

FIRST READING

A reading from the Book of Exodus
16:2-4,12-15

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Now I will rain down bread for you from the heavens. Each day the people are to go out and gather the day's portion; I propose to test them this way to see whether they will follow my law or not.'
'I have heard the complaints of the sons of Israel. Say this to them, "Between the two evenings you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have bread to your hearts content. Then you will learn that I, the Lord, am your God.'" And so it came about: quails flew up in the evening, and they covered the camp; in the morning there was a coating of dew all round the camp. When the coating of dew lifted, there on the surface of the desert was a thing delicate, powdery, as fine as hoarfrost on the ground. When they saw this, the sons of Israel said to one another, 'What is that?' not knowing what it was. 'That' said Moses to them 'is the bread the Lord gives you to eat.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/. The Lord gave them bread from heaven.

SECOND READING

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Ephesians
4:17,20-24

I want to urge you in the name of the Lord, not to go on living the aimless kind of life that pagans live. Now that is hardly the way you have learnt from Christ, unless you failed to hear him properly when you were taught what the truth is in Jesus. You must give up your old way of life; you must put aside your old self, which gets corrupted by following illusory desires. Your mind must be renewed by a spiritual revolution so that you can put on the new self that has been created in God's way, in the goodness and holiness of the truth.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
6:24-35

When the people saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into boats and crossed to Capernaum to look for Jesus. When they found him on the other side, they said to him, 'Rabbi, when did you come here?' Jesus answered:

'I tell you most solemnly you are not looking for me because you have seen the signs but because you had all the bread you wanted to eat. Do not work for food that cannot last, but work for food that endures to eternal life, the kind of food the Son of Man is offering you, for on him the Father, God himself, has set his seal.'

Then they said to him, 'What must we do if we are to do the works that God wants?' Jesus gave them this answer, 'This is working for God: you must believe in the one he has sent.' So they said, 'What sign will you give to show us that we should believe in you? What work will you do? Our fathers had manna to eat in the desert; as scripture says: He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' Jesus answered:

'I tell you most solemnly, it was not Moses who gave you bread from heaven, it is my Father who gives you the bread from heaven, the true bread; for the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.'

'Sir,' they said 'give us that bread always.' Jesus answered: 'I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never thirst.'

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

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

4th / 5th August, 2018

Lord Jesus, you are the Bread of Heaven for eternal life.
Through the gift of Eucharist
may we find sustenance and strength,
and by the leading of the Holy Spirit
help us to be conscious of your direction and mission.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

And Jesus said unto them,
I am the
Bread
of Life
he that
cometh to me shall
never hunger.
John 6:35

FOCUS ON THE READINGS

The multiplication of the loaves miracles of last Sunday now leads into a very long discourse where we learn the deeper meaning of this miracle. The account of Jesus' feeding the crowd is a re-enactment of Moses' feeding the Israelites on their journey out of Egypt, when they were fed by the manna each morning (the word manna is Hebrew for 'What is it?'). When the crowd arrive, Jesus begins by challenging their motives – you come looking for me because you found all the bread you wanted. He then uses physical food as a metaphor for a deeper type of nourishment, what he calls, 'food that endures to eternity life'. When the manna came down for the Israelites in the wilderness, it did not last more than a single day. If people collected too much, what they did not eat became mouldy. Jesus contrasts that food which lasted only a day, for a nourishment that will endure. Whenever John uses the term 'eternity life' he is not speaking of ordinary human life lasting forever; for John, eternity life is to participate in the life God lives in eternity, it is sharing in the life of God. Jesus says that this is the deeper nourishment that he is offering, a new quality of life. A Jewish crowd could be expected to understand Jesus' metaphorical way of speaking for in the Old Testament God's gifts of wisdom and the Law were likened to food. Within Judaism 'eating manna' became a symbolic way of speaking about being nourished by following the Law. In Judaism: Eating manna/bread = following the way of Wisdom/Torah.

In response, the crowd asks him for a sign that they should believe in him, and they point to the sign that Moses was able to give: 'Our fathers ate manna in the desert.' Signs were the necessary credentials to show that a person really was from God. These people want to be sure that they can trust that Jesus is a man from God. A second deep truth of this passage is found in the image of what we hunger for. What really nourishes our deepest desires? The gospel suggests that our deepest hungers can only be satisfied by attention to things of the Spirit. © Mary Coloe.

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

6th Aug – The Transfiguration

8th Aug – St Mary of the Cross, virgin,

10th Aug St Lawrence deacon, martyr

7th Aug St Sixtus II pope, martyr, St Cajetan priest.

