FIRST READING

A reading from the Prophet Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17

The Lord says this: I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of it in view. As a shepherd keeps all his flock in view when he stands up in the middle of his scattered sheep, so shall I keep my sheep in view. I shall rescue them from wherever they have been scattered during the mist and darkness. I myself will pasture my sheep, I myself will show them where to rest – it is the Lord who speaks. I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong. I shall watch over the fat and healthy. I shall be a true shepherd to them.

As for you, my sheep, the Lord says this: I will judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and he-goats.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/ The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death. And when everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subject in his turn to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessings on him who comes
in the name of the Lord!
Blessings on the coming kingdom
of our father David!
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 25:31-46

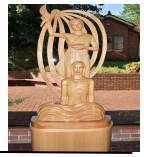
Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me." Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me." Next he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me." Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?" Then he will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me." And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.'

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



Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe – Yr A

21st / 22nd November, 2026- Year of St Francis

WORLD YOUTH DAY OBSERVANCE

FOCUS ON THE WORD: This week's liturgy marks the end of the liturgical cycle. **Next week begins the new year with the season of Advent.** The liturgy is celebrated as the Feast of Christ the King – reminding us of a very imperial model of church and theology that reflected the structure of the Roman Empire and later, Feudal Europe. To have this reading on the feast of Christ the King is a powerful reminder of how Jesus envisaged the Kingdom of God. For Jesus, **the Kingdom was not a rule of power and status but a rule of justice and peace for even the lowliest.** It is an apt conclusion to the liturgical year. Often referred to as 'The Final Judgment', this gospel presents an understanding of judgment and punishment that reflects the theology and culture of the first century. It is an image that has continued to dominate Christian art and theology for most of its history: the idea of God sitting in judgment on the final day and weighing up each individual's actions. It is often applied very literally and it is a dominant image of God represented in the media – TV sit-coms and movies often draw on the image. It is a literalist image of God that needs to be challenged. We must remember that the focus of the gospel passage is on the call to action for justice. © **Greg Sunter Life messageS: 1) We need to recognize and appreciate Christ's presence within us and surrender our lives to Christ's rule** we need to learn to surrender our lives to Him, to live in His Holy Presence, and to do God's will by sharing His forgiving love with others around us. **2) We need to fight against the enemies of Christ's Kingdom: 3) We need to use what authority we have been given to pass on Jesus' message.) We need to make Christ the King of our Personal, Familial, Social, and Cultural life: Personal:** By allowing Him to be King and center of our heart

38. Synodality and mercy

Listening with compassion reflects the mercy of Christ, who always began with encounter.

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 22nd h Nov – Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.
Sun 22nd Nov **World Youth Day – Holy See Diocesan Celebration**
Tues 24th Nov **Sts Andrew Dung-Lac Priest & companions** Wed 25th Nov **St Catherine of Alexandria**

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	7.00pm
Wednesday	Belgrave No Mass	FTG	Yes 9.15am
& Thurs	Belgrave No Mass	FTG	Yes 9.15am
Friday	Belgrave 9am	FTG	Yes 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.

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 **Election Day is Saturday 28th November 2026**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe Yr A
21st /22nd November, 2026
World Youth Day observance. Yr of St Francis

PRAYING FOR…

All who have died recently:
Paddy McCann

Those who we remember at this time Stephen Koski, Luigia Cecchin, Len & Joan Nash, Ilva Tassoni, May Ferguson, Mary Stewart, Theresa Sinclair, Mikayla Hutchings, Elizabeth Dvoracek.

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.

YOUTH GROUP/YOUNG ADULTS If you are interested in becoming a World Youth Day Pilgrim, please let us know. Check our Instagram page at: Instagram@sjb.youth or email sjbyouth@gmail.com

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.

WORLD YOUTH DAY SEOUL 2027
melbournecatholic.org/wyd27
Celebration with Mass & Afternoon tea is on **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.
Go to: trybooking.com/DQLFN

CHOSEN 2026, is a 4 day Catholic conference **for Young Australians (16-35yrs)** seeking a deeper encounter with Christ. Hosted **by Jesus Youth Australia, Thurs 19th Nov – Sunday 22nd Nov 2026** at La Trobe University Bundoora. Find out more here.

COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISH RAFFLE. A huge Thank you to everyone who has supported us in this undertaking and for brining your books back. Drawn 5th Dec.

LARGEST ORDINATION MASS IN ABOUT 40 years

On Saturday, in the largest ordination Mass the Cathedral had seen in about 40 years, nine men embarked on a new phase of that adventure, committing themselves to serving the Church through Holy Orders—two to the priesthood, three to the transitional diaconate and four to the permanent diaconate.
Archbishop Peter A Comensoli conferred the sacrament of Holy Orders on two priests and seven deacons. Fr Rhys Lowther and Fr Dominic Lawes were ordained to the priesthood; Deacons Nicolas Calandra, Andrew Tran and Anthony Wright to the transitional diaconate (a step on the path to priesthood); and Deacons Ryan Martin, Peter Nguyen, Bradley Proud and Francis Thomas to the ministry of the permanent diaconate. Read more here: 'The servant sacrament': nine take up Holy… | Melbourne Catholic

THE SUNDAY WE WELCOME OUR CATECHUMEN AND CANDIDATES Dear Parishioners, please welcome our RCIA catechumens and candidate, this Sunday, at the 10:30am mass, as they receive their Rite of Acceptance and Welcome. We celebrate together as an entire parish community to accept and encourage our new brothers and sister into our church family. Please remember them in your prayers.

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 Fully Conference**

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!



RED NOVEMBER During the month of November, Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) invites everyone around Australia and New Zealand to remember and pray in a particular way for Christians who suffer persecution for their faith. St Patrick's cathedral will be lit up in red from 16th -22nd November.

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

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!**

LECTORS/MINISTERS: Dear Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers, Thank you for your commitment to serve at the mass. The roster for the next four months is attached. I would like to thank Chris Guinane for supporting the parish office in creating the roster for us. On the event that you are not able to minister on your rostered day, if possible please find a replacement or let Sue know in advance. **Just a reminder** all lectors and ministers should arrive at least 10 minutes early for the mass they are rostered for and let Sue know that you have arrived. **Once again thank you all!**

ROSTERS: Mon 23rd -Sun 29th November 2026

Flowers	Connie & Ann
Linen	Laurel S
Welcomers	6.00pm Lia U 10.30am Florence J, Shami & Chamal A
Lectors	6.00pm Collette Bo 10.30am Shamindri A
Counters	George & Genevieve, Bindu M, Connie B
Gardening	Carlos E

MEMORIAL MASS Thank you to all who attended our Memorial Mass on Tuesday 17th November.

NOVEMBER MASS – OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you would like a mass said for your loved one, please fill out a November Masses Envelope on the trolleys.

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



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.

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



Palms International Volunteering

1st and 2nd Year Placements available Now.

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

AI IS CHANGING OUR WORLD.

Who will ensure it serves humanity?

- What does artificial intelligence mean for human dignity, truth and our future?
- What wisdom does our Catholic Faith offer?

A conversation we can no longer afford to ignore.

Join **Fr Bernard Teo CssR** as he explores Pope



leo XIV's teaching on AI and its implication for our lives and society **at St Simon's Parish Centre, Saturday 21st November 10am - 12pm.**