

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

40:1-5. 9-11

‘Console my people, console them’ says your God. ‘Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.’

A voice cries, ‘Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, ‘Here is your God.’

Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R./ Lord, let us see Your kindness,
and grant us Your salvation.*

SECOND READING

A reading from the second letter of St. Peter

3:8-14

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, ‘a day’ can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief,

and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up. Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised; the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight His paths:*

all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

1:1-8

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, ‘Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.’

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

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Second Sunday of Advent - Year B

9th & 10th December, 2017

*Lord God,
in this Advent time,
we pray that our hearts
may be aligned with Your will
and Your peace will be realised in ourselves,
our community and our world.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



FOCUS ON THE READINGS

Our God is coming! Prepare the way! Change your lives!

The people of Israel were in exile in Babylon. In their understanding, this was the punishment for their sin. Our reading focuses on their liberation from their exile. It speaks of the “herald of good news” who will be the voice proclaiming, “Your God is coming, in power and justice, to save you. Prepare the way!” Isaiah uses symbolic language – every valley and mountain shall be level. This image tells us that, with the coming of our God, justice will reign, and all will be equal. Our Gospel passage introduces John the Baptist whose role is to announce the beginning of the public ministry of Jesus. To prepare the way for the one who will baptise in the Holy Spirit, John the Baptist calls us to repent and change our lives. He calls us to conversion – now!

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Monday 11th December St Damasus I, pope

Tuesday 12th December Our Lady of Guadalupe

Wednesday 13th December St Lucy, virgin, martyr

Thursday 14th December St John of the Cross, priest, doctor

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

PARISH PRIEST:
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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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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 12.30 pm 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.

Second Sunday of Advent - Year B
9th & 10th December, 2017

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:
Noel Ryan, Geoff Morris, Jacques Walter, Maureen Hawkins.

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.

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.

GROUP ROSARY SESSION FOR PEACE

Date: **Saturday, 6th January, at 10.30 am**
Venue: 37 Lane Road, FTG. All are welcome.
Contact: Pauline Barlow on 9758 5106.

FRIENDSHIP GATHERING: The last meeting for 2017 will be Thursday 21st December, 2017. Recommencing Thursday 4th January, 2018. Everyone is welcome 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: will hold their last meeting for the year on Tuesday 12th December and will take a break during January 2018 and resume their meeting on Tuesday, 6th February 2018 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: will take a break in January 2018 and resume their meeting on Tuesday, 6th February from 9 am to 10 am at the Parish Centre. For enquiries, please contact the Parish



CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS

We are having our usual "Nativity play" at the 7:30 pm Christmas Eve Family Mass this year.



ALL CHILDREN (especially the little ones) are invited to come dressed as Angels or Shepherds. You will need to do the costume, but it doesn't need to be elaborate – a white dress or fairy skirt & wings for angels and tea towel headwear for shepherds will do.

We are also looking for children (Grade 3 and above) to play the parts of Mary, Joseph, Wise Men (can be girls) and Caesar. All costumes can be provided, and the children will be required to sit in the sanctuary at the front of the church during Mass. If you are interested, or if you have any questions, please contact: Monique Patté on 0402 167 100 or Kate Potter on 0419 326 220

MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSIONS

APPEAL takes place this weekend. Please be generous in your financial support and in your prayers so that communities in some of the world's most remote countries may receive the basics for human living. Donations of \$2.00 and over are tax deductible.

2017 SENIORS CHRISTMAS LUNCH

CANCELLED: The Parish of St. John the Baptist and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul with great regret had to cancel this year's Seniors Christmas lunch. This was due to the unprecedented severe thunderstorms that hit Melbourne the weekend of 2nd December. We thank Father Alan, Knox City Council for their grant, Terry Stephens and team of drivers, Maree Wilson and team of musicians, St. John the Baptist Primary school for setting up tables, and the many volunteers who helped in so many ways getting things ready for this event. God bless you this Advent season. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul thank you for your continued support of our work in the community.

LECTORS ROSTER: A new roster is being prepared for lectors for January – March. 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 required. If you would like to read at Mass, please contact Stephanie on 9758 5497 or smhorgen@gmail.com before 22nd December. You may consider sharing the role by reading just one of the readings. Students in Yr 11 and 12 are welcome to be a part of this ministry. Rosters and guidelines will be available on the weekend 30th /31st December.

BAPTISMS

We offer our congratulations to:
Mila Cole ~ daughter of Antony & Christina
Rafaella Giangulio ~ daughter of Stephen & Sara
Kayden Radulski ~ son of Marek & Lisa who are to be baptised this weekend:
The Church of God welcomes them with great joy.



MELBOURNE CATHOLIC MAGAZINE
The December edition is now available at \$4 a copy.

FAITH SEEKING UNDERSTANDING:

Reflection entitled "The Second Sunday of Advent" by Carolyn is on the trollies for you to take home.

ROYAL COMMISSION

With the delivery of the final report from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, we move as a Church to the next stage of the painful process of atoning for the sins of the past. This weekend we light the second of the Advent candles and the gradual strengthening of the Advent light reminds us that we draw nearer to the great feast of Christmas, celebrating the goodness of God born anew in our hearts and our world. This is the God who journeys with us as we search to understand, accept and acknowledge the wrongs of the past. Importantly we now have the task of ensuring that we move forward in a manner that brings hope, accountabilities and healing.

We continue to hold in our thoughts and prayers all those who have suffered abuse at the hands of clergy, religious, teachers and volunteers in our Catholic schools and homes. It is for these children, women and men that we offer our humble prayers for their healing and health as they, too, move to this next stage in their journey of their story.

As a faithful people who join in prayer this Sunday the words of the psalm remind us to listen to the voice of the God of peace in whom mercy and faithfulness meet. Let us pray that the coming of Jesus, the Emmanuel, will bring peace, hope and healing to all who are in need of his gentle companionship and care.

ROSTERS: Mon 11th Dec to Sun 17th Dec

Flowers	Sue, Lynne
Altar Servers	6pm: Nicholas
Linen	Alvi
Welcomers	6pm: Sue, Anna 9am: Rosa, Terry, Laurel 11am: Gina, Pat
Lectors	6pm: Raul 9am: Tony D 11am: Sarah
Counters	Tony, Stephanie
Gardening	Patrick, Harry