

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel
33:7-9

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R./ O that today you would listen
to His voice!
Harden not your hearts..*

SECOND READING

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Romans* 13:8-10

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!
God was in Christ,
to reconcile the world to Himself;
and the Good News of reconciliation
He has entrusted to us.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew* 18:15-20

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

*"I alone cannot change
the world, but I can cast a
stone across the waters to
create many ripples."
— Mother Teresa*



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH
Knox Deanery
19 Forest Road, Ferntree Gully, 3156
Phone: 9758 1029 Fax: 9758 9234
Email: office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au
Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au

23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year A
9th / 10th September, 2017

*Confirm, O God, in unity and truth
the Church You gather in Christ.
Encourage the fervent,
enlighten the doubtful,
and bring back the wayward.
Bind us together in mutual love,
that our prayer in Christ's name
may be pleasing to You.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



FOCUS ON THE READINGS

Both of our readings focus on the obligation we have to help one another grow in goodness. Sometimes this requires us to point out the errors of a brother or sister in the church.

Ezekiel warns the prophets of his day that they have a serious responsibility in the community. They are to guide the people and show them right from wrong. The prophet will be held accountable.

Jesus picks up this theme and applies it to everyone in the church. It is not only the leaders who are responsible, but we are all responsible for one another. This Gospel focuses on the power and authority of the community which has rarely been recognised. The source of that power is Christ: "I am there with them."

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Tuesday 12th September The Most Holy Name of Mary
Wednesday 13th September St John Chrysostom, bishop, doctor
Thursday 14th September The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Friday 15th September Our Lady of Sorrows
Saturday 16th September St Cornelius, pope, martyr and St Cyprian, bishop, martyr

I have come that you may have life and have it to the full
(John 10:10)

PARISH PRIEST:
Fr Alan Fox 9758 1029
Email: Alan.Fox@cam.org.au

DEACON:
Rev. Peter Stringfellow 9758 1029
Email: deaconstringfellow@gmail.com

FAITH DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR
Carolyn Sombekke 9758 1029
Email: csombekkesjb@gmail.com

PARISH OFFICE: 9758 1029
Monday to Friday 9am – 3pm
Secretaries: Carol Leatham, Carole D'Souza
Accountant: Sara Luk
Email: office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

SCHOOLS:
St John the Baptist 9758 1013
Principal: Catherine Mason

St. Joseph's College 9758 2000
Principal: Catherine Livingston

Mater Christi College 9754 6611
Principal: Mary Fitz-Gerald

MASS TIMES:
Saturday 6:00 pm
Sunday 9:00 am, 11:00 am
Tuesday 7.00 pm
Wednesday & Thursday 9.15 am
Friday 11.00 am

RECONCILIATION: Saturdays at 5.15 pm

BAPTISMS:
Either during a weekend Mass or at 12.30pm on the 2nd Sunday of the month.
6 weeks' notice required. Please refer to our Guidelines for Infant Baptism on our Website. Contact the Parish Office on 9758 1029 or via email at office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

WEDDINGS:
By appointment, 6 months' notice required. Saturdays or weekdays (not Sundays). Contact the Parish Office on 9758 1029.

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A
9th / 10th September, 2017

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

We remember the anniversaries of:
Lino Bimbi, Teresa Johnson, Peter Atkinson, Rosa Lotrionte, Emmanuel Deidun, Margaret Hill Carmine Mazzone, Maureen Addicott, Lucy Rainsford, Kellie Cecchin, Margaret Prince, Thelma Crocker, Alfea Cursaro.



The sick – Catherine Turner, Denis Buckley, Therese Edmunds, Keith Scutt, Peter Commons, Wilma Neville, Mary Brimelow, Steve Reid, Ron Prince, Patricia Quinn, Charlie Kelly, Bonnie Williams, Kathleen Hatton, Edward Kitain, Scott Warner, Grace Gamley, Lilian Luiyf, Kayden McDevitt, David Merton, Rosa Jones, Peter Mitchell, Jemma Du Buisson Perrine, Lisa Whittaker, Brock McAvaney, Beryl Turner, Bernard Guerin, Michael Byrne, Ann Jayawardena, Mary Edmunds, Anabelyn Malabed, Fran Middlebrook, Miep Wirth, Ethel Arrowsmith, Eillien Patrick, Brendan Kearns, Elsie Johnson, Jill Neville, Maria Iaconis, Bev McNamara, Anthony McNamara, Victoria Lewis, Nicole Moore, Peter Fairhurst, Hans Whitaker, Edward Osborne, Charles Gatt, Allida Serafin, Barbara Kenny, Clive Geach, Jim McNeill.

