

## FIRST READING

### **A reading from the prophet Jeremiah**

**31:7-9**

The Lord says this: Shout with joy for Jacob! Hail the chief of nations! Proclaim! Praise! Shout: The Lord has saved his people, the remnant of Israel!

See, I will bring them back from the land of the North and gather them from the far ends of earth; all of them: the blind and the lame, women with child, women in labour: a great company returning here.

They had left in tears, I will comfort them as I lead them back; I will guide them to streams of water, by a smooth path where they will not stumble. For I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my first-born son.

**The Word of the Lord.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.*

## SECOND READING

### **A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews**

**5:1-6**

Every high priest has been taken out of mankind and is appointed to act for men in their relations with God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins; and so he can sympathise with those who are ignorant or uncertain because he too lives in the limitations of weakness. That is why he has to make sin offerings for himself as well as for the people. No one takes this honour on himself, but each one is called by God, as Aaron was. Nor did Christ give himself the glory of becoming high priest, but he had it from the one who said to him: You are my son, today I have become your father, and in another text: You are a priest of the order of Melchizedek, and for ever.

**The Word of the Lord.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Our Saviour Jesus Christ has done away with death, and brought us life through his gospel.  
Alleluia!*

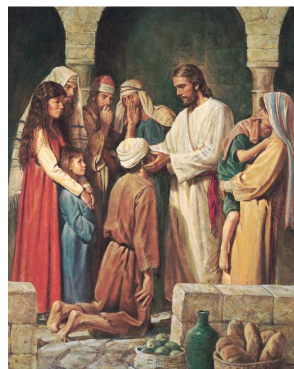
## GOSPEL READING

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark**

**10:46-52**

As Jesus left Jericho with his disciples and a large crowd, Bartimaeus (that is, the son of Timaeus), a blind beggar, was sitting at the side of the road. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout and to say, 'Son of David, Jesus, have pity on me.' And many of them scolded him and told him to keep quiet, but he only shouted all the louder, 'Son of David, have pity on me.' Jesus stopped and said, 'Call him here.' So they called the blind man. 'Courage,' they said 'get up; he is calling you.' So throwing off his cloak, he jumped up and went to Jesus. Then Jesus spoke, 'What do you want me to do for you?' 'Rabbuni,' the blind man said to him 'Master, let me see again.' Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has saved you.' And immediately his sight returned and he followed him along the road.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**



**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**

**KNOX DEANERY**

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## **Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B**

**27<sup>th</sup> / 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2018**

*Heal us, Creator God;  
never let us be blind to  
the blessings You give us.  
Give us courage to place our lives  
in Your hands,  
trusting in Your enduring care for us,  
and Your healing love.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.*



## FOCUS ON THE READINGS

Blindness is a powerful metaphor that is used repeatedly throughout scripture. It is almost always a metaphor for blindness of heart or blindness of mind rather than a purely physical affliction. There are multiple accounts of healing blindness in the gospel. Saul/Paul is blinded on the road to Damascus and only has his sight restored when he is baptised. The Pharisees are described as being 'blind fools' and there the prophets make numerous references to blind seeing as a sign of the Messiah's arrival. It is a very powerful image of being 'blind' to truth and 'blind' to the teaching of Jesus. When Jesus encounters Bartimaeus he is sitting by the side of the road – a reject of society sitting off to the side as the world passes him by, yet what he does have in abundance is faith and hope. There are times in all of our lives when we feel hurt; ashamed; unloved; rejected; cast aside as Bartimaeus did. It is at these moments in our lives that Jesus really wants to 'break through' into our experience. If we allow ourselves to hear his voice calling us to him, then we too can 'throw off our cloak' – our old life – and join him on the road.

How would you answer Jesus' question, 'What do you want me to do for you?'

## **FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK**

*1<sup>st</sup> November – All Saints;*

*2<sup>nd</sup> November – The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls)*

*3<sup>rd</sup> November – St Martin de Porres, religious.*

*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 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.

**Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B**

27<sup>th</sup> / 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2018

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

*All who have died recently:*

Arthur Corrin



*Those who we remember at this time:*

Paul Fernandes (1 month), Anthony Sage, Alan Lawson, Daisy Sason-Lim; Theresa Starrs, Maria D'Alessio, Carmela Mazzeo, Umberto Paternoster, Dean Platt.

*The sick:* Baby Xavier King; Giuseppina Zarro, Oscar Price, Tom McMahon, Brigida Mazzone, Wilhelmina Weerden, Daniel Vincent-Smith, 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 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. Join us for a cuppa prior to the meeting. Praise and worship begins at 10.15am, followed by inspiring teaching and prayer ministry. All are welcome. Enquiries: Judy: 9752 2986

**MOTHERS' PRAYER** Come and join with mothers, grandmothers, spiritual mothers and godmothers, to pray together from **9am–10am**. For enquiries, please contact the Parish Office.

