

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Genesis 9:8-15

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.'

God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R./ Your ways, O Lord,
are love and truth,
to those who keep Your covenant.*

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Peter 3:18-22

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight

people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels of the Dominations and Powers his subjects.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ
King of endless glory!
No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word
that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ,
King of endless glory!*

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 1:12-15

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him. After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH
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First Sunday of Lent - Year B

17th & 18th February, 2018

*God of the covenant,
We beg you, throughout these forty days,
to unseal for us the wellspring
of your grace,
cleanse our hearts of all that is not holy,
and cause your gift of new life
to flourish once again.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*



FOCUS ON THE READINGS

Our readings invite us to "Be glad in the Lord and rejoice".

Imagine the absolute joy radiating from the leper after Jesus had healed him. The psalmist, too, speaks of such joy after being rescued by God from his sinful ways.

Such fullness of spirit is not meant to be contained. We are called to pass on this joy to those we meet. Attending a number of wedding ceremonies recently, I was reminded of that initial joy at the newness of marriage. The couples involved were absolutely glowing with happiness.

Of course, not all marriages continue to be filled with such wonderful experiences. In our relationship with God there are also problems along the way. At such times, we need to remember our sense of joy and wonder when God filled us to overflowing with his love for the first time. Those around us will certainly notice!

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Thursday 22nd February The Chair of St Peter, apostle.

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 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.

First Sunday of Lent - Year B
17th & 18th February, 2018
YEAR OF YOUTH

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:
Lisa DiDonato, Guido Scarbossa (Italy)



Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:
Chanake Aponso

The sick: Sr. Una Melville, 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, 3rd 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 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.

MATER CHRISTI COLLEGE
Bring your family and friends to our next Scheduled Tour, Wednesday 21st February, departing 4.00pm. Mater Christi College is a vibrant, inclusive and warm community where girls feel safe, build friendships and become intelligent and reflective learners. For more information, or to arrange a Personal Tour Contact Kylie Lee, 9754 6611.



ST JOHN'S PRIMARY ARE COLLECTING COLES SPORTS FOR SCHOOLS VOUCHERS Step 1 For every \$10 spent at Coles you will receive one Sports for Schools voucher. Step 2 You then bring the vouchers to school, placing them in the collection box in the foyer. Step 3 Every voucher you donate to our school can be redeemed for leading brand sports equipment.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER This year's World Day of Prayer Service will be held at the Uniting Church, 6 The Avenue, Ferntree Gully, on Friday March 2nd, at 1.30 p.m. The theme is: "All God's Creation is very Good" and has been prepared by the people of SURINAME which lies on the north-eastern coast of South America. All are welcome. A plate of food to share for afternoon tea would be welcome. Enquiries: Gordon Veerasawmy on 0412 225 355.

AFTERNOON TEA FOR WOMEN: Come along and be reminded of how special you are. Thursday 8th March is International Women's day and I would like to invite you to an afternoon tea for women to help celebrate the beautiful creation that all women are. This will take place in St John's parish hall from 1.30 till 3pm. You will meet other women and be pampered with a lovely afternoon tea. As this is meant to be a relaxing and nurturing time for women it would be best if you could arrange child minding for your little ones. If this is a problem please do contact me and we will see what we can do to help.



RSVP is essential for catering purposes. Please contact the parish office on 9758.1029 or email me csombekkesjb@gmail.com Cheers & Blessings, Carolyn



YOUTH AND VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT
In this Year for Youth and Vocational Discernment, the Challenge is put to the entire local Church in Australia to do something for our young people. Vocations Melbourne, in conjunction with the Youth Office and Life, Marriage and Family Office will run some retreats for men and women to help them in their Christian calling. An Upcoming Event in this series is: **Quo Vadis (Discerner's group)** Starting March 2nd and continuing on the **First Friday of the month at 6.30pm** Evening includes Adoration, an opportunity for onfession, Mass, discussion and a shared meal. For more Information, Contact the Vocations Office on **9926 5733** Or email **vocations@cam.org.au** for more details and to register.

SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP TRIVIA NIGHT
☺ Come and join the fun. ☺
Date: **Saturday 3rd 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 10th February or contact Patrick 0434 072 831 (call or text). Proceeds in aid of "Opening the Doors Foundation" (Aboriginal students support), Thornbury and the "Community Based Rehabilitation Foundation" (via Columban Fathers) in the Philippines. Donations Welcome!

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM – AIRS 25rd February 2018
an inspiring and up lifting show about faith, hope, love and life. Go to www.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au where you can listen anytime and subscribe to weekly shows by email.

ROSTERS: Mon 19^h to Sun 25th Feb	
Flowers	Lent – No flowers
Altar Servers	6pm: Nicholas
Linen	Alvi
Welcomers	6pm: Louise, Peter 9am: Sue & David, Thelma 11am: Kathryn and Andrew, Maria
Lectors	6pm: Jenny 9am: Peter 11am: Stephanie
Counters	Peter & Dawn, George & Genevieve
Gardening	Barry