

## FIRST READING

### A reading from the book of Isaiah 49:1-6

Islands, listen to me, pay attention, remotest peoples. The Lord called me before I was born, from my mother's womb he pronounced my name. He made my mouth a sharp sword, and hid me in the shadow of his hand. He made me into a sharpened arrow, and concealed me in his quiver.

He said to me, 'You are my servant Israel, in whom I shall be glorified'; while I was thinking, 'I have toiled in vain, I have exhausted myself for nothing'; and all the while my cause was with the Lord, my reward with my God. I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord, my God was my strength.

And now the Lord has spoken, he who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, to gather Israel to him: 'It is not enough for you to be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel; I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.'

**The Word of the Lord.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/. I praise you for I am wonderfully made.*

## SECOND READING

### A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

**13:22-26**

Paul said: 'God made David the king of our ancestors, of whom he approved in these words, "I have elected David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will carry out my whole purpose." To keep his promise, God has raised up for Israel one of David's descendants, Jesus, as Saviour, whose coming was heralded by John when he proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the whole people of Israel. Before John ended his career he said, "I am not the one you imagine me to be; that one is coming after me and I am not fit to undo his sandal." My brothers, sons of Abraham's race, and all you who fear God, this message of salvation is meant for you.'

**The Word of the Lord.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*You, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways.*

*Alleluia!*

## GOSPEL READING

### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke **Luke 1:57-66,80**

The time came for Elizabeth to have her child, and she gave birth to a son; and when her neighbours and relations heard that the Lord had shown her so great a kindness, they shared her joy.

Now on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; they were going to call him Zechariah after his father, but his mother spoke up. 'No,' she said 'he is to be called John.' They said to her, 'But no one in your family has that name', and made signs to his father to find out what he wanted him called. The father asked for a writing tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And they were all astonished. At that instant his power of speech returned and he spoke and praised God. All their neighbours were filled with awe and the whole affair was talked about throughout the hill country of Judaea. All those who heard of it treasured it in their hearts. 'What will this child turn out to be?' they wondered. And indeed the hand of the Lord was with him. The child grew up and his spirit matured. And he lived out in the wilderness until the day he appeared openly to Israel.

### The Gospel of the Lord.



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## The Nativity of St John the Baptist Year B

**23<sup>rd</sup> / 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2018**

*God, our Father, our strength and our hope,  
grant us the courage of St John the Baptist,  
to constantly to speak the truth,  
and point us towards Jesus, Your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit  
one God for ever and ever. Amen.*



## FOCUS ON THE READINGS

Both readings today celebrate our Christian origins in the traditions of Israel. Firstly we hear God's mighty deeds throughout Israel's history leading up to David, and the promise to David that one of his descendants would be a future king. This promise Paul applies to Jesus. Paul then speaks of John the Baptist as the herald who testified about Jesus before his own death.

We see Luke's interest in the continuity of God's plan for salvation across different historical epochs. 'The Law and the Prophets were until John; since then the good news of the Kingdom of God is proclaimed.' (Luke 16:16)

Jesus was born within the rich faith traditions of Israel. The birth of John the Baptist, which we celebrate today, reminds Christians of our Jewish origins. Elizabeth and Zechariah belong to priestly families, and are faithful Law-observant Jews. This is the pathway through which God has chosen to come to us. Within the Scriptures of Israel there is a regular pattern used to describe the birth of a special person in God's plan of Salvation. The angelic messenger, the greeting, the announcement of a birth in an impossible situation, the name given to the child all point to the special role this child is to play in later life. John is to be a child of Israel like the great prophet Elijah.

Even as we celebrate John, Christian faith says that John's birth is just the overture to an even greater drama that is soon to unfold. This first announcement, of John's birth, leads immediately to a second announcement of an even greater birth to a young girl in Nazareth. This will be the pattern of John's life. He prepares the way. In Luke's Gospel, John fades from the narrative when Jesus' ministry begins. John's death at the hands of Herod points ahead to a second death at the hands of Pilate.

As we celebrate John today, let us give thanks for the faithful lives of our Jewish brothers and sisters.

## FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

27<sup>th</sup> June St Cyril of Alexandria, bishop, doctor

28<sup>th</sup> June St Irenaeus bishop, 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 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.

