

## FIRST READING

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah 55:6-9*

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near.

Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts.

Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.

Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R./ The Lord is near to all who call him.*

## SECOND READING

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians 1:20-24, 27*

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Open our hearts, O Lord,  
to listen to the words of Your Son.  
Alleluia!*

## GOSPEL

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 20:1-16*

Jesus said to his disciples: "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

*One person can make a  
difference and everyone  
should try.*

*John F. Kennedy*



## **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**

## **25<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year A**

**23<sup>rd</sup> / 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2017**

### **Social Justice Sunday**

*O God most high,  
Your ways are not our ways,  
for Your kindness is lavished equally upon all.  
Teach us to welcome Your mercy toward others,  
even as we hope to receive mercy ourselves.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.*



## FOCUS ON THE READINGS

The ways of God are infinitely different from our ways. God's way of justice is radically different from our literal, juridical concept of justice. Both of our readings focus on that difference.

The reading from *Isaiah* comes from a larger section in which the prophet speaks of God's mercy in the face of the constant infidelity of the people. Justice, in human terms, demands their punishment. But, God's ways are above our ways.

The Gospel provides a parable which makes this point real to us. The story *does not* hold up the norm of human behaviour.

## FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

*Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September St Cosmas and St Damian, martyrs*

*Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September St Vincent de Paul, priest*

*Thursday 28<sup>st</sup> September St Wenceslaus, martyr*

*St Lawrence Ruiz and companions, martyrs*

*Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September St Michael, St Gabriel and St Raphael, archangels*

*Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September St Jerome, priest, doctor*

***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: 9758 1013**  
**St John the Baptist**  
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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**25th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A**  
**23rd / 24th September, 2017**  
**Social Justice Sunday**

**PRAYING FOR...**

*All who have died recently:*  
Grace Gamley, George Mah



*We remember the anniversaries of:*  
Genowefa Haeyen, Leonilda Parrella

*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, 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, 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**

We will be taking a short break during the school holidays and will resume on *Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October from 9 am to 10 am*. For enquiries, contact the parish office.

**FRIENDSHIP GATHERING:**

Everyone is 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. A special informative and interesting presentation on the community called "Hope in Christ Education Centre" in Zambia will take place on *5 October at 10.30 am* in the parish hall. This presentation will be approximately one hour followed by a cup of tea.

**SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP Trivia Night**

☺ Come and join the fun.☺ ☺ Don't need to be an expert.☺

Date: *Saturday 21st October*

Venue: School Hall *starting at 7.00 for 7.30 pm*

Cost: \$10 per adult. BYO drinks and nibbles. Make up a table or come and join one.

Tickets on sale after all w/e masses from the 30th September or contact Patrick 0434072831 (call or text). Proceeds in aid of "Opening the Doors Foundation" (Aboriginal students support), Thornbury and the "Community Based Rehabilitation Foundation" (via Columban Fathers) in the Philippines. Donations welcome.

**LECTORS' ROSTER**

The new roster for Oct-Dec 2017 is ready for collection in the church foyer. A big thank you for your commitment to this church ministry.

**WOOLIES EARN & LEARN STICKERS**

A Big Thank You to all who contributed to the collection of stickers. We have passed on to the school 23-1/2 sheets with over 1400 stickers.

**ST SIMON'S PRAYER SHAWL DAY**

*Tuesday 3 October, 10 am-2 pm*

St Simons Rowville, 2 Taylors Lane, Rowville  
St Simons' parish is inviting active prayer shawl ministries within parishes an opportunity to come together, share ideas and showcase their talents. Please bring along samples of work as well as work patterns. Cost: Free  
Details and Bookings: 9764 4058.  
RSVP by Wednesday 20 September.

**FIRST SATURDAY DELIVERANCE RETREAT**, Salesian College Chapel, 10 Bosco Street, Chadstone

*Saturday 7 October, 9 am-4.30 pm*

In addition to the Vincentian Retreat Centre's regular retreats every Saturday in the Salesian College chapel, every first Saturday will now feature a full day 'Deliverance retreat', during which there will be Rosary, praise and worship, talks, Holy Mass and Adoration, with healing prayers. Details: Ramesh and Bernie at rbvm.546.samson@bigpond.com

**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>

**CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY: 24<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

The Bishops' Statement is built around the Gospel for Social Justice Sunday – Jesus' parable of the workers in the vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16) There have been great benefits in the economic growth Australia has achieved over recent decades. However, not all Australians have shared adequately in this prosperity and particular groups are excluded from the mainstream. We are all called to play our part in building an inclusive economy founded on true solidarity with those who are most vulnerable. The Bishops call for an economy that is founded on justice and offers dignity and inclusion to every person.

**WEDDING...**

Congratulations to

*Timothy Grimshaw & Chosheela Mandho*

who are to be married this coming week.

**A REMINDER... Daylight Savings begins next weekend.** Victoria's period of Daylight savings will begin next **Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> October.**

Please remember to turn your clocks forward one hour.



**MAGDALENE: A WANTON SAINT**

Where: Renaissance Theatre. 826 High Street, Kew East, VIC – 3102

When: *4 – 7 October – 7 pm daily*

Matinee Saturday 1 pm

Phone: Florence D'Costa: 0433 851 662 or Geraldine: 0413 398 528

Email: cogtheatre@gmail.com or geraldine343@gmail.com

<b>ROSTERS: Mon 25<sup>th</sup> Sept to Sun 1<sup>st</sup> Oct</b>	
<b>Flowers</b>	Carole, Lia
<b>Altar Servers</b>	<b>6pm:</b> Kiara & Nicholas
<b>Linens</b>	Jean
<b>Welcomers</b>	<b>6pm:</b> Queenie <b>9am:</b> Peter, Neil, Lorraine, Joanna <b>11am:</b> Tony, Christine
<b>Lectors</b>	<b>6pm:</b> Raul <b>9am:</b> Gordon <b>11am:</b> Sue
<b>Counters</b>	Bryon, Ruby
<b>Gardeners</b>	Chris & Tom