

## FIRST READING

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

**61:1-2, 10-11**

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,  
for the Lord has anointed me.  
He has sent me to bring good news to the  
poor, to bind up hearts that are broken;  
to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to  
those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour  
from the Lord.

‘I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices  
in my God, for he has clothed me in the  
garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in  
the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom  
wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in  
her jewels.

‘For as the earth makes fresh things grow,  
as a garden makes seeds spring up,  
so will the Lord make both integrity and  
praise spring up in the sight of the nations.’

*The Word of the Lord.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R./ My soul rejoices in my God.*

## SECOND READING

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

**5:16-24**

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and  
for all things give thanks to God, because  
this is what God expects you to do in Christ  
Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the  
gift of prophecy with contempt; think before  
you do anything – hold on to what is good  
and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and  
holy; and may you all be kept safe and  
blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the  
coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has  
called you and he will not fail you.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
he sent me to bring Good News  
to the poor.  
Alleluia!*

## GOSPEL

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
John*

**1:6-8, 19-28**

A man came, sent by God. His name was John.  
He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for  
the light, so that everyone might believe through  
him. He was not the light, only a witness to  
speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When  
the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem  
to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ he not only declared,  
but he declared quite openly, ‘I am not the  
Christ.’ ‘Well then,’ they asked ‘are you Elijah?’  
‘I am not’ he said. ‘Are you the Prophet?’ He  
answered, ‘No.’ So they said to him, ‘Who are  
you? We must take back an answer to those who  
sent us. What have you to say about yourself?’  
So John said, ‘I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

*‘...a voice that cries in the wilderness:  
Make a straight way for the Lord.’*

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees,  
and they put this further question to him, ‘Why  
are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and  
not Elijah, and not the prophet?’ John replied, ‘I  
baptise with water; but there stands among you  
– unknown to you – the one who is coming after  
me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.’  
This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the  
Jordan, where John was baptising.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*



## **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**

## **Third Sunday of Advent - Year B**

**16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2017**

*O God most high,  
You send glad tidings to the lowly,  
You hide not Your face from the poor;  
those who dwell in darkness You call into the light.  
We pray that, at the advent of Your Son,  
we may recognise Him in our midst  
and find joy in His saving presence.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



## FOCUS ON THE READINGS

Good news for the poor! Christ, our Light, is among us!

Our first reading focuses on justice. The One sent by God is anointed by the Spirit for mission, and His mission is to the poor, the oppressed, the broken-hearted. He will bring justice to the world and the poor will be exalted – bedecked with the jewels of salvation.

The Gospel reading focuses on Christ the Light. Again we hear from John the Baptist who is the witness to the Light. John calls us to see the Light who is already in our midst. That Light is Christ, and He is the God who comes to save.

## FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

*Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December St Peter Canisius, priest, doctor*

*Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December St John of Kanty, priest*

***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: deaconpeter@tutanota.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 12.30 pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**Third Sunday of Advent - Year B**  
**16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2017**

**PRAYING FOR...**

*All who have died recently:*  
John Dillon, Lisa Whittaker



*Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:*  
Kevin Leddin, Giuseppe Rizio

*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, 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, 6<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2017. Recommencing Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> 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 take a break during January 2018 and resume their meeting on Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> 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, 6<sup>th</sup> February from 9 am to 10 am at the Parish Centre. For enquiries, please contact the Parish

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 24<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2017.** Please note that there is only **one Mass at 10.00am**

**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

**SIGN UP SHEETS** - Last chance to indicate your availability for Christmas Masses. Calling for Eucharistic Ministers, collectors, readers. Please volunteer to assist at Christmas Masses by writing your name on the sign-up sheets. Anyone new to the parish please sign up and join in the Christmas celebrations.

**SINGERS/MUSICANS** would you like to join a music group for any of the Masses during the Christmas period? Contact the Parish Office.

**MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSIONS APPEAL** thank you for your generous donations to this appeal \$1370.65

**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 30<sup>th</sup> /31<sup>st</sup> December.

**FAITH SEEKING UNDERSTANDING:** Reflection entitled "The Third Sunday of Advent" by Carolyn is on the trollies for you to take home.



**AUSTRALIAN NATIVITY SCENE: ST ELIZABETH'S, DANDENONG NORTH** The scene can be viewed until Friday 12 January, 2018 at 107 Baker Road, Dandenong North. Local artist Wilson Fernandez has been creating his stunning nativity scenes for the past thirteen years. This is regarded as one of Australia's best nativity displays and is months in the making each year.

Cost: Free . Viewing times: After Mass  
Website: <http://www.australiannativityscene.org/>

**CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND TWILIGHT MARKET** Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December, 6pm Sts Peter and Paul's, 377 Dorcas Street, South Melbourne The Christmas Carols and Twilight Market at Sts Peter and Paul's South Melbourne is back for 2017. Held in the grounds of the church, singers and musicians from around Melbourne will lead the Carols, and there will be lots of fascinating market stalls and scrumptious food available throughout the evening. Don't miss this wonderful event for all the family, as we prepare for Christmas.

**POSITIONS VACANT ACROSS THE ARCHDIOCESE** Details can be found on the Archdiocese website for various administrative and liturgical positions. Go to...

[www.cam.org.au/Jobs.aspx](http://www.cam.org.au/Jobs.aspx)



<b>ROSTERS: Mon 18<sup>th</sup> Dec to Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	
<b>Flowers</b>	Connie, Ann
<b>Altar Servers</b>	<b>6pm:</b> Nicholas
<b>Linen</b>	Jean
<b>Welcomers</b>	<b>6pm:</b> Queenie <b>10am:</b> Peter, Neil, Lorraine, Joanna, Tony, Christine
<b>Lectors</b>	<b>6pm:</b> Stephanie <b>10am:</b> Stephanie
<b>Counters</b>	Bryon, Ruby
<b>Gardening</b>	Patrick, Harry