**The Nativity of St John the Baptist Year B**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> / 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2018**

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

*All who have died recently:* Betty Callahan

*Those who we remember at this time:*

Carmine Alberico Parente (4 weeks), John Greene, Maureen Witham Sheila Thompson, Rita Crivellaro, Innocenzo Abbatangelo, and Ross Jackson

*The sick:* Tom McMahan, 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, 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.

**AN UPDATE TO THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL ANNUAL WINTER APPEAL 2018**

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul would like to thank all parishioners for your kind and generous donations to our 2018 Winter appeal. Total collected in cash, cheque and credit card payments is **\$2,592.90**. Thanking you also for all the donated food over each weekend. The need is great, your assistance and donations is an unmeasurable help to FTG community. We also would like to thank Fr Alan for allowing the proceeds from the sale of the combined church raffle tickets to be split between The Social Justice group and the Society, both groups received the sum of **\$965.00**.

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

It's not too late to get your tickets for this uplifting Show. Check your diary /calendar now – are you free on: Thursday 5 July, Friday 6 July, Saturday 7 July, 7.30pm; or Sunday 8 July, 2pm? Come along to the Knox Community Arts Centre, corner Mountain Highway and Scoresby Road, Bayswater. to see SJB Productions 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, a great night of family entertainment featuring uplifting music, singing and dancing. Don't miss out!  
**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 the Plenary Council now online at: plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au

**RETREAT IN EVERYDAY LIFE**

– Here's an invitation to rest in your inner room while pondering the joys and sorrows of your everyday life. The retreat will be held at Heart of Life Spirituality Centre in Box Hill over 5 Mondays, 23 July 2018 from 1.15 pm – 2.15pm. Kindly register your interest by 16 July. A small donation will be welcome. Enquiries and bookings can be made by reply email holsc@bigpond.com or phone: 03 9890 1101 or www.heartoflife.melbourne.

**EMMAUS COLLEGE OPEN DAY** Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2018 between 1.30pm and 6.30pm at the Vermont South Campus. Ph 9845 3211 for bookings.

**FAREWELLING TOM CHRISTIE.**

4<sup>th</sup> Year Seminarian, Tom Christie completes his pastoral internship here at St John's this weekend. In mid-July Tom travels to Rome to further his studies for the priesthood. This 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. Please bring a plate of food to share.

**MELBOURNE ORDINATION:**

Our prayers and congratulations go to Fr Tho Tran, who was ordained to the Priesthood by Archbishop Hart, at St Patrick's Cathedral on Saturday morning the 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Please pray for Fr Tho, and for more vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

**FAQS OF FAITH WITH BISHOP MARK EDWARDS**

St Christopher's Parish, Hennessy Hall, 5 Doon Avenue, Syndal. on Saturday 30 June, 6.30–9pm This is an invitation to all youth (including young adults) to the next event of Youth United Melbourne (YUM). Across the course of the evening, there will be games, praise and worship, a BBQ and the main event, a Q&A, with a panel including Bishop Mark Edwards. Cost: \$5.00 (includes BBQ) For more information and registration details go to: <http://melbourncatholic.org.au/News/faqs-of-faith-with-bishop-mark-edwards>

**ST VINCENT PALLOTTI SCHOLARSHIP:**

**APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN** The St Vincent Pallotti Scholarship Trust offer scholarships to enable lay people to further their understanding and skills in leadership/ministry or a specialised activity, such as promoting faith enhancement, social justice and pastoral care. Applications close Monday 23 July. Details and application: <http://www.pallottine.org.au/scholarships/st-vincent-pallotti-scholarship-for-lay-ministry.html>

<b>ROSTERS: Mon 25<sup>th</sup> June to Sun 1<sup>st</sup> July</b>	
<b>Flowers</b>	Ann P & Connie B
<b>Altar Servers</b>	6pm Nicholas D
<b>Linen</b>	Alvi M
<b>Welcomers</b>	6pm Sue N & A Mazzei 9am Rosa L & Terry & Laurel S 11am: Gina M & Pat O'B
<b>Lectors</b>	6pm Jenny K 9am Tony D 11am Kath V
<b>Counters</b>	Tony B & Lia U
<b>Gardening</b>	JULY Michael D..