

## FIRST READING

*A reading from the book of Job 7:1-4, 6-7*  
Is not man's life on earth nothing more than pressed service, his time no better than hired drudgery? Like the slave, sighing for the shade, or the workman with no thought but his wages, months of delusion I have assigned to me, nothing for my own but nights of grief. Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be day?' Risen I think, 'How slowly evening comes!' Restlessly I fret till twilight falls. Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days have passed, and vanished, leaving no hope behind. Remember that my life is but a breath, and that my eyes will never again see joy.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R./ Praise the Lord  
who heals the broken-hearted.*

## SECOND READING

*A reading from the First Letter of St. Paul  
to the Corinthians 9:16-19.22-23*

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it is a duty which has been laid on me; I should be punished if I did not preach it! If I had chosen this work myself, I might have been paid for it, but as I have not, it is a responsibility which has been put into my hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is this: in my preaching, to be able to offer the Good News free, and not insist on the rights which the gospel gives me.

So though I am not a slave of any man I have made myself the slave of everyone so as to win as many as I could. For the weak I made myself weak. I made myself all things to all men in order to save some at any cost; and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel, to have a share in its blessings.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!  
He bore our sickness,  
and endured our suffering.  
Alleluia!*

## GOSPEL

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Mark 1:29-39*

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

*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**

## **Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B**

**3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2018**

*Heavenly Father,  
Out of your power and compassion,  
You sent Your Son into our world  
to proclaim the day of salvation.  
Bring us health of body and spirit  
and raise us to new life in Your service.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Proclaim  
The Gospel  
That is  
What  
I Came  
To Do

## FOCUS ON THE READINGS

Our readings this week speak of prayer, humility and taking responsibility.

We see Jesus quietly and unobtrusively travelling about the countryside preaching to the people and healing them. He does not want to be acknowledged for his work but is eager to pursue his task, 'because that is why I came'.

Paul too explains how he 'has made himself a slave of everyone ... For the weak I have made myself weak.' By becoming like the people he is ministering to he believes he can more effectively reach them.

- Can we reach out humbly and quietly to those we live and work with?
- Can we act responsibly and justly in all our dealings with others?
- Can we live faithfully and prayerfully without expecting a return?

## FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February St Agatha, virgin, martyr

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February St Paul Miki & companions, martyrs

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February St Scholastica, virgin

*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: Carole D'Souza, Maree Wilson  
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 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.

**Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time - Year B**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2018**  
**YEAR OF YOUTH**

**PRAYING FOR...**

**All who have died recently:**  
Margherita (Rita) Crivellaro, Joan Plostins (Parkes), Harry Tate, Moya McDonald, Macario Rosario, Patrick O'Reilly.



**Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:**  
John Dunlop.

**The sick:** Peter Dunlop, 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 Luyf, 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, 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2018 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 Tineke 9763-1096 .

**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.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Due to Fr Alan's commitments, there will be **NO 9.15am MORNING MASS** this **THURSDAY 8<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**. Apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.

**ASH WEDNESDAY – 14<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2018:**  
The Church's season of Lent is not far away. We mark the beginning of Lent on 14<sup>th</sup> February with our **Ash Wednesday Masses: 9.15am & 7.00pm.**

**LENTEN GROUPS** Would you like to join a **Lenten reflection group** of prayer, biblical reflection and modern stories?

This could be day or evening depending on when you are available. We will organise a time to suit most people. Just send me an email at: csombekkesjb@gmail.com or ring the parish office: 9758 1029 if you are interested. *Carolyn Sombekke*, Faith Development Coordinator

**THE YEAR OF YOUTH: [3/12/2017–1/12/2018]:**

The Australian Bishops have identified the liturgical year of 2018 as a national Year of Youth.

The Year of Youth invites the Church into prayerful discernment about the importance and life-giving presence of young people in the local Church and society. It calls for dialogue and active engagement focused on the reconnection and renewal of a new generation of young people in the life of the Church. Year of Youth Aims:

- prayerfully discern the Australian Bishops' vision for ministry with young people, Anointed and Sent
- authentic and personal engagement by Church leaders in the challenges and success in young people's lives
- acknowledging the Holy Spirit at work in the lives of young people, and young people acting upon the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church;
- upholding the dignity of young people, ensuring a safe environment from physical, emotional and spiritual harm

The aims for the Year of Youth dovetail together with the goals of the bishops' document: '**Anointed and Sent: an Australian vision for catholic youth ministry**', provide a rich framework and challenges local faith communities to explore new horizons as they accompany young people into maturity. For further information about the Year of Youth please visit: <https://youth.catholic.org.au/anointed-and-sent>

*"Today, we need a Church capable of walking at people's side, of doing more than simply listening to them; a Church which accompanies them on their journey... but we need to know how to interpret, with courage, the larger picture."*

- Pope Francis – WYD: Rio de Janeiro, 2013

**PARISH STAFFING:** Following the recent, and unexpected, resignation of Mrs Carol Leathem from her position as part-time Parish Secretary, I am pleased to announce that Mrs Maree Wilson has accepted my invitation to fill the vacancy.

It would be somewhat remiss of me, were I not to formally acknowledge Carol's work in the office, and thank her for her contribution on staff over the last 12 months. We certainly wish her all the best.

Maree formally commenced her work in the Parish Office on Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> January. Maree is well known to many parishioners through her leadership in music ministry, having led the '9am Choir' for many years, among her other involvements.

Maree's significant professional experience in office administration, and evident commitment to parish life, not least of all through music, and her long-standing membership of the Parish Liturgy Team, will undoubtedly assist our staff as a whole, in meeting the administrative, pastoral, liturgical and secretarial demands of a contemporary parish. Welcome on staff, Maree. - Fr Alan

**Social Justice Group Trivia Night**

☺ *Come and join the fun.* ☺ ☺ *Don't need to be an expert.* ☺

**Date:** Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March  
**Venue:** School Hall starting at 7.00pm for 7.30pm.  
**Cost:** \$10 per adult. BYO drinks and nibbles. Make up a table or come and join one.  
Tickets on sale after all w/e masses from the 10<sup>th</sup> February or contact Patrick 0434072831 (call or text). Proceeds in aid of "Opening the Doors Foundation" Donations welcome ☺...

**MELBOURNE CATHOLIC MAGAZINE**

The latest issue is available in the church foyer for \$4 a copy.

<b>ROSTERS: Mon 5<sup>th</sup> to Sun 11<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	
<b>Flowers</b>	Sue N
<b>Altar Servers</b>	<b>6pm:</b> Nicholas
<b>Linen</b>	Laurel
<b>Welcomers</b>	<b>6pm:</b> Sue, Anna <b>9am:</b> Rosa, Terry, Laurel <b>11am:</b> Gina, Pat
<b>Lectors</b>	<b>6pm:</b> Stephanie <b>9am:</b> Carolyn <b>11am:</b> Sarah
<b>Counters</b>	Bryon, Ruby
<b>Gardening</b>	Barry