FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Wisdom 6:12-16

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim.
By those who love her she is readily seen,
and found by those who look for her.
Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes herself known to them.
Watch for her early and you will have no trouble; you will find her sitting at your gates.
Even to think about her is understanding fully grown; be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you.
She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her and graciously shows herself to them as they go, in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/ My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians 1 Thess 4:13-18

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Be watchful and ready:
you know not when the Son of Man is coming.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 25:42. 44

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five of them were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

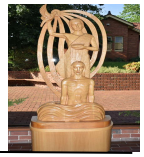


Stay Awake! Because you know neither the day nor the hour.

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





32nd Sunday in Ord Time 7th / 8th November 2026 - *YR A*

Prison Sunday - Year of St Francis

FOCUS ON THE WORD: Some of the original audience of Matthew's gospel, along with many of the early Christian followers, **had an expectation that Jesus was going to return and usher in the end of the world in their lifetime.** The message of this gospel is captured in Jesus' final words, **'So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'** The timing of Jesus' coming cannot be predicted and so all Christian believers, like the bridesmaids, need to continue to act with hope and expectation; being prepared for the fact that it may be further off than anticipated. Many early Christians were living their lives as though the world would end at any time. The gospel warns them, and us, to continue to follow the example of Jesus and not to become complacent – expecting that everything is about to come to an end. A feature of Christian faith is an approach to life that **views the future with hope.** In our world today many people look to the future with distrust and even fear. **As Christians, we look forward with hope.** When change occurs, some allow that change to happen *to* them whilst others engage in the change process and approach it with hope and expectation. **Today's gospel reminds us to be ready for what the future holds;** to look with hope towards what lies ahead, but to ensure that we've prepared ourselves properly. The future can only be viewed with expectant hope if we've done the proper preparation!. © Greg Sunter

WORLD YOUTH DAY SEOUL 2027 .melbournecatholic.org/wyd27.

36. Synodality is a long journey

A Synod is not a one time event. Synodality is a way of life that unfolds over time.

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

Mon 9th Nov- **The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica** Tues 10th **St Leo the Great**
Wed 11th Nov **St Martin of Tours** Thur 12th Nov **St Josaphat**

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	7pm
Wednesday	Belgrave no Mass	FTG	9.15pm
& Thurs	Belgrave no Mass	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.

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.

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Yr A
7th /8th Nov, 2026 Prison Sunday Yr of St Francis

PRAYING FOR…

All who have died recently:
Fr Brendan Lane, Mavis Berwick, Patricia Mastaing

Those who we remember at this time Eufronia Oracion, Juan Sanhueza, Lawrence Hicks, Michael Palandri, Niall Hargreaves, Margaret Cecchin, Pat McCann, Clorinda Peluso, Patricia Danaher, George Brown, Gerry Daelmans.

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.

UPCOMING ORDINATIONS On **Saturday 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



FAITH IN ACTION: An election guide from the Bishops of Victoria Ahead of the 2026 Victorian election, **View the statement online at:** bit.ly/StateElection2026

LITURGY†	† NEWS	NOV 2026
WEEK DAY MASS changes	6.10.26-4.12.2026	During Fr Peter's Leave.
Remembrance Day	11th Nov 2026	Sun 8th Nov ceremony at the Arboretum
Annual Memorial Mass 7pm	Tues 17.11.2026	All Parishioners are invited to support.

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!

BAPTISMS – We offer our congratulations to **Ashlyn Power,** daughter of Eamonn & Chloe, **Benjamin Townsend** son of Kana & Adelia**, Innocenzo Teofilo,** son of Steven & Juan, **Luka Githoms,** son of John and Emily,who are to be baptised this weekend: **The Church of God welcomes you with great joy**

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. Don't miss it! Find out more on our website here

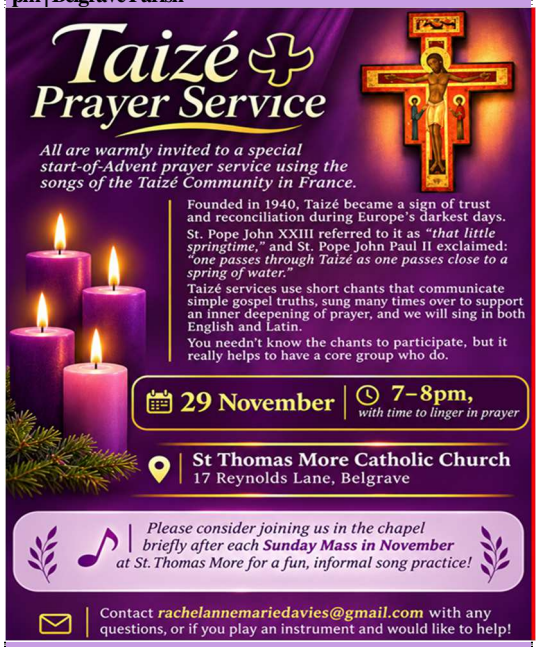
FUNERAL MASS for the late **Rosetta Nicosia** will be celebrated here **at St John's** Church on **Wed 11th November Rosary 11.30am,** Funeral **Mass 12pm.**

FUNERAL prayers for the late **Mavis Berwick** will be celebrated at **St Joseph's** Church Emerald on **Thurs 12th November** at 12pm.

