

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

1:1-11

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is,' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.*

SECOND READING

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

4:1-13

I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to

preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is Father of all, over all, through all and within all.

Each one of us, however, has been given his own share of grace, given as Christ allotted it. It was said that he would: When he ascended to the height, he captured prisoners, he gave gifts to men.

When it says, 'he ascended', what can it mean if not that he descended right down to the lower regions of the earth? The one who rose higher than all the heavens to fill all things is none other than the one who descended. And to some, his gift was that they should be apostles; to some, prophets; to some, evangelists; to some, pastors and teachers; so that the saints together make a unity in the work of service, building up the body of Christ. In this way we are all to come to unity in our faith and in our knowledge of the Son of God, until we become the perfect Man, fully mature with the fullness of Christ himself.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

*I am with you always,
until the end of the world.*

Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

16:15-20

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven and said to them, 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised is saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.'

And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

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

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD – YEAR B

12th / 13th May, 2018

*Bless all our mothers,
that their love may be deep and
tender, and that their prayer for
us, their children, will help us to
know and do what is good,
encouraging us to love God
and one another. Amen.*



FOCUS ON THE READINGS

The Ascension is not the celebration of a physical journey into the skies or the clouds, even though religious art often portrays this event in that way. The celebration of the Ascension of the Lord developed in the early Church to mark the fact that there was a period when Jesus of Nazareth was physically present and a subsequent period when he was no longer present in the same way. Heaven is often portrayed as a 'place' in the skies but this can diminish the Christian understanding of heaven. Heaven is the ultimate end and fulfilment of the deepest human longings, the state of supreme, definitive happiness. This mystery of blessed communion with God and all who are in Christ is beyond all understanding and description. (CCC, §1024, §1027) Heaven is fully participating in the life of God. It is our ultimate destiny. St Augustine said, 'Our lives are restless until they find rest in God'.

In this gospel, Jesus sends out the disciples to continue his work of bringing good news. This calls to mind the 'sending out' which occurs at the end of every Mass. Not all of us can go 'to the whole world' but all are called to bring the good news in even simple ways in our daily lives. This bringing of good news is not just to people, but to 'all creation.' We must be stewards of Earth and all its resources to ensure that future generations inherit an environment which God gifted to all humanity.

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Monday 14th May – St Matthias, apostle.

Friday 18th May – St John I, pope, 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
 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.

The Ascension of the Lord – Year B

12th / 13th May, 2018

YEAR OF YOUTH**PRAYING FOR...**

All who have died recently: Larry Meyer.

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Fr Jim Carroll, John Furno, Eleonora Discenza, Andre Tap Tran, Aelian (Leon) Koelmeyer, Harvey Mitchell, Luigia & Giovanni Crivellaro, Margaret Mackie, Henry Brohier, Elena Francesca.

The sick: Paddy McCann, 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, 2nd June, 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 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 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.

PARISH BREAKFAST Sunday 27th May at 10am

in the School Hall. The Social Justice Group extends an invitation to you to join us for a hearty cooked breakfast in the good company of your fellow parishioners. Then listen to our speaker **Josh Wilkins** from **One Voice** who will inform us about his experience with the Mobile shower bus for the homeless, and the like. Tickets (\$22 each) will be on sale after all weekend Masses. Queries, please contact: Patrick Sawyer on 0434 072 831.

PARISH MUSICAL "It's Not About the Girl"

Help needed Could you help us by making a Banner naming the Restaurant 'The Vineyard' Please contact the Parish Office on 9758 1029 for more information. **Dates: Thursday 5th, Friday 6th, Saturday 7th July at 7.30pm, & Sunday 8th July, at 2pm.** Venue: **The Knox Community Arts Centre, Bayswater.** **Ticket Sales** are now in full swing. Please pick up a blue ticket order form at the trolleys or see our friendly ticket seller after Mass. Buy early for the best seats. **Adults \$12; Concession \$10; Children U/12 \$8**

SPECIAL COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND-

CHAPLAINCY SUNDAY APPEAL Every day in our Archdiocese, Chaplains visit hospital wards, walk through prisons and visit young people in detention. They are also present with those affected by mental illness and HIV/Aids, as well as supporting men and women working at sea. Catholic Chaplains are tangible signs of God's presence. They are the face of hope at times of greatest need, a healing presence, a kind and gentle ear. Next weekend, you're invited to donate to this vital outreach work of the Church, via this special annual collection.

PIETY STALL – NEW STOCK

a new, wide and varied selection of gifts is available in our piety stall. We have gifts suitable for our parish's celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation on the 24th May. We also have a supply of children's missals, saints' medals, rosaries, crosses, and many more items for your selection.

PYXES TO BE RETURNED if anyone has a parish Pyx at home, not being used, could we ask that you please return it to the sacristy. Thank you.

ST KEVIN'S COLLEGE past Mothers' Association Centenary Lunch is on 25th May 2018 - \$35 per ticket Bookings at <https://www.trybooking.com/VKBN> Enquiries - Jacinta Chute (President) 0408314428

MASS FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS Reminder the Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Denis Hart at St Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday 27 May at 11.00am. For Registrations by 18th May, please Ph:9287 5587 or email :lmf@cam.org.au

COMBINED CATHOLIC CHURCHES RAFFLE

2018 Thanks to the support of Fr Alan, and the two groups for co-ordination this year's raffle. The proceeds will be shared equally between the two groups to continue their charitable works. The draw will take place on Saturday 2nd June at 7.15pm, St Simon's Parish Church in Rowville. Details will be published in : Melbourne Age; Geelong Advertiser; & Herald Sun on Wednesday 6th June and also on the following website: www.stsimonsparish.com.au. We would like to thank you, your family and friends in supporting this parish project. **Jenny Keating & Patrick Sawyer**

THE ANNUAL ENQUIRY DAY AT CORPUS

CHRISTI COLLEGE will take place on 19th May. The seminary staff, students and the Archbishop will welcome any young men visiting that day by invitation. If you know of any man who might be interested to know a little more about the priesthood, and would welcome an invitation, please consider passing on his details to Fr Alan. Experience has shown that a personal invitation can assist a young person to take the next step. For further information contact the Parish Office on 9758 1029, or the Vocations Office on: 9926 5733.

MELBOURNE CATHOLIC MAGAZINE The May issue is now available, in the church foyer – **\$4 a copy**

LIFE COACHING WITH PHUONG

Come and join us for a free 'Coaching 101' workshop to find balance in life and set some goals for the next season in your life journey, on Wednesday 16th May 2018 at 7:30pm– 9:30pm Venue: Our Lady of Lourdes Church foyer 23 Orange Grove Bayswater. RSVP: 9729 2622 (Church office) The session will start with the rosary followed by an inspiring workshop looking at you and exploring your own life. Bring a friend if you prefer to discuss topics with them privately. Coffee and Tea will follow after 9:30pm for those that wish to mingle.

ROSTERS: Mon 14th May to Sun 20th May

Flowers	Anne P & Connie B
Altar Servers	6pm Nicholas D.
Linen	Alvi M
Welcomers	6pm Louise D & Peter G 9am Sue & David W & Thelma B 11am: Kath & Andrew W & Maria L
Lectors	6pm Jenny K 9am Gordon G 11am Peter J
Counters	Tony & Steph
Gardening	MAY: Tom N. & Chris M..