

## FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Joshua

24:1-2, 15-18

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people: 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.'

The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord and serving other gods! Was it not the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

**The Word of the Lord.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.*

## SECOND READING

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

5:21-32

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it

and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

**The Word of the Lord.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Your words, Lord, are spirit and life:  
you have the words of everlasting life.*

*Alleluia!*

## GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John  
6:60-69

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?'

'It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh has nothing to offer. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.'

'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him. Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

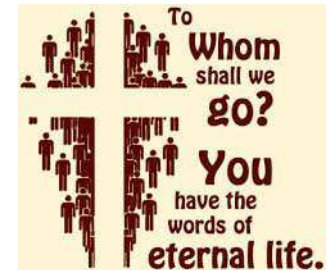


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**Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B**

**25<sup>th</sup> / 26<sup>th</sup> August, 2018**

*Heavenly Father,  
may we find strength in our faith.  
As Your Son, Jesus, leads us to eternal life,  
may we never give up on following Him,  
until we come home to where You live with  
Jesus Christ, Your Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.*



## FOCUS ON THE READINGS

In today's Gospel some people could not believe Jesus. The people turned away from Him. Jesus gives an interesting response to them. He tells them that it is the spirit that is important, not his human flesh, and that the spirit is what he has been sharing with them through his words and actions. He is trying to say to these faithful Jews, don't be hung up about the fact that I'm here in person, listen to my message as you've never heard it before. Having laid out a fairly difficult teaching to the crowd, Jesus is faced with the fact that many of those who were following him couldn't cope with what he was saying and they walked away from him. Jesus turns on the Twelve and demands of them, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' One can almost hear the frustration and weariness in his voice. Peter's response must have been a great relief to Jesus. Peter declares that Jesus has the message of eternal life and is the Holy One of God. He still hasn't quite grasped the full picture but it's something Jesus can continue to work with!

## FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

27<sup>th</sup> Aug – St Monica

28<sup>th</sup> Aug – St Augustine, bishop, doctor

29<sup>th</sup> Aug – The Passion of St John the Baptist, 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  
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**FAITH DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR:**

Carolyn Sombekke 9758 1029  
 Email: csombekkesjb@gmail.com

**PARISH OFFICE:**

**9758 1029**  
 Monday to Friday 9:00 am – 3:00 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.

**Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B**  
**25<sup>th</sup> / 26<sup>th</sup> August 2018**

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

*All who have died recently:* Rachael Neale, Fr Joe Dargan, Fr Tom Brophy, Br Patrick Henigan OFM.

*Those who we remember at this time:*

Simone Mills, Chris Smolders, Nancy Penna, Pellegrina Rossi, Caterina Mazzone, Celeste Lizza, Margarete Felicetti, members of the Barbati & Franchi Families, Jack Kolmus, Sasty Sastradipradja, Bartolomina Marotti, Graeme Milburn.

*The sick:*, Tom McMahon, Brigida Mazzone, 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, 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: 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday each month at 10.30am  
 Venue: 37 Lane Road, FTG. All are welcome.  
 Contact: Pauline Barlow on: 9758 5106

**FRIENDSHIP GATHERING** Everyone is welcome on **Thursdays between 10am to 1pm** for a chat over a cuppa, join a card game, knit or just sit for a while.

**CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP** meet **every Tuesday at 10am** 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 Tuesday Morning from **9am–10am** For enquiries, please contact the Parish Office.

**VISIT FROM ARCHBISHOP COMENSOLI**

Next Sunday: 2<sup>nd</sup> September, Fathers' Day, we'll welcome Archbishop Peter Comensoli, who will lead the celebration of our 11am Mass. You're most welcome to stay on after Mass for a cuppa, and to chat with our new Archbishop. Please consider bringing a plate of something to share.

**PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FOUNDATION ANNUAL FATHERS DAY APPEAL** next weekend. Please support our priests who have served actively and tirelessly in the Archdiocese, and are living in retirement.

