

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Isaiah 50:5-9

The Lord has opened my ear.
For my part, I made no resistance,
neither did I turn away.
I offered my back to those who struck me,
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;
I did not cover my face
against insult and spittle.
The Lord comes to my help,
so that I am untouched by the insults.
So, too, I set my face like flint;
I know I shall not be shamed.
My vindicator is here at hand.
Does anyone start proceedings against me?
Then let us go to court together.
Who thinks he has a case against me?
Let him approach me.
The Lord is coming to my help,
who dare condemn me?

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

***R/. I will walk in the presence of the Lord,
in the land of the living.***

SECOND READING

A reading from the Letter of St James 2:14-18

Take the case, my brothers, of someone who has never done a single good act but claims that he has faith. Will that faith save him? If one of the brothers or one of the sisters is in need of clothes and has not enough food to live on, and one of you says to them, 'I wish you well; keep yourself warm and eat plenty,' without giving them these bare necessities of life, then what good is that? Faith is like that: if good works do not go with it, it is quite dead. This is the way to talk to people of that kind: 'You say you have faith and I have good deeds; I will prove to you that I have faith by showing you my good deeds – now you prove to me that you have faith without any good deeds to show.'

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!
My only glory is the cross of
our Lord Jesus Christ,
which crucifies the world to me
and me to the world.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL READING

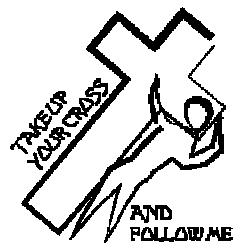
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 8:27-35

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say I am?' And they told him. 'John the Baptist,' they said, 'others Elijah; others again, one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he asked, 'who do you say I am?' Peter spoke up and said to him, 'You are the Christ.' And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him.

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. But, turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said to him, 'Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

He called the people and his disciples to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

KNOX DEANERY

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Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

15th / 16th September, 2018

*Make us one, O God,
in acknowledging Jesus the Christ.
As we proclaim Him by our words,
let us follow Him in our works;
give us strength to take up the cross
and courage to lose our lives for His sake.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



FOCUS ON THE READINGS

But you, who do you say I am?' This would have to be one of the most powerful questions of the gospels. It echoes down the centuries and is just as relevant today as it ever was. 'Who do you say I am?' Our answer to that question is perhaps the most revealing statement of our faith. Our answer no doubt changes over time as we grow in understanding and as we experience the ups and downs of life, but nonetheless, just like Peter in the gospel passage, our answer remains a clear statement of our faith. 'Who do you say I am?' Just a good guy who lived 2,000 years ago? A role model? A friend? God made flesh? The Word come down from heaven? Nobody? Everybody? Our saviour? An inspired man of God? The Messiah? Perhaps you've never tried to actually answer the question yourself. It is a confronting question, because, as Christian people, we believe that our actions are a reflection of our beliefs and values. It's confronting because whatever we say in answer to that question has implications for the way we live. You see, the question is in the present tense, not the past. Can we claim to understand Jesus? Or are we more like the people in James' community: people who profess faith in Jesus, but who do not live it out; people who speak pleasant words to others, who say the right things, but who do not back up their words with good works? Is our faith really living?

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

17th Sept – St Robert Bellarmine, bishop, doctor

St Januarius, bishop, martyr

20th Sept – Sts Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Priest martyr & St Paul Chong Ha-sang & companions martyrs

21st Sept – St Matthew, apostle, evangelist

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-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B
15th / 16th September 2018

Observance Catholic Social Services Victoria.

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

All who have died recently:
 Giovanni (John) Brotto, Noe Judit.

*Those who we remember at this time:*

Theresa Johnson, Valentina Parente, Kellie Cecchin, Margaret Prince, Grace Gamley, Valentina Parente, Francis Power, Maria Scardillo, James Foster.

The sick: Oscar Price Tom McMahan, 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 Hatten, 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, **however this Tues 18th Sept, we will meet at Upper FTG Station to catch the 10.55am Train and attend the Walk of Witness.** All are welcome. Enquiries: Judy: 9752 2986.

