

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Malachi

1:14-2:2.8-10

I am a great king, says the Lord of hosts, and my name is feared throughout the nations. And now, priests, this warning is for you. If you do not listen, if you do not find it in your heart to glorify my name, says the Lord of hosts, I will send the curse on you and curse your very blessing. You have strayed from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your teaching. You have destroyed the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of hosts. And so I in my turn have made you contemptible and vile in the eyes of the whole people in repayment for the way you have not kept to my paths but have shown partiality in your administration.

Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? Why, then, do we break faith with one another, profaning the covenant of our ancestors?

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/ In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians

2: 7-9.13

Like a mother feeding and looking after her own children, we felt so devoted and protective towards you, and had come to love you so much, that we were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our whole lives as well. Let me remind you, brothers, how hard we used to work, slaving night and day so as not to be a burden on any one of you while we were proclaiming God's Good News to you.

Another reason why we constantly thank God for you is that as soon as you heard the message that we brought you as God's message, you accepted it for what it really is, God's message and not some human

thinking; and it is still a living power among you who believe it.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!
You have one Father,
your Father in heaven;
you have one teacher:
the Lord Jesus Christ.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

23:1-12

Addressing the people and his disciples Jesus said, 'The scribes and the Pharisees occupy the chair of Moses. You must therefore do what they tell you and listen to what they say; but do not be guided by what they do: since they do not practise what they preach. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but will they lift a finger to move them? Not they! Everything they do is done to attract attention, like wearing broader phylacteries and longer tassels, like wanting to take the place of honour at banquets and the front seats in the synagogues, being greeted obsequiously in the market squares and having people call them Rabbi.

'You, however, must not allow yourselves to be called Rabbi, since you have only one Master, and you are all brothers. You must call no one on earth your father, since you have only one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor must you allow yourselves to be called teachers, for you have only one Teacher, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

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31st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year A

4th & 5th November, 2017

*God, our Maker,
all people are important to you
and you despise no one.*

*Do not let us think we are more important
than others, but make us more like Jesus,
who loved especially those who were rejected.
May we understand better that to know
we really need you is to be filled with your gifts.
We pray this prayer to you through Christ, our
Lord. Amen.*



FOCUS ON THE READINGS

The scriptures gives us many images of God: shepherd, king, eagle with her young, and so forth. Today's readings suggest the image of God as creative parent.

The reading from Malachi is a plea for unity, both in what is taught and in the relationships among the believers. The motivation for this unity is we have all been created by the same God.

Our Gospel for today presents the same, with a little more expansion. Malachi rebukes the priests of his time for not teaching the truth. Jesus warns against the hypocrisy of the Pharisees who don't practice what they teach! His lesson ends with the same call to unity we find in Malachi. We are to call no one on earth master because we all have one Master. That truth motivates our equality.

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Thursday 9th November The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

Friday 10th November St Leo the Great, pope, doctor

Saturday 11th November St Martin of Tours, bishop

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

PARISH PRIEST:
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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.

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A
4th & 5th November, 2017

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Alan Lawson, Peter Jones,
Roberto Barrozo Jnr



Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Fr Bill Bainbridge, George Brown, Eufronia Oracion, David Howell, Pat McCann, Gerry Daelmans, Louis Theodore, Agnese Paternoster, Paul Savannah, Margaret Cecchin.

The sick – Catherine Turner, 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, 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, 2nd December, at 10.30 am*
Venue: 37 Lane Road, FTG. All are welcome.
Contact: Pauline Barlow on 9758 5106.

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.

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 from 9am–10am each Tuesday (during school term) in the Parish Centre. For enquiries, please contact the Parish Office.

PARISH OFFICE closed Melbourne Cup Day Tuesday 7th November.

STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES Your new series of Stewardship Envelopes is now available for collection in the church foyer. Thank you to everyone for your generous support.

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



EXTRAORDINARY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

The new roster for the period 11th November 2017 to 15th April 2018 has been sent to all with email addresses. Copies are available in the church foyer for those without email addresses. Thank you for your continued commitment to this ministry.

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. Cast 12 years old and above. Thanks, Carolyn Sombekke

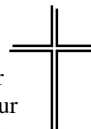
ST. VINNIES VOLUNTEERS AND FRIENDS:

Our annual dinner with friends and volunteers will be held on Monday 13th November 2017, at the Royal Hotel Ferntree Gully, from 6:30pm. Kindly please RSVP to: Connie Bala 9753 5000 or Beverley McNamara 9758 2818. Hope to see many of you there."

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS MAGAZINE (Summer Edition) is available in the church foyer.

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

REMEMBERING OUR FAITHFULLY DEPARTED November is the month of the Holy Souls where we pray for parishioners, friends and members of our families who have died. We pray that they will live forever with the Lord. As is our custom at St John's, you're invited to write the names of those you would like remembered on our Memorial Cross. For those who would like to have a Mass offered for their deceased relatives and friends, November offering envelopes are available on the trolleys.



FUNERAL MASS – The Funeral Mass for the late Alan Lawson will be celebrated here at St John's this coming Thursday 9th November at 11.00am

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC?

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is an opportunity to explore the Catholic faith in a non-confronting environment. RCIA is for those who may be searching for God, for those not baptised, for those baptised in another Christian tradition, for those baptised but who have not received first Eucharist and / or Confirmation. Who may be interested? Yourself, your partner, your family, Mum, Dad, child, grandparents or friends. If you would like to come to our introductory meeting on Wednesday, 15th November at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre to find out more, without commitment, please phone the Parish Office on 9758 1029.

CATHOLIC DEAF APPEAL – 11th/12th NOV

Next weekend is the annual collection for the Catholic Deaf Appeal. This collection which will be taken up after Communion to help support the work of the John Pierce Centre for the Deaf.

FAITH SEEKING UNDERSTANDING:

Reflection entitled "Forgiveness" by Carolyn. A4 copies are on the trollies for you to take home.

ROSTERS: Mon 6th Nov to Sun 12th Nov	
Flowers	Carole, Lia
Altar Servers	6pm: Nicholas
Linen	Jean
Welcomers	6pm: Jayne, Myra 9am: Marg, Adrian, Anastasia 11am: Patrick, Angie, Coral
Lectors	6pm: Stephanie 9am: Gordon 11am: Peter J
Counters	Bryon, Ruby, Stephanie
Gardening	Michael