**THE FRIENDSHIP GATHERING** wish to thank all those who supported the Morning Tea for Charity. \$800 has been sent to St Vincent de Paul, Orbost to help the East Gippsland farmers effected by drought. Mary Maguires' quilts raised \$1,200 for the Royal Children's Hospital.

**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST FETE UPDATES:**

**Plant Stall:** If you're able to provide some items for the stall, please let either the school or parish offices know, indicating the number of plant contributions (plus your name). Thank you. **Grand Bazaar:** items needed: books, jigsaw puzzles, board games, toys (no soft toys) & kitchenware which could be sold on the Grand Bazaar Stall. Collection days are: Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October from 1.30 – 4.30pm and Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October from 2.30 – 4pm. **Market Stalls:** Interested in having a stall at the Fete? Cost is \$40, with application forms available at the School Office. Spaces are limited so submit your application a.s.a.p.!

**BUNNINGS BBQ** Thanks to all parishioners who attended the Sausage Sizzle. The event raised \$1,750 for our school building project. and 140 raffle tickets were sold. It was wonderful to witness the generosity of our wider community.

**MATER CHRISTI COLLEGE IS SEEKING HOMESTAY HOSTS** for International Students. Being a Homestay Host can be a very rewarding experience For more details including guidelines, payment and the application process, visit the College website or call 9757 0810.

**ARCHBISHOPS CATHOLIC MAN BREAKFAST SERIES:** on 13th September 2018. Archbishop, Peter Comensoli's address is entitled: "Being a man; a man of God!" Venue: The CQ Club 113–123 Queen St Melbourne. Cost: \$45. Time 7.00am – 9.00am sharp. Enquiries: Michael Bohan on 0439 172 465 or michael.bohan@menalive.org.au An opportunity for men to gather and be encouraged, challenged and inspired in their faith.

**CATHOLIC MISSION** Thank you once again for your most generous support for the 2018 Propagation of the Faith Appeal, taken up on the 28<sup>th</sup> / 29th July. A total of **\$2,981.05** was raised. This money, will assist workers in some 1047 mission dioceses to offer Good News to their local communities. Thanks again.

**KERALA FLOODS** You would be aware through news reports and personal contacts of the flood disaster that has hit the Indian state of Kerala. Caritas India is one of the agencies providing support for the people of Kerala at this time. Caritas Australia, through our Asia Emergency Fund, is providing support to Caritas India, and will continue to monitor the needs of the people of Kerala. Our Asia Emergency Fund can be accessed through the Caritas website, www.caritas.org.au, and anyone who wishes more information can contact Deacon Jim Curtain, Diocesan Director Caritas Australia on 0437 118 637.

**CATHOLICCARE APPEAL** on the weekend of 11th / 12th August. A big Thank You! Your generous donations help CatholicCare to continue to provide essential social services to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people in our local and wider community, and more broadly across the Archdiocese. The total raised amounted to **\$2,523.25**.

**LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS** to be involved in an inspiring, musical "Call of Guadalupe". Singers, actors & backstage volunteers required for the production. All abilities welcomed. For more information contact Geraldine at 0413 398 528.

**MIGRANT & REFUGEE WEEK** – 20-26th August 2018. Archbishop Peter A Comensoli will celebrate the **ANNUAL MASS OF ALL NATIONS** on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August, at St Patrick's Cathedral, East Melbourne. The afternoon begins with Rosary at 2pm, followed by Mass at 3pm All are welcome.

<b>ROSTERS: Mon 27<sup>th</sup> Aug. to Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept.</b>	
<b>Flowers</b>	Carole D & Lia U
<b>Altar Servers</b>	6pm Nicholas D
<b>Linen</b>	Anne J
<b>Welcomers</b>	6pm Queenie J 9am Peter C, Neil & Lorainne R & Johanna C 11am: Tony & Christine; Carole D
<b>Lectors</b>	6pm.Evngeline L 9am: Caroline Q 11am Peter J
<b>Counters</b>	Bryon M; Ruby M
<b>Gardening</b>	AUGUST: Patrick S & Harry R