

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.
4:8-12.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter said: 'Rulers of the people, and elders! If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple, and asking us how he was healed, then I am glad to tell you all, and would indeed be glad to tell the whole people of Israel, that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by this name and by no other that this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your presence, today. This is the stone rejected by you the builders, but which has proved to be the keystone. For of all the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/. The stone rejected by the builders
has become the corner stone.*

SECOND READING

A reading from the First Letter of St John
3:1-2

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us.

My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
10:11-18

Jesus said:

'I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep. The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep.

And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold, and these I have to lead as well.

They too will listen to my voice, and there will be only one flock and one shepherd.

The Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me; I lay it down of my own free will, and as it is in my power to lay it down, so it is in my power to take it up again; and this is the command I have been given by my Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

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4th SUNDAY EASTER – YEAR B

21st / 22nd April, 2018

*Heavenly Father,
you sent Jesus, the Good Shepherd,
to gather Your sheep into the fold.
Give us ears to hear the Shepherds call,
strength to walk beside Him,
eyes of faith to recognise Him,
and generous hearts to love Him.
Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.*



FOCUS ON THE READINGS

King David has been a shepherd as a boy, so the image of the Shepherd Messiah underlies this text. But the intimacy of Jesus' relationship with his flock goes beyond even this. This gospel is a statement of the seriousness of Jesus' commitment to the Father's will and his self-giving love for humankind. Jesus' life is freely given for his flock. It is sometimes thought that Jesus died to satisfy the will of the Father imposed on the Son. This is not so. Jesus' gift was a free gift because he responded at all times to that which was most profound in him: the Father's love which he wished to make known to the world. It is generous, self-giving love for others.

The Latin word for shepherd is the root of the word pastor, which is often used to describe the priest who leads the community. From this Latin root we also derive other terms such as pastoral associate, pastoral council and pastoral care, all of which imply a duty of love and care towards others.

- In what ways are Christians today called to offer this same self-giving love for others?
- Who are those in our world who are most in need of this generous love?

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Monday 23rd April St George, martyr Tuesday 24th April St Fidelis of Sigmaringen priest martyr
Saturday 28th April St Peter Chanel priest, martyr

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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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.

4th Sunday Easter – Year B

21st / 22nd April, 2018

YEAR OF YOUTH**PRAYING FOR...****All who have died recently:**

Frances Thomas, John Oliver McCann (England).

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Percival and Naomi White, Mary Rosenbrock, John Carss, Raffaele Prosdocimi, Ada Parente, Geertruda Bal.

The sick: Brigida Mazzone, Wilhelmina Weerden, Angela Sawyer, Daniel Vincent-Smith, Mary Hill, 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, and 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 May, 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 We are having a break over the School Holiday period, and will resume to pray together **from Tuesday 17th April at 9.00am to 10.00 am each Tuesday during school term** in the Parish Centre. For enquiries, please contact the Parish Office.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Pope Francis writes: *We will never discover the special, personal calling that God has in mind for us if we remain enclosed in ourselves, in our usual way of doing things... We could lose the chance to dream big and to play our part in the unique and original story that God wants to write with us.*

God calls young men & women from our local communities to serve as priests and consecrated religious. We all have a role to play in helping our young people to 'dream big' and hear this call.

- What can we do to foster vocations in our parish community?

BAPTISMS Congratulations to **Chloe Powell**, who is to be baptised this weekend. *'The Church of God welcomes you with great joy'.*

PARISH MUSICAL – "It's Not About the Girl!" Rehearsals are well underway and it's wonderful to see the fabulous talent of our cast. A further invitation is now offered to our Parishioners to be part of this exciting parish musical. We are seeking a male actor to play a small, non-singing part with very few lines. Also required are backstage crew and prop assistants. Please contact the parish office on 9758 1029 for more information, or to register your interest.



ANZAC DAY DAWN WALK & WATCH Wednesday, 25th April in 'Quarry Park', Quarry Road, Ferntree Gully. This is an opportunity to remember Australians who served and died for our country, and to honour their spirit of courage, mateship and sacrifice. **Assemble at 5.30am** in the Church car park, for the silent walk to the park, where the **Dawn Service will commence at 6am.** Please bring torches and, if you wish something to sit on. Coffee and tea will be served back in the Parish Hall, following the service. Please consider bringing a plate of food to share. Inquiries to Margot Anne Boyd (9758 8278) or contact the Parish Office for details. **There will also be a Mass celebrated at 9.15am on this day.**

GOOD FRIDAY HOLY PLACES SPECIAL COLLECTION A big thank-you for your generous donation to the Good Friday Annual Appeal. Total donations amounted to **\$1433.70**

PROJECT COMPASSION If you haven't done so, could you please remember to hand in your Project Compassion boxes and envelopes, **Last Chance** - so that we can finalise our contributions and send all donations off to Caritas Australia. Your support is greatly appreciated.

FUNERAL MASS FOR FRANCES THOMAS

will be celebrated here at **St John the Baptist Church on Monday 30th April at 11am.**

ST PETER JULIAN EYMARD PARISH, MOOROOLBARK CELEBRATES 50 YEARS on Sunday 22nd April, 2018, 10.30am. All parishioners and friends, old and new, are invited to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Parish. Mass will be followed at 12.30pm by a lunch. For more information contact: the Parish of St Peter Julian Eymard, (234 Hull Road, Mooroolbark) on: 9723 4275.

THE COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISHES' RAFFLE – 2018 There are a number of wonderful prizes on offer, and the only way to be in the running to drive away in one of the amazing cars is to purchase a ticket. **Tickets will be on sale after all Masses each weekend, until Sunday 6th May.**
Jenny Keating & Patrick Sawyer

MUSICAL PLAY "Vincent Pallotti powered by Infinite Love." On the **4th & 5th May 2018** at St Christopher's Parish in Syndal. For Bookings contact Florence D'Costa on 0433 851 662 or Tibor Deheny on 0417 740 449 or www.trybooking.com/URDB

DWELLING IN JOY: YEAR OF YOUTH EVENT WITH MGL SISTERS Saturday 28 April, 3–9pm MGL Sisters House, 6 Dunstan Street, North Balwyn Are you a young woman seeking some quiet space to listen to God? Do you want to soak in the graces of the resurrection? Are you looking for some opportunities to connect with other young women from across Melbourne? Join the MGL sisters for this afternoon /evening of prayer, sisterhood, talks and more. **Cost:** Donation
Details and RSVP: 9857 8177
 or email: melanieedwards77@gmail.com

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND Save the Date: 1st -3rd June 2018. St Paul's Missionary College.

ROSTERS: Mon 23rd to Sun 30th April	
Flowers	Carole D'Souza, Lia Unmack
Altar Servers	6pm Nicholas D.
Linen	Laurel Stephens
Welcomers	6pm Jayne P., Myra N. 9am Marg & Adrian D, Anastasia A. 11am: Patrick & Angie S, Coral M
Lectors	6pm Phuong B 9am Adrian S. 11am Sue Smith
Counters	Steph & Byron
Gardening	April: Patrick S & Harry R.