9th Aug – St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, virgin, martyr

11th St Clare, virgin

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: Peter.Stringfellow@cam.org.au

FAITH DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR:
Carolyn Sombekke 9758 1029
Email: csombekkesjb@gmail.com

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.

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B
4th / 5th August 2018
YEAR OF YOUTH

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:
Stanley O'Brien



Those who we remember at this time:
Patrocinio Sason, Elena Russo, Nora Ryan, Johanna Roelofs, Maria Teofilo, Joan Lineen

The sick: Peter Collyer, 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, 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, 4th August, 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 We welcome all mothers, grandmothers, spiritual mothers and godmothers, to pray together from **9 am–10** For enquiries, please contact the Parish Office.

CATHOLICCARE APPEAL. Next weekend is the CatholicCare Sunday Appeal. As our parish's social service agency, CatholicCare delivers family and relationship counselling, refugee and settlement support, education and school programs, and pastoral services. Donations from our parish community will help care for the most vulnerable families in our community. Please give generously to this appeal on 11th / 12th of August.



30TH ANNIVERSARY OF FAMILY GROUPS in our Parish, will be celebrated on **Sunday the 19th August, at 11am Mass**, all are most welcome to join in the celebrations. Please bring a "plate to share" lunch, to the school hall following the 11am mass. And bring any photo's you would like to display of your "Family Group Activities" over the years. Any questions? Please contact Sue or John O'Halloran on 9758 2902

ST JOHNS TENNIS CLUB the Thursday Morning Ladies Mid-week tennis team is urgently looking for players, either on an emergency basis or full time to join our friendly team. For more information please phone Beth on 0423 759 850

SUPPORT ST JOHN'S SCHOOL The school Parents & Friends are holding a BBQ fundraiser at Bunnings in Scoresby on Saturday 18th August. We encourage all parishioners to "come on down" and buy a delicious sausage (or two) to support our parish primary school.

SENIOR YOUTH Let's talk! Your opinions do matter! Knox Deanery invite you to join in for an informal chat to explore the challenges of participating in your local church community. Come along to St Joseph's Parish Hall 22 Boronia Rd Boronia on Wednesday 22nd August from 7.30pm to 9.15pm Enquiries: yahc@bigpond.com or Tel.: 0430 194 590 Refreshments – Pizza and drinks provided.

ST MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP FEAST DAY Wednesday 8 August, 12.30pm Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre, 362 Albert Street, East Melbourne. Join the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart in feast day celebrations of St Mary Mackillop. Mass will be celebrated at 12.30pm with light refreshments to follow. Contact: admin.mmhc@sosj.org.au or 9926 9300 Cost: Free. download flyer from the Archdiocesan website www.cam.org.au

FEAST OF ASSUMPTION 15TH AUGUST Mass for the Feast of Assumption, a Holy Day of Obligation, will be celebrated at 9.15am & 7pm.

MELBOURNE CATHOLIC AUGUST EDITION will be arriving later than normal. This special August edition is a tribute to Emeritus Archbishop Denis Hart and a welcome to Archbishop Peter A Comensoli.

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday 27th October has been locked in for the St John the Baptist School Fete. We are looking for volunteers prepared to lend a hand, as the Parish offers support with the Devonshire tea stall. Or perhaps you have a green thumb and could propagate some plants? Please let us know if you can help by contacting the Parish Office.

NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK 5th – 12th August The Church in Melbourne needs more priests and religious. Each one of us can do something about this. Firstly – pray each day. A simple prayer may be the cause of one person saying 'yes'. Secondly – talk about the possibility of a vocation to others. Lend your voice to the call of the Lord.

HONOURING THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD Sunday 5th August, 1.30pm St Benedict's Church, 295 Warrigal Road, Burwood. Calling God 'Father' puts us in confidence with him, like a child talking to his dad, knowing that he is loved and cared for by him. Join together in adoration, hymns and prayers to honour the Fatherhood of God. Celebrant and homilist Fr Antony Santhiyagu MGL. Details: Majella Bollen on 9808 9708 Download flyer from the Archdiocesan website www.cam.org.au

HOMELESSNESS WEEK is the 6-12 August 2018 with a theme "Ending homelessness together." For information please see the website at: chp.org.au/event/homelessness-week-2018/

ROSTERS: Mon 6th August to Sun 12th August	
Flowers	Ann P & Connie B
Altar Servers	6pm Nicholas D
Linen	Alvi M
Welcomers	6pm Louise D & Peter G 9am Sue & David W & Thelma B 11am: Tony & Christine E
Lectors	6pm.Steph H 9am: Gordon V 11am Carolyn S
Counters	Tony B and Lia U
Gardening	AUGUST: Patrick S & Harry R