FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

A perfect wife – who can find her?
She is far beyond the price of pearls.
Her husband's heart has confidence in her,
from her he will derive no little profit.
Advantage and not hurt she brings him
all the days of her life.
She is always busy with wool and with flax,
she does her work with eager hands.
She sets her hands to the distaff,
her fingers grasp the spindle.
She holds out her hand to the poor,
she opens her arms to the needy.
Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty;
the woman who is wise is the one to praise.
Give her a share in what her hands have worked for, and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/ Happy are those who fear the Lord.

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper. (R.)
2. Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table. (R.)
3. Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
in a happy Jerusalem
all the days of your life. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians 1 Thess 5:1-6

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about 'times and seasons', since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and peaceful it is' that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it.

But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 25:14-15,19-21

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out. Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir", he said "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness."'

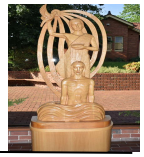
The Gospel of the Lord.



2027 Columban Calendars will be available to buy for $11 this weekend in the **Piety Stall**, these make a great Christmas Gift - 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





33rd Sunday in Ord Time 14th / 15th Nov 2026 - *Yr A*

World Day of the Poor – Holy See. -Year of St Francis

FOCUS ON THE WORD: This Gospel, Pope Francis said, **highlights that 'not doing good is not good**. The Pope pointed out that goodness is more than the absence of harm. Burying our talent and passively neglecting our gift is not what God wants. And, the Pope added, **we have been given many gifts: Faith, the Gospel, the Sacraments, even the Holy Spirit!** We Christians cannot, therefore, be a people who respond to God by turning in on ourselves and burying our treasures because we are fearful of losing them. **Having been 'entrusted' with God's property – the Church, the Earth, even our very lives – we will be called to account for our custodianship of it.** But as this Gospel indicates, our judgment will not be measured by numbers, be they five or two talents (or converts!). Rather, the biggest question is whether we recognise the reality of being God's servants. As the Pope noted, the man in the parable was very quick to characterise the master as 'a hard man', justifying inaction. But with gifts already in hand our options are simple: we can make the excuse that God will be more concerned with punishing us for what we might do wrong and therefore do nothing; **or we can try doing the best we can to do good and do something.** © Nick Brodie.

WORLD YOUTH DAY SEOUL 2027 .melbournecatholic.org/wyd27.
Celebration Sunday 22 November 2026, 2pm-5pm Ages 15-30yrs
Catholic Leadership Centre East Melbourne. **Register by Wed 18th November.**
Enquiries: proclaim@cam.org.au or (03) 9926 5761.

37. Synodality and renewal

Renewal does not come from programs alone, but from transformed relationships. Synodality nurtures those relationships.

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 Sunday 15th Nov – WORLD DAY OF THE POOR – Holy See
Mon 16th Nov- **St Margaret of Scotland , St Gertrude** Tues 17th **St Elizabeth of Hungry**
Wed 18th Nov **Dedication of the Basilicas of Sts Peter & Paul** Sat 21st **Presentation of Blessed Virgin Mary.**

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**		**FTG**	**No Mass**
& Thurs	**Belgrave**		**FTG**	**No Mass**
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.

UPCOMING ORDINATIONS On **Saturday 14th November, at 10am at** St Patrick's Cathedral Melbourne. All are welcome, and the Mass will be broadcast to the community channel 31(channel 44 on TV or watch at: youtube.com/archmelb

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Yr A
14th /15th November, 2026
World day of the Poor - Yr of St Francis

PRAYING FOR…

All who have died recently:
Lilian Liddy

Those who we remember at this time George Edmunds, Thelma Gribble, Barry Beavis, Mary Steward, Noel Clarke, Judy Sharp,.

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.

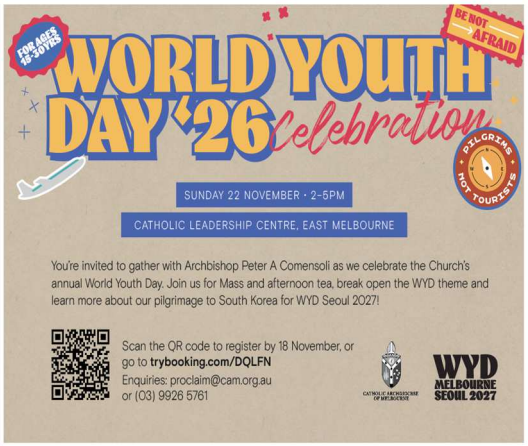
CHILDREN' LITURGY Our children's liturgy sessions are held in the room at the rear of the church. All welcome

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.

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.



WORLD DAY OF THE POOR 2026 (HOLY SEE)

Pope Leo XIV has released his message for the 10th World Day of the Poor, to be observed on 15 November 2026. In his message Pope Leo XIV reflects on God as "the refuge of the poor," urging Christians to rediscover the central place of the poor and examine our commitment to justice, solidarity, and human dignity. Reflecting on Psalm 14, **"The Lord is the refuge of the poor,"** In his message **the Pope observes that Psalm 14 continues to speak to every generation.** The opening verses, he says, points to the contrast between those who live wisely and those who "go through life as if there were nothing greater than themselves." "Sadly," he writes, "we see that even today there is widespread social injustice arising from arrogant corruption, which is as deplorable as it is discriminatory." **Do not allow cry of the poor to be silenced.** Finally, he expresses hope that **the Tenth World Day of the Poor will help Christians "rediscover the faces of so many brothers and sisters who seek refuge in God and long to feel at home in our communities."** Read more here

GARDENING WORKING BEE on **Sat 21st November**



from 8am onwards, there will be a working bee to Prune bushes and tidy up the garden beds around the church. **Please come along and help**. Morning tea provided. -BYO tools.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS 2026 ANGEL TREE Each year we provide needy families who we have visited throughout the year with a Christmas Food Hamper, Woolworths Grocery Only cards and Gift cards for each of their children. We sincerely thank you and invite you to contribute to either of these.

