

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel 18:25-28

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R./ Remember your mercies, O Lord.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians 2:1-11

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus: 'His state was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the

heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

*My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.*

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 21:28-32

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

*The first to apologise
is the bravest.
The first to forgive
is the strongest.
And the first to forget
is the happiest.*



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

Knox Deanery

19 Forest Road, Ferntree Gully, 3156

Phone: 9758 1029 Fax: 9758 9234

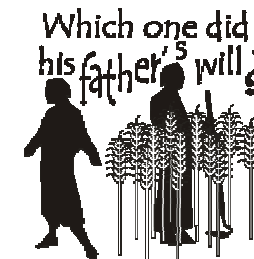
Email: office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au

26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year A

30th September & 1st October, 2017

*Heavenly Father,
You always remain true to us,
and are ever faithful to Your promises.
Forgive us when we do wrong, and help us live each
day according to Your commands.
We make this prayer to you through our Lord Jesus
Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with you, and
the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen.*



FOCUS ON THE READINGS

Both readings focus on the mercy of God for sinners. In their earlier history, the Israelites tended to think almost exclusively in communal terms: communal guilt, communal punishment. Here Ezekiel presents the corrective to that extreme: individual responsibility for individual sin. The truth is in the balance of the two. The major focus, however, when seen with our Gospel reading, is that God always allows the freedom and opportunity to change.

The Gospel presents this in parable form. It is the story of each of us. Sometimes we say yes, and we don't act. Sometimes we rebel and say no – but later have a change of heart and act! God is primarily interested in our final option! God does not hold past sin against us. God hopes and waits for our obedient response.

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Monday 2 nd October	The Holy Guardian Angels
Wednesday 4 th October	St Francis of Assisi
Friday 6 th October	St Bruno, priest
Saturday 7 th October	Our Lady of the Rosary

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.

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A
30th September & 1st October, 2017

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:
George Mah, Tarcisio Bucciarelli.



Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:
Leonilda Parrella, Albert & Sophie Roleff, Lina Scerri, Dorothy Healey, Pamela Bentham, Concetta Rodolico, Raymond Marshall.

The sick – Jim McNeill, 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.

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.

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.

MOTHERS' PRAYER GROUP
We will be taking a short break during the school holidays and will resume on **Tuesday 10th October.**

SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP – Trivia Night

☺ Come and join the fun.☺
☺ You need not be an expert.☺

Date: **Saturday 21st October**
Venue: **School Hall starting at 7.00 for 7.30 pm**
Cost: **\$10 per adult. BYO drinks & nibbles.**
Make up a table or come and join one.

Tickets are on sale after all weekend masses from this weekend, or contact Patrick on 0434 072 831 (call or text). Proceeds in aid of the "Opening the Doors Foundation" (Aboriginal students support), in Thornbury, & the "Community Based Rehabilitation Foundation" (via Columban Fathers) in the Philippines. Donations most 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.

FIRST FRIDAY MASS – 6th October – Holy hour before the Blessed Sacrament from 10am; Mass at 11am. You're very welcome to stay for a cup of tea or coffee after Mass.

MELBOURNE CATHOLIC MAGAZINE The October issue is available in the church foyer for \$4 a copy.

POSITIONS VACANT ACROSS THE ARCHDIOCESE: For various administrative and liturgical positions details can be found on their website: www.cam.org.au/Jobs.aspx

ANNUAL MISSION FAIR – The Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver will hold their fair on Saturday 14th, October. 9.00am – 3.00pm. Convent Grounds, 154 Cotham Road, Kew

FIRST SATURDAY DELIVERANCE RETREAT
Where: **Salesian College Chapel, 10 Bosco Street, Chadstone**
When: **Saturday 7th October, 9am–4.30pm**
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, Mass and Adoration, with healing prayers. For further information email Ramesh & Bernie: rbvm.546.samson@bigpond.com

THE FUNERAL MASS for the late **George Stephen Mah** will be celebrated here at St John's Church, this coming **Tuesday, 3rd October, at 10.30am.**

BAPTISM – We congratulate Rosie Joan Bates who is being baptised this weekend. The Church of God welcomes you with great joy.



MAGDALENE – A WANTON SAINT
Where: Renaissance Theatre
826 High Street, Kew East.
When: **4–7 October at 7 pm.**
Matinee: Saturday 7th October at 1 pm
Phone: Florence D'Costa: 0433 851 662
or: Geraldine: 0413 398 528
Email: cogtheatregroup@gmail.com
or geraldine343@gmail.com
Tickets: trybooking.com/book/event?eid=298434

FAMILY | FOOD | FAITH – Life, Marriage and Family Sunday, 8th October, 2017. Enhancing the aroma and flavour of your family life. Booklets are available on the trolleys at the doors of the church.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL: REGISTRATIONS OPEN – The Australian Catholic Youth Festival will be held in Sydney this year, from Thursday 7th December to Saturday 9th December. Go to the links below for further information and Registration.
Details: cam.org.au/youth/ACYF-2017/Overview
Register: youthfestival.catholic.org.au/register

Daylight Savings (AESST) begins at 2am on Sunday 1st October, 2017.
Clocks are turned forward one hour.



ROSTERS: Mon 2nd to Sun 8th Oct	
Flowers	Sue N
Altar Servers	6pm: Kiara & Nicholas
Linen	Sue O
Welcomers	6pm: Louise, Peter 9am: Sue, David, Thelma 11am: Kath, Andre, Maria
Lectors	6pm: Evangeline 9am: Peter F 11am: Sarah
Counters	Bryon, Ruby
Gardening	Barry