

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 25:6-10
On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will prepare for all people a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines, of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines. On this mountain he will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples, and the shroud enwrapping all nations, he will destroy Death for ever. The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek; he will take away his people's shame everywhere on earth, for the Lord has said so. That day, it will be said: See, this is our God in whom we hoped for salvation; the Lord is the one in whom we hoped. We exult and we rejoice that he has saved us; for the hand of the Lord rests on this mountain.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/ I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20
I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich too. I have been through my initiation and now I am ready for anything anywhere: full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or plenty. There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength. All the same, it was good of you to share with me in my hardships. In return my God will fulfill all your needs, in Christ Jesus, as lavishly as only God can. Glory to God, our Father, for ever and ever. Amen

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!
May the Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our heart
that we might see how great is the hope
to which we are called.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 22:1-14
Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come. Next he sent some more servants. "Tell those who have been invited" he said "that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding." But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He despatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding." So these servants went out on to the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests. When the king came in to look at the guests he noticed one man who was not wearing a wedding garment, and said to him, "How did you get in here, my friend, without a wedding garment?" And the man was silent. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH
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28th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year A

14th & 15th October, 2017

*God of goodness and kindness,
You invite all to the banquet
offering a feast beyond compare.
Grant us Your saving grace
until that day when You welcome us
to heaven's joyful table.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*



FOCUS ON THE READINGS

Both our First Reading and Gospel focus on the great banquet as the symbolic image of the reign of God.

Isaiah speaks of a time when we will sit at the table and enjoy the richness of God's gifts. There will be no more suffering, no violence, no evil, no tears. All will be joy, and it will last forever

Matthew takes up this symbol in the parables of today's Gospel but applies it to the reign of God now. The focus of this parable is not the future but the invitation to share in the wedding feast now. The reign is here but not seen or accepted by all who have been invited. We are called by this parable to be ready, not only for the heavenly banquet, but for the banquet now – the reign of God among us with the Eucharistic banquet as our celebration of that reality present and to come. Daily we choose to accept the invitation or to be too busy about other affairs.

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Tuesday 17th October St Ignatius of Antioch, bishop, martyr
Wednesday 18th October St Luke, evangelist

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

PARISH PRIEST:
Fr Alan Fox 9758 1029
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DEACON:
Rev. Peter Stringfellow 9758 1029
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FAITH DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR
Carolyn Sombekke 9758 1029
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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 Parish 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.

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A
14th & 15th October, 2017

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:
Nora Macken, Martin O'Toole



Those whose anniversaries occur at this time
Stephen Noth, Ted Judit, Kay Daraio, Emmanuel Valeros

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, 4th November, at 10.30 am*
Venue: 37 Lane Road, FTG. All are welcome.
Contact: Pauline Barlow on 9758 5106.

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

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.

BAPTISMS – We congratulate **Hudson Roch Basil Kristof** who is to be baptised this weekend. *The Church of God welcomes him with great joy.*



HELP NEEDED The 9am Sunday Mass choir here at St Johns desperately needs new members. **Singers/Musicians Wanted** Perhaps you could help out weekly, fortnightly or monthly? Please let us know how we can make it happen. For information contact Maree Wilson on 9758 6585



RE-APPOINTMENT OF FR ALAN – Fr Alan recently received a letter from Archbishop Denis Hart, confirming his re-appointment as Parish Priest of St John's, effective 12th October, 2017, for a further 6 years.


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.

NEXT SUNDAY 22nd OCTOBER- WORLD MISSION SUNDAY – The prayerful support and generous donations in our community help significantly to provide opportunities in local church communities around the world and remote communities of Australian diocese where support is channelled through their Home Mission Fund – Your donation next  weekend will be appreciated

ST JOHNS' PARISH MUSICAL – 2018
SJB PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS:

"IT'S NOT ABOUT THE GIRL!"

We are looking for volunteers to be involved in our Parish musical. There will be a number of performances between the 5th – 8th July, 2018 however there's a great deal of work to be done before then. We need as much help as we can possibly get. There are many roles and responsibilities both big and small, on stage and off stage, singing and non-singing parts too. Sign up sheets are on the glass walls in the church. Consider taking this opportunity to be involved in a wonderful community building experience, and please do contact me, via email at: csombekkesjb@gmail.com or contact the parish office on 9758 1029 to let me know how you'd like to be involved. Auditions commence Sunday 19th November, 2017. Thanks, Carolyn Sombekke

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY – FERNTREE GULLY CONFERENCE- would like to thank students and families of St Joseph's College for the donation of non-perishable food items, books clothing for distribution to our disadvantaged families in our local area. It has been a wonderful expression of charity through thinking of others in need.

This very, very generous donation will add to our resources in providing an improved quality and quantity of food to our hampers. These hampers are distributed to the many families to whom we make daily emergency visits.

Our conference is very impressed with the commitment by the students to the Term 3: **Tinnies For Vinnies Project** providing such a wealth and variety of food items totalling hundreds of items. Items of clothing have been delivered to the Op shop for sale. Students and families have shown much selflessness in their commitment and enthusiasm in this most worthy of projects. Thanks to Ms. Annemaree Pagon, students and staff, for their initiative and leadership in this school and community project.

THANKS TO ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOL

students and staff for the contribution of: \$321 .00 that was made to the conference to support the disadvantaged families in our Parish. This will support our purchase of vouchers and the funding the Assist a Student Program. The conference has appreciated the ongoing generosity.



FUNERAL – The Funeral Mass for the late Martin O'Toole will be celebrated here at St John's this coming Friday, 20th, October at 11.00am

SICK LIST – If you are aware that any names on the sick list need to be removed, please contact the Parish Office on 9758 1029.

ROSTERS: Mon 16th to Sun 22nd Oct	
Flowers	Ann, Connie
Altar Servers	6pm: Nicholas
Linen	Laurel
Welcomers	6pm: Sue, Anna 9am: Rosa, Terry, Laurel 11am: Gina, Pat
Lectors	6pm: Rosina 9am: Adrian 11am: Stephanie
Counters	Peter, Dawn, George, Genevieve
Gardening	Barry