**THE 2019 COLUMBAN CALENDAR** is now available in the Piety Stall. Cost **\$8 per copy**.

**AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS MAGAZINE** your free copy is Available on the trolleys to collect.

**THE SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS**

*Mass of the Day:* Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November at 9.15am

**THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (ALL SOULS)**

*Vigil Mass:* Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November at 7.00pm.

*Mass of the Day:* Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 11.00am.

All are most welcome.

**NOVEMBER CROSS** November is the month of the Holy Souls, where we pray for parishioners, friends, and members of our families, who have gone before us in faith. Our prayer is that they will live forever with the Lord. As is our custom at St John's, from 1<sup>st</sup> November you'll have the opportunity to write the names of those you wish to remember on our November Cross. For those who would like to have a Mass offered for deceased relatives and friends, November Offering envelopes are available on the trolleys.



**FIRST FRIDAY MASS Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 11am (All Souls Day)** Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament from 10am. Please consider staying on for a cup of tea/coffee after Mass. All are welcome.

**ST JOHN'S FETE Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October, a Really Big Thank you**, to all who worked so hard with the preparations, the advertising, behind the scenes, setting up, serving, baking, growing plants, packing up and any other task to make this huge event/fundraiser happen. Well done to all involved!

**ST JOHN'S SCHOOL BUILDING WORKS**

As previously notified the upcoming school building works, which we've been informed will commence this week, will have an impact on church car parking. Please find below some possible solutions to the limited parking options for the duration of the building works (once the temporary fencing has been erected):

1. School staff will park behind the school hall to allow an extra 8 parking spaces for the weekday masses, Tuesday's Prayer Group, Thursday's Friendship Group, and other Parish activities during the week.
2. Some parishioners might generously choose to park in the lower car park area for weekend Masses, to alleviate the demand for the limited parking around the church.
3. Parishioners may consider carpooling
4. Consider walking to Mass (where possible)

Whilst we acknowledge the building works will undoubtedly present our community with a degree of inconvenience, we are very grateful for your understanding and support during this time.

- Fr Alan Fox (PP) & Cathy Mason (Principal)

**BAPTISMS** – We offer our congratulations to **Chiara Hope Cook** who was baptised this weekend: The Church of God welcomes you with great joy.



**FUNERAL PRAYERS** for the late **Arthur Corrin** will be celebrated here at St John's church, this coming **Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October at 1.30pm**.

**SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP TRIVIA NIGHT** A big thank you to all who bought tickets and attended the night. Your support is very much appreciated.

**INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC?**

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is an opportunity to explore the Catholic faith in a non-confronting environment. RCIA is for those who may be searching for God, for those not baptised, for those baptised in another Christian tradition, for those baptised but who have not received other Sacraments of Initiation. If you would like to find out more at a relaxed, informal meeting, please contact the Parish Office on 9758 1029.

**ADVENT IS FAST APPROACHING**

have you considered joining or starting an **Advent Discussion Group**? There's time for prayer, the reading of Scripture, as well as discussion. Please indicate your interest on the sign-up sheet beneath the poster entitled **Saviour: Advent & Christmas Daily Reflections**, situated on the glass wall. Books: \$4.00.

**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER:** On Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> November, individuals and groups across Australia will unite in prayer with the persecuted church. To see how you may be able to be involved visit the website: [opendoors.org.au/get-involved/pray/idop](http://opendoors.org.au/get-involved/pray/idop)

**HELP NEEDED** The 9am Sunday Mass choir here at St John's needs new members. Perhaps you could help out? Please phone Maree on 9758 6585 if you can assist.

**THE ANNUAL LOURDES DAY MASS** will take place on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December 10.30am at St Patrick's Cathedral. An occasion to pray for the sick, infirm or elderly. All are cordially invited.

**ROSTERS: Mon 29<sup>th</sup> Oct to Sun 4<sup>th</sup> Nov.**

<b>Flowers</b>	Ann P & Connie B
<b>Altar Servers</b>	6pm: Nicholas D
<b>Linen</b>	Alvi M
<b>Welcomers</b>	6pm: Louise D & Peter G 9am Sue & David W, Thelma B 11am: Andrew & Kath W, Maria L
<b>Lectors</b>	6pm: Louise D 9am: Tony D 11am: Kath V
<b>Counters</b>	Peter & Dawn, George & Genevieve
<b>Gardening</b>	NOV: HELP NEEDED!