RALLY AGAINST FREE ABORTION In Victoria abortion is legal through all 40 weeks of pregnancy. Now both Ben Carroll and Jess Wilson have both committed to free abortions. There will be a rally **on Tuesday 10th November at 6pm sharp til 7pm**, on the Victoria Parliament Steps Spring St Melbourne. Join Dr Johanna Howe to show our political leaders that the protection of unborn children matters to Victorians.

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. Thank you all.

TAIZÉ PRAYER SERVICE – A SPECIAL BEGINNING TO ADVENT Sunday, 29 November | 7:00 pm | Belgrave Parish



Contact rachelannemariedavies@gmail.com with any questions, or if you play an instrument and would like to help! Come and experience the peace, beauty and prayerful spirit of Taizé as we prepare our hearts for Advent. **Everyone is welcome!**

REMEMBERANCE DAY 2026 marks the anniversary of the Armistice which ended the First World War (1914 18). Each year on the 11th of November, Australians observe one minute's silence at 11 am, in memory of those who died or suffered in all wars and armed conflicts and appreciation of their sacrifice. *Lest we forget.* The Boronia RSL is having a **Remembrance Day March & Service** on **Sunday 8th November from 10.30am** at the Tim Neville Arboretum FTG, Cm Dorset Rd & Francis Cres FTG. It is almost entirely conducted by students from local primary & secondary schools. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend the commemorative service.

ROSTERS: Mon 9th to Sun 15th November 2026

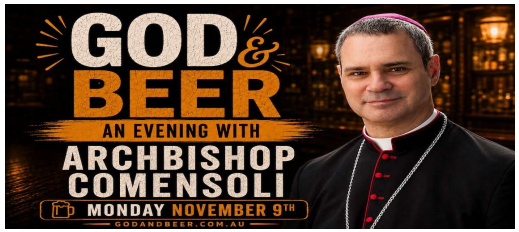
Flowers	Margaret & Judy
Linen	Sue O'H
Welcomers	6.00pm Rosina L, Lyn K 10.30am Lia U, Shamindri & Chamal A
Lectors	6.00pm Queenie J 10.30am Vicente M
Counters	George & Genevieve, Bindu M, Connie B
Gardening	Carlos E

NOVEMBER CROSS. November is the **month of the Holy Souls** where we pray for parishioners, friends and members of our families who have died. All are invited to write the names of their loved ones on our November cross. **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.**

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.



MEMBERS GATHER FOR FORMATION AS MELBOURNE SYNOD APPROACHES Over the weekend, synod members participated in two formation sessions. The first with Br Ian Cribb SJ, focused on communal discernment. The second was with Cardinal Mario Grech, the secretary general of the General Secretariat of the Synod. Cardinal Grech reminded those present that where the Spirit is present, there is movement. The People of God are a pilgrim people, always journeying , always discerning the road ahead. Often the work of the Spirit begins with uncertainty and even confusion before leading to greater clarity. Through prayer, dialogue and discernment, the Spirit gradually draws the Church toward deeper communion and renewed mission. **Synodality therefore helps us answer a fundamental question: not simply what we want to do for God, but what God is asking of us.**
Find out more here: https://melbournecatholic.org/news/members-gather-for-formation-as-melbourne-synod-approaches



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...

DISCIPLESHIP INTERNSHIP- APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2027 INTAKE ARE OPEN Are you a university student studying and living in the Archdiocese of Melbourne who want to live-out their faith in a different way? Apply to be a Discipleship Intern in 2027! Be formed as a disciple of Jesus and use your gifts to walk with other young people in faith. Applications close 9 November **Applications close 9 November.**

Apply now:

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



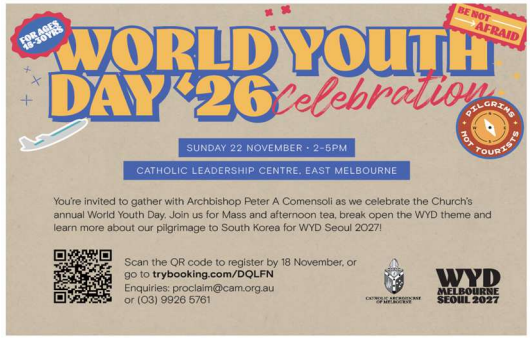
Don't miss this lovely night of prayer and song featuring the beautiful liturgical music of Br Michael Herry, including his fine body of responsorial psalms, seasonal hymns and liturgical chants, plus special music for young people. This is an evening you will both enjoy and remember! For more information,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

THE BETHANY WAY

Will you let Christ form you?
Applications are now open to join the 2027 intake of the Archdiocese of Melbourne's flagship formation initiative. Whether you are a leader, parent or just someone who wants to see where God is calling them, find a deeper way of being formed at the feet of Christ the Teacher. Enquiries: proclaim@cam.org.au. For further information and to apply: https://melbournecatholic.org/bethanyway

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.



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

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