GROUP ROSARY SESSION FOR PEACE

Date: *Saturday, 7th October, at 10.30 am*
Venue: 37 Lane Road, FTG. All are welcome.
Contact: Pauline Barlow on 9758 5106.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

We meet *every Tuesday at 10.15 am* in the Parish Hall for praise and worship, inspiring teaching and prayer ministry. All are warmly welcome. Enquiries: Judy 9752 2986 or Andrew 9755 2443.

MOTHERS' PRAYER GROUP

Come and join with mothers, grandmothers, spiritual mothers and godmothers, to pray together on *Tuesdays from 9 am to 10 am* during school term in the Parish Centre. For enquiries, contact the office.

FRIENDSHIP GATHERING: Everyone welcome on Thursdays between 10am and 1pm for a chat over a cuppa, join a card game, knit or just sit for a while.

We welcome Fr. Paddy Duggan, who will celebrate Holy Mass this weekend.
Please note there will be no weekday masses from Tuesday 12th to Friday 15th September

WOOLWORTHS EARN AND LEARN

Collect *Earn & Learn* Stickers by shopping at Woolworths Supermarket and place them in a specially marked Woolworths *Earn & Learn* box in the foyer of the church or at the parish office.

JOYFUL, JOYFUL

A musical evening celebrating the 25th Anniversary of 'Sister Act' with guest Artists Co-Cheol at St Paul's Cathedral, Corner of Swanston and Flinders Streets, Melbourne on Friday, 15th September 2017 at 8 pm. Maree Wilson and Megan Wild from our parish will be singing in the choir. Full: \$20, Concession: \$15. All are welcome.

MELBOURNE CATHOLIC MAGAZINE

September issue is available in the church foyer for \$4 a copy.

LECTORS' ROSTER A new roster is being prepared for lectors for October-December. Could those who are currently on the roster please notify me if they are unavailable during that period or if there are any other changes. If you would like to read at Mass please contact Stephanie on 97585497 or via email: smhorgen@gmail.com before **18th September**. You may consider sharing the role by reading just one of the readings. Students in Years 11 and 12 are welcome to be a part of this ministry. Rosters and guidelines will be available on the weekend 23rd/24th September.

POSITIONS VACANT ACROSS THE ARCHDIOCESE:

For various administrative and liturgical positions details can be found on their website: <http://www.cam.org.au/Jobs.aspx>

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION resources are available at the Don Bosco Retreat Centre, 465 Lysterfield Road, Lysterfield. Visit website: <http://donboscoretreats.org.au/index.php/about> or contact Norm Currie on 0413 150 888 for more details.

BAPTISMS – We congratulate the following children, who are being baptised this weekend:

Finn Aiden Moore
Hudson Trimble
Madden Trimble
Luca James Do-Salice



The Church of God welcomes you with great joy.

MORAL THEOLOGY PUBLIC SEMINARS: JESUIT COLLEGE OF SPIRITUALITY

Saturday 23 September and Thursday 16 November at Jesuit College of Spirituality, 175 Royal Parade, Parkville. Rev. Dr Ai Pham SJ (Dean of Studies) will have seminars which are open to the general public. September seminar is titled 'The primacy of love in moral theology', from 10am to 12pm, and in November Rev. Dr Pham will lead a seminar titled 'The spiritual exercises and the formation of Christian conscience' from 6pm to 8pm. Details: 9448 8276 or enquiries@jcs.edu.au

THE SPRING BALL: SOUTH MELBOURNE

Sat 23 Sept 7pm - Sts Peter and Paul's, Corner Dorcas and Montague Streets, South Melbourne: The 2017 Spring Ball is a major fundraiser for Capuchin Friars Outreach. All money raised will go directly to support the Capuchin Friars to continue their outreach work and deliver assistance to those in need. Entry includes two drinks, a delicious assortment of canapes and live music. Please note: this is an 18+ event **Cost:** \$60 early bird, by 31Aug \$70 full. **Bookings:** <https://www.trybooking.com/RGGQ> **Details:** www.facebook.com/CapuchinFriarsOutreach

ROSTERS: Monday 11 th to Sunday 17th September	
Flowers	Marg, Ange
Altar Servers	6pm: Kiara & Nicholas
Linens	Sue N
Welcomers	6pm: Jayne, Myra 9am: Marg, Adrian, Anastasia 11am: Patrick, Angie, Coral
Lectors	6pm: Stephanie 9am: Pamela 11am: Peter J
Counters	Tony, Sasty
Gardeners	Chris & Tom