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

UPDATE FROM DEACON PETER: Just wanted to let you know that all went well with my procedure. As expected it was fairly extensive taking seven hours to complete, your thoughts and prayers were a great support, so thank you for them, I expect to take several weeks now to get back to full recovery, time for prayerful reflection and spiritual reading. God Bless. Peter

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST FETE –27th October

UPDATES: Grand Bazaar requires donations such as Books, Complete Board Games, Complete puzzles, Good Quality Toys- bagged and labelled – and kitchenware. **Plant Stall** would be grateful of donations of plants or gardening accessories. **Advertising Boards** do you live in a high traffic location and would you be willing to have a real estate board on your property? If yes, please leave a message for Trina in the school office on 9758 1013.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES VICTORIA observance is this weekend. Catholic social services make a substantial contribution to the social fabric of Victoria. Services range from alcohol treatment, crisis housing, Indigenous ministry and prison ministry, to the protection of women and children escaping family violence, refugees and asylum seekers and those impacted by human trafficking. More than 200,000 people were supported by Catholic social service organisations during 2016-2017, with the total number of *occasions of support* being in excess of 400,000. See the website at <https://www.css.org.au/> if you would like to know more about this service.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES - ENGLISH TEACHERS, YOUTH WORKERS & YOUTH MINISTERS

The Cagliero Project is an initiative of the Australia-Pacific Province of the Salesians of Don Bosco, providing overseas volunteer experiences for Australians who wish to work with disadvantaged young people. We are seeking enthusiastic volunteers for January 2019 departure. Our volunteers placements run for 6-12 months and are centered around working with young people in educational settings. We have multiple volunteers opportunities throughout Cambodia, Samoa, Timor Leste, Thailand and the Solomon Islands. For information contact: Lauren Hichaaba, Director of the Cagliero Project or Email: lhichaaba@salesians.org.au or Ph: 9377 6000.

A PLACE TO CALL HOME We celebrate Social Justice Sunday on 30th September 2018. This year, the Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement is titled: 'A Place to Call Home: Making a home for everyone in our land'. The statement challenges us all to confront Australia's growing rate of homelessness and unaffordable housing. There will be a **Walk of Witness** on **Tuesday 18th September 2018** which will commence at **12.30pm in Federation Square** with the Parable of The Good Samaritan and proceed to the steps of the **Victorian Parliament (approx. 1.45pm)** and on to **St Patrick's Cathedral, at 2.00pm** where Bishop Mark will officially launch 2018–2019 Social Justice Statement of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference for the Archdiocese of Melbourne. This Walk of Witness is an action of solidarity with the thousands of people who are homeless and for the many others for whom dignified housing is becoming an unrealised dream. **All Welcome** For further details, see website: www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au or call 02 8306 3499

WORLD ROSARY DAY on Sunday 7th October, Countries around the world are joining to hold Rosary Rallies to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. Together we are calling upon God through the powerful intercession of Our Lady of the Rosary. The World Rosary started on 15 August (Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary) with a '54-day Novena' that will continue until the feast of the Holy Rosary on 7 October. Each nation has been asked to pray for its own intentions on the day. The Australian intentions are family, rekindling of faith and continued Godly protection. To register or find out more go to: <http://holyleagueofnations.com> or contact Jane from OzRosary on 0476 535 59

POSITIONS VACANT ACROSS THE ARCHDIOCESE Details can be found on the Archdiocese of Melbourne website for various administrative and liturgical positions. For more information visit www.cam.org.au/jobs

ROSTERS: Mon 17th Sept. to Sun 23rd Sept.	
Flowers	Ann P & Connie B
Altar Servers	6pm Nicholas D
Linen	Alvie M
Welcomers	6pm Sue N & Anna M 9am Rosa L & Terry & Laurel S 11am: Gina M & Pat O
Lectors	6pm. Steph H 9am: Peter F 11am Carolyn S
Counters	George & Genevieve W & Stephanie
Gardening	SEPT: Tom N & Chris M