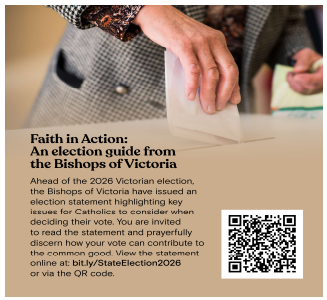
WORLD YOUTH DAY SEOUL 2027
The Archdiocese of Melbourne is hosting an information session for **World Youth Day Seoul 2027**
Event Dates: 3-8 Aug 2027
Pilgrimage Routes: 3 options
Next Step: Attend the information session **4th Nov,** St Christopher's in Syndal.melbournecatholic.org/wyd27.

ADVENT BOOKLETS HAVE BEEN ORDERED
Thank you to everyone who got their orders in for the Advent booklet "Presence." I have ordered the books, and they will be distributed once we have received them.



ADVENT REFLECTION GROUP Come and prepare for the real meaning of Christmas with Sofia and Eduardo. **Starting on** Monday the 23rd of November to the 21st December. All are welcome to join in. **Venue** yet to be decided: PCC or Parish Admin building. We will let you know!

FAITH IN ACTION: An election guide from the Bishops of Victoria Ahead of the 2026 Victorian election, the Bishops of Victoria have issued an election statement highlighting key issues for Catholics to consider when deciding their vote. **You are invited to read the statement** and prayerfully discern how your vote can contribute to the common good. **View the statement online at:** bit.ly/StateElection2026.



AN INVITATION FOR ALL PARENT'S AND CHILDREN TO ATTEND OUR ADVENT WORKSHOP

Join in the fun! Preparing for Christmas at the Parish Advent Workshop. We will have crafts and activities, and a light lunch to share. This year we request that families bring their own home made Nativity Crib which will be placed on display. Take a look at our flyer below for more details!



UPCOMING ORDINATIONS On **Sunday 14th November, at 10am** St Patrick's Cathedral Melbourne will host one of the largest ordination Masses in recent memory, with a total of 9 ordinands to the priesthood and diaconate. Two men will be ordained to the priesthood (deacons Rhys Lowther and Dominic Lawes), 3 to the transitional diaconate (Nicolas Calandra, Andrew Tran and Anthony Wright); and 4 to the ministry of permanent diaconate (Ryan Martin, Bradley Proud, Peter Nguyen and Francis Thomas). All are welcome, and the Mass will be broadcast to the community channel 31(channel 44 on TV or watch at: youtube.com/archmelb

ROSTERS: Mon 2nd -Sun 8th November 2026	
Flowers	Genevieve & Tess
Linen	Sabrina McK
Welcomers	6.00pm Peter G, Wilma H, Matt C 10.30am Thelma B, Joanna C, Anna M
Lectors	6.00pm Phuong B 10.30am Eduardo M
Counters	Bryon M, Guil Walter
Gardening	Patrick S & Harry R

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.

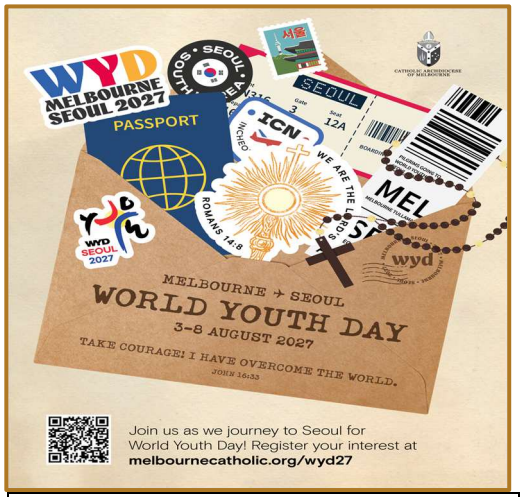
Lifeboat Geelong FOUNDATION

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)

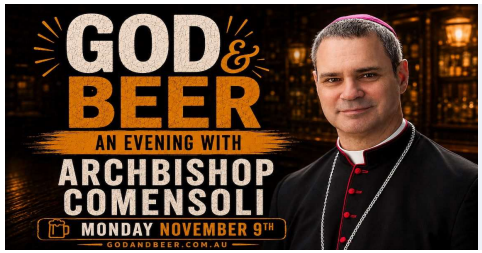
or

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



CHOSEN 2026, is a 4 day Catholic conference for young Australians (16-35yrs) seeking a deeper encounter with Christ. Hosted **by Jesus Youth Australia,** Chosen brings together hundered of young people from across the nation for inspiring talks, powerful worship, daily Mass, Eucharistic adoration, practical workshops and authentic community. Thurs 19th Nov – Sunday 22nd Nov 2026 at La Trobe University Bundoora.

Find out more here.



Monday 9 November 2026
6.30pm–8.30pm Dunlop Pavilion

At the next God and Beer, Archbishop of Melbourne Peter A Comensoli will be speaking on the theme 'To Know Christ Jesus.' At the heart of the Christian faith is not simply a set of ideas, moral teachings or traditions, but a person: Jesus Christ. How can a deeper friendship with him transform the way we pray. Book at: tickets.org.au - Australia's Premier Ticketing System For Organisations...

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.**



FIRST FRIDAY MASS 6th November Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament from 10 am.
Mass at 11 am
Please stay for a cup of tea/coffee after Mass.





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.

AN EVENING OF FINE LITURGICAL MUSIC AND PRAYER WITH BR MICHAEL HERRY



Wednesday 11 November 2026
7.00pm–8.45pm

Don't miss this lovely night of prayer and song featuring the beautiful liturgical music of Br Michael Herry, including his fine body of responsorial psalms, seasonal hymns and liturgical chants, plus special music for young people. This is an evening you will both enjoy and remember! For more information, please .contact Lisa Leahy (secretary St Thomas the Apostle Greensborough Nth) Lisa.Leahy@cam.org.au

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL MELBOURNE MARKS IT'S 129TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONSECRATION. On 27th October, the Cathedral marks the 129th anniversary of it's consecration in 1987 – a high point in the life of the Church in Melbourne. The story began when Melbourne's first Catholic priest, Fr Bonaventure Geoghagen, purchased 2 acres of land on Eastern Hill for £300, with the idea of building a new church on what was then the outskirts of the burgeoning city. You can read more about this fascinating history here

PALMS TIMOR-LESTE ENCOUNTER 10th -23rd MAY 2027!

Timor-Leste is Australia's closest neighbour. It is also the nation with which Australia has had a complex chequered history. Yet very few Australians have ever been there.

An Encounter Tour to is not only an unforgettable holiday – it is an opportunity to get 'behind the scenes' insights into history, culture & the importance of relationships in sustainable development.

In a small (max 8 person) group, you will meet Palms international partners and long-term volunteers. Encounters are the ethical option to learn about development and support Australia's oldest lay Catholic international development organisation.

Book your place on the 14-day Encounter Tour here: palms.org.au/encounters.

Volunteers Needed! Catholic Community Connectors needed to assist with the Palms' Simplicity September campaign. More info here.

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. **If you have sold your book of tickets, please return the ticket butts and money to be ticked off.** Many thanks, and Good luck everyone

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