

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Isaiah 35:4-7

Say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.
'Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy;
for water gushes in the desert,
streams in the wasteland,
the scorched earth becomes a lake,
the parched land springs of water.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/. Praise the Lord, my soul!

SECOND READING

A reading from the Letter of St James 2:1-5

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!
Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
7:31-37

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



"ephphatha"
BE OPENED!
-Mark SEVEN THIRTYFOUR



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

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

8th / 9th September, 2018

*Loving God, open our ears to your teaching
and grant us the confidence and the eloquence
to tell others of your wonderful love.*

*Strengthen us to do your work
so that those we meet may come to know that
You have saved us through Jesus your Son,
who lives with you, forever and ever.*

Amen.



FOCUS ON THE READINGS

Strangely, this week's gospel about the healing of a man who was deaf and dumb is less about healing than it is about Jesus being the Messiah. The theme is set up in the first reading when the prophet, Isaiah, describes the signs by which the coming of the Messiah will be recognised: the blind will see; the deaf will hear; the lame will leap; and the dumb will speak. The healing that Jesus works in this passage is perhaps one of the most 'physical' of his healing actions. He puts his fingers in the man's ears and places spittle on his tongue. It is an incredibly intimate contact with a complete stranger and someone regarded as outcast and unclean because of his disabilities. When Jesus speaks the word of healing, Ephphatha ('Be opened'), he appears to be speaking not only to the man but to all those listening. Be open to the possibility of embracing those you have cast out; be open to a different understanding of Messiah. Jesus' vision is not determined by categories such as Jew, gentile, free, slave, woman, man, righteous, sinner. Jesus ignores such labels and reaches out to the needs of a fellow human. Dare we do the same!

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

12th Sept – The Most Holy Name of Mary

13th Sept – St John Chrysostom, bishop, doctor

14th Sept – The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

15th Sept – Our Lady of Sorrows

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 9:00 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 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.

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B
8th / 9th September 2018

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

All who have died recently:

Egidio Parolin (Italy)



Those who we remember at this time:

Alfea Cursaro, Martina Balang, Emmanuel Deidun, Thelma Crocker, Peter Atkinson, Rosa Lotrionte, Carmine Mazzone, Fr M.J Sunder Raj, Patricia Gallus Lucy Rainsford Margaret Hill, Maureen Addicott.

The sick: Oscar Price 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: 1st Saturday of 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.

WEEKDAY MASSES THIS WEEK will be on Wednesday at 9.15am and Friday at 11am. We welcome Fr Paddy Duggan who will lead the celebration of these Masses. Please note that there will be no Masses this Tuesday or Thursday. The weekend Mass timetable remains unchanged

A BIG THANK YOU to all who contributed to such a memorable morning Mass and morning tea on the occasion of Archbishop Peter Comensoli's visit to our parish, last weekend.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST FETE –27th October: Devonshire Tea will again be held in the Parish Hall. Anyone able to assist on the day by providing scones, jam, cream, small cakes or slices, or helping serve, would be much appreciated. Please contact Sue on 9762 8640 to let us know how you can assist.

Market Stalls: Are you interested in having a stall at the Fete? The cost is \$40, with application forms available at the School Office. Spaces are limited so please submit your applications a.s.a.p.

Plant Stall: If you're able to provide some plants or seedlings for the stall, please let either the school or parish office know, indicating your name and what you may be able to contribute. Thank you!

FORUM FOR PARISHES 'Pope Francis' Laudato Si': Transforming Communities. Sat. 15th September 9.00am – 1.00pm at St Francis Xavier Church, 1087 Whitehorse Road Box Hill. Cost \$30.00 includes copy of the book and light refreshments. To book go to www.trybooking.com/WOQR or phone Lucia Brick on 9287 5566 or email: lucia.brick@css.org.au

MISSIONARIES OF GOD'S LOVE SISTERS

The MGL Sisters invite any interested young women to a weekend of talks, sharing, prayer, sisterhood & more - to assist your vocational discernment and to learn a little more about the life of the MGL Sisters. The dates are Saturday 15th / Sunday 16th September at 6 Dunstan Street, North Balwyn. For more details email Melanie at: melanieedwards77@gmail.com

VOLUNTEER WITH PALMS AUSTRALIA It's not just teachers – Mission also needs mechanics, tools and trades! What skills can you share with our neighbours? Contact Christine on 02 9560 5333. Right now, the community of Mawlmayine, Myanmar requires a volunteer mechanic to provide mentoring and support for local livelihood programs. For more mission opportunities, visit palms.org.au/volunteer - Can't commit just yet but would like a look? Try a short Encounter tour to Timor Leste or Samoa- Call us 02 9560 5333 or go to palms.org.au/encounters

BAPTISMS Our Congratulations go to *Chloe Weir, Jade Pinder, Eliza & Cooper Sidwell and Chelsea & Sophie Mujica*, who are to be baptised this weekend. The Church of God welcomes you with great joy.

**SPIRITUAL LEADERS FORMATION PROGRAM**

This one-year, part-time program held on Friday mornings in Box Hill is offered to people in various positions of leadership, spiritual formation and outreach ministries. The program, which commences 22 Feb 2019, focuses on personal integration of the theory and practice of a contemplative, discerning approach to pastoral ministry. Applications close 16 Nov 2018. Contact Heart of Life for a brochure and an application form holse@bigpond.com or phone 9890 1101.

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2019 Archbishop Peter Comensoli is inviting young adults to join him on the Melbourne Pilgrimage to World Youth Day in Panama! Places are strictly limited and each successful pilgrim will receive a generous subsidy from the Archdiocese of Melbourne. The full cost per pilgrim is \$8,960 but with the subsidy from the Archdiocese the cost to each pilgrim works out at \$3500, inclusive of travel insurance.

The timeline is extremely tight so any interested young adults need apply **by Wednesday 12th September**. For more information about this amazing pilgrimage and about how to apply, please visit the Archdiocese's Youth website: <http://www.cam.org.au/YOUTH> or make contact with the Archdiocesan Office for Youth on 9287 5565 or via email at: wyd2019@cam.org.au

A CALL 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 on 0413 398 528.

ROSTERS: Mon 10th Sept. to Sun 16th Sept.	
Flowers	Marg H & Judy G
Altar Servers	6pm Nicholas D
Linen	Sue N
Welcomers	6pm Jayne P & Myra N 9am Marg & Adrian D & Anastasia 11am: Patrick S & Coral M
Lectors	6pm Jenny K 9am: Tony D 11am Kath V
Counters	Peter & Dawn G; George & Genevieve W
Gardening	SEPT: Tom N & Chris M