

## FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel 17:22-24

The Lord says this:

‘From the top of the cedar, from the highest branch I will take a shoot and plant it myself on a very high mountain .I will plant it on the high mountain of Israel. It will sprout branches and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Every kind of bird will live beneath it every winged creature rest in the shade of its branches. And every tree of the field will learn that I, the Lord, am the one who stunts tall trees and makes the low ones grow, who withers green trees and makes the withered green.

I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will do it.’

**The Word of the Lord.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/. Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.*

## SECOND READING

A reading from the Second Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 5:6-10

We are always full of confidence when we remember that to live in the body means to be exiled from the Lord, going as we do by faith and not by sight – we are full of confidence, I say, and actually want to be exiled from the body and make our home with the Lord. Whether we are living in the body or exiled from it, we are intent on pleasing him. For all the truth about us will be brought out in the law court of Christ, and each of us will get what he deserves for the things he did in the body, good or bad.

**The Word of the Lord.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live for ever..*

*Alleluia!*

## GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 4:26-34

Jesus said to the crowds, ‘This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man throws seed on the land. Night and day, while he sleeps, when he is awake, the seed is sprouting and growing; how, he does not know. Of its own accord the land produces first the shoot, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the crop is ready, he loses no time; he starts to reap because the harvest has come.’

He also said, ‘What can we say the kingdom of God is like? What parable can we find for it? It is like a mustard seed which at the time of its sowing in the soil is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet once it is sown it grows into the biggest shrub of them all and puts out big branches so that the birds of the air can shelter in its shade.’ Using many parables like these, he spoke the word to them, so far as they were capable of understanding it. He would not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything to his disciples when they were alone.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**



**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**  
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**11th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B**

**16<sup>th</sup> / 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2018**

*All powerful God,  
You have sown the seed of your word in us.  
May it grow and bear abundant fruit.  
Make us trust in your hidden ways,  
that we may pray with confidence  
and wait for your kingdom now growing in our midst.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



## FOCUS ON THE READINGS

Jesus uses parables to explain the kingdom of God. Today’s gospel passage contains two short parables – the seed growing secretly and the mustard seed. Each parable contains a simple, single message. The first parable seeks to instil trust in Jesus because in Him God’s kingdom is already taking root and growing. Invisible, at first, the seeds of this kingdom will eventually reap a bountiful harvest. The parable of the mustard seed – like the first – also speaks of growth with the added stress that the enormity of the tree so strikingly contrasts the smallness of the seed. The seed symbolizes the insignificant beginnings of Jesus’ ministry, while the huge tree suggests the final cosmic event of the fulfilment of God’s kingdom. The only difference between the two parables, then, is that the first emphasizes that the farmer can do nothing to produce or hasten growth, while the second emphasizes the contrast between the small beginnings and the overwhelming final consummation.

We could think about growth at many levels. First, as individuals, we must be careful about what we sow. Even small and insignificant matters at the beginning – whether good or bad – can have monumental effects at the end. A small bad habit might progressively worsen and weaken our personality. Conversely, a tiny good deed could reap rich results.

As community and church, we learn that even our small insignificant efforts will go a long way towards building bigger vibrant communities. Like a large oak or banyan tree that invites all birds to rest and nest in its branches and savour its fruit, so must the Church be open and inviting to all. Remember, no matter what we sow – for ourselves or in our family, church or world – God, ultimately; is The Supreme Sower and it is God’s Spirit who will fructify our little seeds and feed us at the “Tree of Life” (Rev 2:7).

## FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

19<sup>th</sup> June St Romuald, abbot    21<sup>st</sup> June St Aloysius religious    23<sup>rd</sup> June St Paulinus of Nola, bishop.

*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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**11<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B**

**16<sup>th</sup> / 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2018**

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

*All who have died recently:* Eileen Callahan

*Those who we remember at this time:*

Salvatore Lo Giudice, Noreen Royle, David Ritchie, Giuseppe & Luigia Checchin, Giovanni & Antonietta Sartori.

*The sick:* Tom McMahon, Paddy McCann, Brigida Mazzone, Stanley De Silva, Wilhelmina Weerden, Daniel Vincent-Smith, Mary Hill, 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, 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, 7<sup>th</sup> July, 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 10.00am** in the Parish Hall a cuppa prior, to the meeting. Praise and worship begins at 10.15am, followed by 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.

