

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Exodus

20:1-3. 7-8. 12-17

God spoke all these words. He said, 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

'You shall have no gods except me.

'You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it.

'Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you.

'You shall not kill.

'You shall not commit adultery.

'You shall not steal.

'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

'You shall not covet your neighbour's house.

'You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/. Lord, you have the words
of everlasting life.*

SECOND READING

*A reading from the First Letter of St. Paul
to the Corinthians*

1:22-25

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
king of endless glory!*

*God loved the world so much,
He gave us his only Son,
that all who believe in him
might have eternal life.*

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
king of endless glory!*

GOSPEL

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to
John*

2:13-25

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said. During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH
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3RD SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR B

3rd & 4th March, 2018

*Holy God,
Banish from our hearts
any selfishness or conceit,
that by the power
flowing from Christ's resurrection
your people may be raised up from the death of sin
and fashioned into a living temple of Your glory.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



FOCUS ON THE READINGS

This week we move into the Gospel of John. It might be hard for us to imagine what sort of a world Jesus walked into, in this gospel.

It is just before Passover, so the Temple would have been crowded with people – like the fish market on Christmas Eve or Holy Saturday morning! A key difference, however, is that the crowds, all in their own ways, were journeying to the Temple to make a sacrifice – they were observing the 'religious' custom of the day.

The challenging aspect of this was that the Temple was being treated as a market place. The religious world and the commercial world were colliding. There was a difference between the Temple and the temple. And in the midst of all this an angry Jesus speaks – through a religious, symbolic lens.

As seasoned readers of the story we know that the drama is building and that the prophetic Jesus shone a light on the workings of his world that made people, particularly the religious leaders, uncomfortable.

As we journey with John's gospel as our guide we are entering a gospel world that is rich in symbolism, offering a complex way of thinking about Jesus and the world. There, the struggle between the symbolic and the literal is highlighted, a struggle between those who hear and understand and those who do not.

*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
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PARISH OFFICE: 9758 1029
Monday to Friday 9 am – 3 pm
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.

Third Sunday of Lent - Year B
3rd & 4th March, 2018
YEAR OF YOUTH

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:
Cameron Johnson, Therese Edmunds, Eileen Johnson, Maureen Darcy.



Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:
Benny Nardone, Tracey McNamara, Peter Kelly, Gerhard Fransen.

The sick: Sr. Una Melville PBVM, Catherine Turner, Keith Scutt, Peter Commons, Sasty Sastradipradja, 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 Jaywardena, Mary Edmunds, Anabelyn Malabed, Miép 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 be removed, please contact the Parish Office on 9758 1029.

GROUP ROSARY SESSION FOR PEACE

Date: **Sat, 7th April, 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 to 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 **9 am–10 am each Tuesday (during school term)** in the Parish Centre. For enquiries, please contact the Parish Office.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS MAGAZINE (Autumn Edition) is available on the trolleys.
MELBOURNE CATHOLIC MAGAZINE latest edition IS also available for \$4 a copy.

A SEMINARIAN AMONG US: This Wednesday, we will welcome Tom Christie, a 4th year seminarian from Corpus Christi College, Carlton, who will be completing a 'pastoral placement' here at St Johns. He will be among us until approximately the end of June, before heading to Rome to further his Seminary studies. Please extend to him our customary Ferntree Gully hospitality.

PROJECT COMPASSION

Envelopes and boxes are available on the trolleys in the church. Please donate generously.

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 3 pm**. You will meet other women of all ages 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 if you have 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 at: csombekkesjb@gmail.com
Cheers & Blessings, Carolyn

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PRIMARY SCHOOL OPEN DAY: All Welcome! Our primary school will be running an Open Day on **Wednesday 14th march 2018 at between 9.00am and 5.00pm**. If you are unable to attend our open day, personal tours may be arranged with the Principal (Mrs Cathy Mason) by contacting the school office on 9758 1013 or via Email: cmason@sjferntreegully.catholic.edu.au

LECTORS' ROSTER A new roster is being prepared for lectors for April – June. 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: smhorgen@gmail.com or 97585497 **before 17th. March 2018**. 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 24th/25th March.

COLES SPORTS FOR SCHOOLS VOUCHERS
Thank you to everyone who has already started collecting the vouchers. Collection boxes are in the school and church foyers. Keep collecting!

MATER CHRISTI COLLEGE: Bring your family and friends to our School in Action tour, Thursday 8 March, departing 9.00am. 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.

THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISHES RAFFLE 2018

Thanks to the support of Fr. Alan, St Vincent de Paul Society and the FTG Social Justice Group will again share the proceeds of the annual combined churches raffle. We have similar aims in support of the disadvantaged and our two groups will work together on this parish project. As you know a percentage of the takings of the raffle returns to our parish. We have taken on this project in 2018 because the funds raised will provide basic food and other necessities to support the disadvantaged. St Vincent de Paul spends approximately \$2,500.00 on those in need. The Social Justice Group supports projects both locally and overseas.

Among the prizes there are 3 cars on offer and the only way to win is to buy tickets. The sale of tickets will commence next weekend: **Sat 10th/Sun 11th March**. at the end of each mass **through 'til Sat 5th/ Sun 6th May**. The draw takes place on 2nd June 2018. We look forward to your support by promoting these wonderful prizes. Also feel free to take a few books to sell to family and friends. We thank you in anticipation for your continuing ongoing support in 2018.

Prizes:

1. New Suzuki Baleno - valued at \$17490
 2. New Suzuki Baleno - valued at \$17490
 3. New Suzuki Baleno - valued at \$17490
- 4th & 5th: Coles/Myer gifts cards @ \$1000 each
6th – 14th: Coles/Myer gift cards @ \$500 each

Jenny Keating & Patrick Sawyer

ROSTERS: Mon 5th March to Sun 11th March	
Flowers	Lent – No flowers
Altar Servers	6pm: Nicholas
Linen	Sue O
Welcomers	6pm: Sue, Anna 9am: Rosa, Terry, Laurel 11am: Gina, Pat
Lectors	6pm: Phuong 9am: Pamela 11am: Sue
Counters	Tony, Stephanie
Gardening	Michael