Under the Angel Tree we will provide basket/ bags for your:

1. **Christmas type food items only / toiletries.**
2. **Gift Cards: The gift cards that you donate allow the parents to purchase a suitable gift themselves** according to the age and needs of their child/ ren.

You may like to take an angel tag off the tree and purchase a gift card to the amount of either: $20, $25 or $30; other.

PS: While we appreciate the generosity of many vouchers worth $50, $100 or $200 in value, may we kindly request that these values be split into either $25 or $30 gift vouchers. This will enable each child/ren to receive a personal gift card as Christmas present. Please place your donation in the box near the tree.

The cards can be purchased from: Westfield; Kmart, Target, Coles/ Myer.

On behalf of our SVDP local conference, we would like to thank you most sincerely for your ongoing generosity this year in supporting our work with the disadvantaged. We would like to thank Fr Thomas for his encouragement on **behalf of our parish. St Vincent de Paul Society FERNTREE GULLY CONFERENCE**

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

The PRESENCE ADVENT BOOKLETS HAVE ARRIVED, for those who placed an order. The cost is **.$5.50** each that covers the cost of postage and handling. **Please bring your payment in an envelope with your name on it,** for ease of distribution after Mass., or collect your booklet from the Parish Office. Thank you all.

ADVENT REFLECTION GROUP Come and prepare for the real meaning of Christmas with Sofia and Eduardo. **Starting on** Monday's at 7pm, from 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!

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

LAST CALL FOR KOGO Knitting. The last bags of knits will be sent in after this weekend. **So please put items into the bag in the church foyer, or office soon. Thank you all.**

MEMORIAL MASS On **Tuesday 17th November at 7pm at St John the Baptist Parish,** we will be celebrating the lives of all those who have passed during the last 12 months at our Memorial Mass. It is a wonderful occasion to pray for our departed loved ones.. All are welcome

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

COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISH RAFFLE. please **If you have sold your book of tickets, please return butts**

ROSTERS: Mon 16th to Sun 22nd November 2026	
Flowers	Connie & Ann
Linen	Carole D'S
Welcomers	6.00pm Myra N, Wilma H 10.30am Terry S, Patrick S, Priya H
Lectors	6.00pm Rosina L 10.30am Carolyn S
Counters	Joan R, Peter C, Ruben P
Gardening	Carlos E



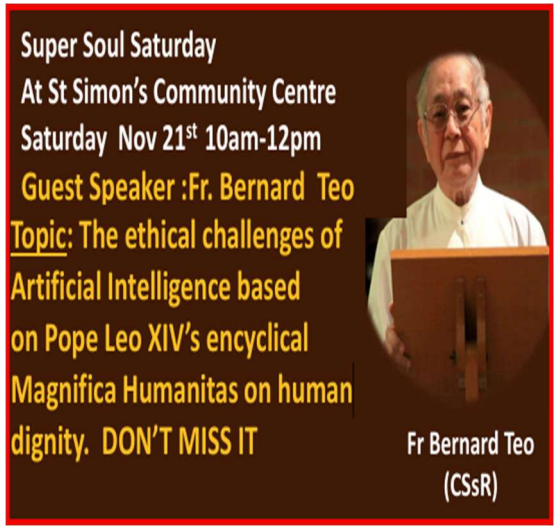
VALE FR BRENDAN LANE Fr Brendan James Lane, a beloved priest of the Archdiocese of Melbourne, has passed away at age of 81 years. **A Rosary and Vigil Mass will be held at St Mary's Catholic Church, Dandenong, on Wednesday 18 November. The Pontifical Requiem Mass for Fr Brendan will be celebrated on Thursday 19 November at St Patrick's Cathedral**



RED NOVEMBER: For the first time, every Catholic archdiocese across Australia and New Zealand is uniting in support of Aid to the Church in Need's (ACN) Red November campaign, marking a historic show of solidarity with millions of Christians worldwide who face persecution because of their faith. This year the **18th November, 2026** is the day for in prayer for the persecuted church.



Pray, Support, Act. support—donate to ACN's Red November Appeal to help vulnerable Christian communities suffering persecution Aid to the Church in Need.



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.**

COME WORK WITH US – Parishes:

- **Pastoral Assistant**—Holy Trinity Parish, Bentleigh East
- **Parish Secretary**—Western Port Parish, Hastings
- **Pastoral Worker and Youth Coordinator**—Immaculate Conception Parish, Westernport
- **Parish Administrator**—St Mary of the Cross Catholic Parish, Mordialloc and Aspendale

More details at: https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies/



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

EXPERIENCE THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS WITH THE AUSTRALIAN NATIVITY SCENE From 7th December 2026 10.30am – 8th January 2027 8pm, at St Elizabeth's Parish 107 Bakers Rd Nth Dandenong celebrating its 23rd Year. This event is free and open to all ages by appointment:
Contact: Wilson Fernandez: 0428 927 110
St Elizabeth's Parish office: 9795 6217





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