

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah 31:31-34

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel (and the House of Judah), but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, ‘Learn to know the Lord!’ No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/. Create a clean heart in me, O God.

SECOND READING

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews 5:7-9

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Glory to you, Word of God,
Lord Jesus Christ!*

*If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord;
and where I am, my servant will also be.*

*Glory to you, Word of God,
Lord Jesus Christ!*

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
12:20-33

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, ‘Sir, we should like to see Jesus.’ Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

‘Now the hour has come
for the Son of Man to be glorified.
I tell you, most solemnly,
unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies,
it remains only a single grain;
but if it dies,
it yields a rich harvest.
Anyone who loves his life loses it;
anyone who hates his life in this world
will keep it for the eternal life.
If a man serves me, he must follow me,
wherever I am, my servant will be there too.
If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him.
Now my soul is troubled.
What shall I say:
Father, save me from this hour?
But it was for this very reason that I have come to this
hour.
Father, glorify your name!’

A voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’ People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, ‘It was an angel speaking to him.’ Jesus answered, ‘It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.

‘Now sentence is being passed on this world;
now the prince of this world is to be overthrown.
And when I am lifted up from the earth,
I shall draw all men to myself.’

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

The Gospel of the Lord.



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5TH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR B

17th & 18th March, 2018

*Heavenly Father,
You have written a covenant of grace in our hearts,
sealed by the obedience of Jesus Your Son.
Raise us up with Christ,
the grain fallen to earth
that yields a harvest of everlasting life.
May we glorify Your name
by following faithfully where He has led.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

FOCUS ON THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL READING

It was one of those days. It was 3.30pm and the school staff were gathering. A serious matter needed to be discussed and as the principal was gathering her speech in readiness the phone rang. Her mother, who was in the early stages of Alzheimer's, was in distress. She had been out shopping, parked the car and couldn't remember where it was. 'Could you come? You have to come. You have to come right now'. She sank to her knees. All of us face times in our lives when we sink down and we implore God from the depths of our hearts: 'I just can't! You are asking too much of me. It's not fair. I just ...' Our souls are troubled and there is just too much to juggle. And sometimes we may even feel that God has abandoned us. And yet, somehow, we do find the strength to face whatever the life-terror may be that lies ahead of us. Perhaps this is a little bit of the wisdom behind the 'God never gives us more than we can bear'.

But we can probably only take this advice into our hearts if we believe in a loving God. Perhaps this is one of the messages from today's Gospel. In the midst of it all Jesus and God remain in loving communion with each other.

God is with Jesus, just as God is with us – even though we don't always have the eyes to see...

This rich gospel offers so many insights into Jesus as he continues his journey to the cross. It is hard to imagine how Jesus must have felt as he became more and more aware of what lay ahead of him. Perhaps the invitation for this week is to think about what it means to follow Jesus.

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Monday 19th March – St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Mass at St Joseph's College – 9.10am)

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

SEMINARIAN:
Tom Christie 9758 1029

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.

Fifth Sunday of Lent - Year B
17th & 18th March, 2018
YEAR OF YOUTH

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Jack Winters, Mario Santomaggio



Those who we remember at this time: Basil Lorimer, Lisa Di Donato (1 month), Paul Migliore, Mary Whelan, Dean O'Brien, Peter Trevena, Michael Atkinson, Thomas Schepisi,

The sick: Stephen Murray, Daniel Vincent-Smith, Mary Hill, 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 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 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 to 10 am each Tuesday (during school term)** in the Parish Centre. For enquiries, please contact the Parish Office.

HOLY WEEK SIGN UP SHEETS Please check the Sign Up Sheets on the glass and consider assisting. Your help is greatly appreciated.



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

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM This year the Sacrament of Confirmation is offered to Year 5 and 6 children who have already been baptised, and who reside within the boundaries of our Parish. **Confirmation Mass** will be celebrated on **Thursday, 24th May 2018 at 6.30pm. Parent Information Evening is on Thursday, 22nd March 2018 at 7pm in the School Hall.** If your child attends a school other than St John's, please contact the Parish Office on 9758 1029 and register your interest. Classes will commence in Term 3. Information for children attending at St John's will be distributed via Year 5 & 6 teachers. You will be required to present a copy of your child's Baptismal certificate.



FUNERAL MASS FOR JOHN (JACK) WINTERS will be celebrated this coming Tuesday, 20th March, at 10am

WILLOWBROOK AGED CARE SERVICE we invite you to visit us, meet our staff and learn more about our lifestyle programs. Call now for your personal tour. Villa Maria Catholic Homes Phone 1300 845 52. Willowbrooke Aged Care Residence. or visit 9A Willow Road, Upper Ferntree Gully.

WHEN IRISH EYES ARE SMILING! Inviting parishioners to join Maria Forde on the 2018 Celtic and Music Tour of Ireland (September 22nd - October 6th 2018) Enjoy 2 wonderful weeks traversing the spectacular Irish countryside; experience the hospitality of the Irish people whilst learning about their history and story. Enjoy Celtic music, cuisine and its unique spirituality. Travel in comfort by coach and enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of a small tour. (20 people max) If you are concerned about traveling alone or have never before ventured overseas be assured that you will be supported and made welcome by an Irish driver, fellow guests and myself. For more information or an itinerary please contact: Tour Director: Maria Forde on 0411158593 or mariaforde1@gmail.com or go to her website: www.mariaforde.com and click on the 'Celtic Tour 2018' link, then '2018 itinerary'.



THE 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 per month on those in need.

The Social Justice Group supports projects both locally, and overseas. Among the prizes on offer there are 3 cars, and a number of retail vouchers. The only way to have a chance of winning is to buy tickets. The sale of tickets will commence this weekend: **Sat 10th/Sun 11th March** after each mass **through until 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

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 Weekend tour, **Sunday 18 March**, departing 9.00am. Mater Christi College girls consistently achieve region leading VCE and vocational results. A visit will enable your family to witness our vibrant, inclusive and warm community. Visit materchristi.edu.au to book your tour.

ROSTERS: Mon 19th to Sun 25th March	
Flowers	Lent – No flowers
Altar Servers	6pm: Nicholas
Linen	Laurel Stephens
Welcomers	6pm: Queenie 9am: Peter, Neil, Lorraine, Joanna 11am: Tony, Christine
Lectors	6pm: Stephanie 9am: Caroline 11am: Sarah M
Counters	Bryon, Stephanie
Gardening	Michael