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL ANNUAL WINTER**

**APPEAL 2018 Thank you all** for your tremendous support for our on-going work in assisting the disadvantaged in our parish area. Our Winter Appeal raised, not only the awareness of our varied work and the number of committed volunteers, but also much needed dollars along with many bags of non-perishable food. You will be pleased to know that each can, packet and dollar that you donated will be used directly to support the needy. Thanks to Fr Alan and each one of you who supports our unique charity in so many ways.

**IT'S NOT ABOUT THE GIRL: PARISH**

**MUSICAL** Thursday 5 July, Friday 6 July, Saturday 7 July, 7.30pm; and Sunday 8 July, 2pm at Knox Community Arts Centre, corner Mountain Highway and Scoresby Road, Bayswater. SJB Productions proudly presents the new parish musical *It's not about the girl*, a story of love, betrayal and forgiveness. A modern interpretation based on the story of the prodigal son, this is the third offering of SJB Productions, and promises to be a great night of family entertainment featuring uplifting music, singing and dancing. Not to be missed! Buy your ticket now!

**Adults \$12; Concession \$10; Children U/12 \$8;**

Bookings: email: office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au


**PLENARY COUNCIL 2020 – LISTEN TO WHAT THE SPIRIT IS SAYING.**

Pope Francis has approved the Australian Bishops' decision to hold a Plenary Council in Australia in 2020 and 2021. It is a significant moment for the Church in Australia to make decisions about the future. To prepare the agenda for the Plenary Council, all of God's people are invited to reflect on the question: "What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?" Information about Plenary Council 2020 now online at: plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au

**EMMAUS COLLEGE OPEN DAY**

The Vermont South Campus, located at 503 Springvale Road Vermont South will be holding an open day on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2018 between 1.30pm and 6.30pm. For tour bookings or more information, please see the website: www.emmaus.vic.edu.au or call 9845 3211.

**MATER CHRISTI COLLEGE:**

Family and friends are invited to our upcoming tour of the College, on  **Mater Christi** Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June, commencing at 10.00am. Mater Christi girls consistently achieve region leading VCE and vocational results. A visit will enable families to witness our vibrant, inclusive and warm community. Visit: materchristi.edu.au to book your tour.

**FAREWELLING TOM CHRISTIE.**

4<sup>th</sup> Year Seminarian, Tom Christie has been completing his pastoral internship here at St John's since early March. He'll soon travel to Rome to further his studies for the priesthood. On Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June, following the 11am Mass, you're invited to our School Hall to formally farewell Tom, and share some light refreshments. Help required: Please bring a plate of food to share.

**COMBINED PARISHES RAFFLE** the draw took place on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June at 7.15pm, St Simons Parish Church Rowville

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Tess Bugeja Keysborough Parish

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize Wayne Nicolaci Hightt Parish

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize Wilson Family Mulgrave Parish

One of the subsequent winning tickets for a \$500 Coles Myer Gift Card was sold at our Parish. For the full list of prize winners, please see St Simon's Parish Rowville's website: stsimonsparish.com.au

A big thank you to everyone who supported the raffle.

**SUPPORTING FAMILIES WITH ADDICTION**

Resurrection Parish Keysborough in association with the Dandenong Deanery will be running a Forum on Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> July between 7.00-9.00pm. The speaker will be Dr Michael Carr-Gregg one of Australia's highest profile adolescent and child psychologists. To book Email: dandenongdeanery@live.com.au or telephone 0422 296 961

**NATIONAL REFUGEE WEEK**

The 'Ration Challenge' is held in Refugee Week, from Sunday 17 June – Sunday 24 June 2018. Are you up for the challenge? Eat the same rations as a Syrian refugee during Refugee Week – just a small amount of rice, flour, lentils, chick peas, beans, fish and oil – and get sponsored to do it. The money you raise will provide food, medicine and education for refugees; and support other communities around the world threatened by conflict and disaster. More information about this challenge can be found on the following website: actforpeace.rationchallenge.org.au

<b>ROSTERS: Mon 18<sup>th</sup> June to Sun 24<sup>th</sup> June</b>	
<b>Flowers</b>	Marg H & Judy G
<b>Altar Servers</b>	6pm Nicholas D
<b>Linen</b>	Sue N
<b>Welcomers</b>	6pm Jane P & Myra N 9am Marg & Adrian D, Anastasia A 11am: Patrick S & Coral M
<b>Lectors</b>	6pm Rosina L 9am Caroline Q 11am Peter J
<b>Counters</b>	Peter & Dawn G, George & Genevieve W
<b>Gardening</b>	JUNE: Barry B..