

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus
Sir 27:30 – 28:7
Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin. Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins? Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments. Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R./ The Lord is kind and merciful;
slow to anger and rich in compassion.*

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
14:7-9
The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
*I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.*
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
18:21-35
Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times. 'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me", he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said. "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

When someone does something wrong, don't forget all the things they did right.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH
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24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year A **16th / 17th September, 2017** **Social Services Sunday Observance**

*O God most high,
You are slow to anger and rich in compassion.
Keep alive in us the memory of Your mercy,
that our anger may be calmed
and our resentments dispelled.
May we discover the forgiveness
promised to those who forgive
and become a people rich in mercy.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



FOCUS ON THE READINGS

Both of our readings focus on forgiveness. Our forgiveness of others is motivated by the forgiveness we have received. We experience the forgiveness of God in our own act of forgiving. In both readings, we are told that it makes no sense to expect forgiveness if we, ourselves, will not extend forgiveness to others.

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Tuesday 19th September St Januarius, bishop, martyr
Wednesday 20th September St Andrew Kim Tae-gon, priest, martyr
St Paul Chong Ha-sang & companions, martyrs
Thursday 21st September St Matthew, apostle, evangelist
Saturday 23rd September St Pius of Pietrelcina, priest

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.

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A
16th / 17th September, 2017
Social Services Sunday Observance

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:
Fr. Thomas Carra PE



We remember the anniversaries of:
Lucy Rainsford, Glenn Beavis, Valentina Parente, Mavis Brittain

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 parish office.

FRIENDSHIP GATHERING:

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

FAITH SEEKING UNDERSTANDING:
Reflection entitled "Michelangelo Painting" by Carolyn is on the trollies for you to take home.



PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FOUNDATION

A Big Thank you for your generous donations to this appeal, which creates one of the four main income streams for the Foundation to support the retired priests, who have served actively in the Archdiocese of Melbourne but who are now retired or sick. Total contributions amounted to **\$2,953.80**

KNOX DEANERY cordially invites you to attend the General Deanery Gathering on **Thursday, 21st September**, from 7.30 - 9.15 pm at St Joseph's Parish Hall, Boronia Road, Boronia. The guest speaker is Fr Lawrence Nemer SVD. Fr Larry's field of specialisation is Mission History, especially the 19th Century Missionary Movement from Europe. Cuppa provided afterwards.

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.

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.

COG (Call of Guadalupe) THEATRE will be performing in **MAGDALENE: A WANTON SAINT** at the Renaissance Theatre, East Kew on **October 4-7**. If you are interested in being please contact Geraldine Lee on 0413 398 518 or via email: geraldine343@gmail.com

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES SUNDAY: 17th September 2017

This Sunday, promoted by Catholic Social Services Victoria, is an opportunity for parish communities to reflect on our own response to the Gospel call to compassionate service to those who are poor, marginalised or excluded of our society. It is also a time for the wider church community to give thanks for the social service work being carried out by Church agencies and parishes on behalf of the Church as a whole.

MORAL THEOLOGY PUBLIC SEMINARS: JESUIT COLLEGE OF SPIRITUALITY

Saturday 23rd September and Thursday 16th 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 10 am to 12 pm, 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 23rd Sept 7 pm

Sts Peter and Paul's, Corner Dorcas and Montague Streets, South Melbourne: The 2017 Spring Ball is a major fundraiser for Capuchin Friars Outreach. Entry includes two drinks, a delicious assortment of canapes and live music. Full cost \$70. Please note this is an 18+ event. **Bookings:** <https://www.trybooking.com/RGGQ>
Details: www.facebook.com/CapuchinFriarsOutreach

ROSTERS: Monday 18th to Sunday 24th September	
Flowers	Sue, Lynne
Altar Servers	6pm: Kiara & Nicholas
Linens	Alvi
Welcomers	6pm: Sue, Anna 9am: Rosa, Terry, Laurel 11am: Gina, Pat
Lectors	6pm: Rosina 9am: Tony D 11am: Sarah M
Counters	Tony, Stephanie
Gardeners	Chris & Tom