

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Micah

5:1-4

The Lord says this: You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

SECOND READING

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

10:5-10

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world: 'You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.' Notice that he says first: 'You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them'; and then he says: 'Here I am! I am coming to obey your will.' He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

*I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.*

Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

1:39-44

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

KNOX DEANERY

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4th Sunday of Advent - Year C – 'LOVE'

22nd / 23rd December, 2018

Father,

May we welcome Jesus, Your Son,

the promised Emmanuel,

and proclaim the good news of his birth to all the

*earth. That every age will see Your saving grace
and follow in Your way of love.*

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



FOCUS ON THE READINGS

In this week's gospel we might say that the as yet unborn John is already recognising the presence of the Christ. Mary goes to visit her cousin, Elizabeth, and the child within Elizabeth's womb – John – leaps for joy. When Mary made this visit to Elizabeth, she was not looking for a sign that she had made the right decision. Rather, because she had accepted God's will the sign was given to her. Her acceptance and action came first. The sign came later as a confirmation. At times we look to God to provide us with a sign that our impending action is the right choice. However, faith acts in trust and confidence; it doesn't wait around for a green light from God. When we do act in faith, the flow-on effects are the sign of confirmation. Elizabeth's unlikely pregnancy confirms for Mary the even greater truth of her own pregnancy. These two women, separated by age and distance, share a common experience of God acting in their lives to bring about unlikely events. The lives of their two children will be inextricably linked such that one will eventually baptise the other and announce the arrival of his ministry to the people of Israel. The joy expressed by Elizabeth and her child reflects the joy of all people of faith as we draw so close to the celebration of Christmas and the greatest expression of God's love – to enter into the world as one just like us and share our experience.

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

25th December – The Nativity of the Lord (Solemnity)

26th December – St Stephen, the first martyr

27th December – St John, apostle, evangelist

28th December – The Holy Innocents, martyrs.

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.

4th SUNDAY ADVENT - YEAR C
22nd / 23rd December, 2018
'LOVE'

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:
Terry McDermott, Benjamin Bullen, Wally Johnson.



We remember the anniversaries of:
Peter South, Maria Frederiks, Flora De Cristo, Hans Hauer, James Phyland, Chanake & Olga Aponso, & Peter Windebank.

The sick: Catherine Turner, Baby Xavier King; Giuseppina Zarro, Oscar Price, Brigida Mazzone, 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, Miop 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: will take a break from Thursday 13th December till Thursday 10th January 2019. We wish everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP will be taking a break over the Christmas period Our first meeting for 2019 will be **Tuesday 5th February at 10.15 am** in the Parish Hall. We wish everyone a happy and holy Christmas and every blessing for 2019.

MOTHERS' PRAYERS GROUP will take a break over the Christmas Period, and re-start **5th February 2019**, Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all.

SLAMS – Theatre that sings - are performing "ALL SHOOK UP" in March 2019, at The Alan Ross Centre (Billanook College), 197-199 Cardigan Road Mooroolbark, You can order early-bird tickets now at the Early Bird Ticket Price (Available until 24th December 2018) of \$30 Adults or \$20 Child. For further information call 0409 100 044 or check the SLAMS web site at www.slams.org.au

CHRISTMAS MASSES AT ST JOHN'S
Monday 24th December – Christmas Eve:

✂ 7.30pm Family Mass (Carols: 7pm)

✂ 10pm Mass of Christmas Night (Carols: 9.30pm)

Tuesday 25th December – Christmas Day:

✂ 9am

✂ 11am



...from Fr Alan & the Parish Staff

PARISH OFFICE HOURS THROUGHOUT THE CHRISTMAS / JANUARY HOLIDAY PERIOD:

Tues. 25th & Wed. 26th December – Closed.

Thurs. 27th Dec. – Open.

Fri. 28th Dec. – Closed.

Mon. 31st Dec. – Open.



The office will be **Closed between the 1st and 3rd of January**, and will then open each Monday and Friday until Normal Office hours resume in the week commencing Monday 14th January

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS Once again the "Nativity play" will be part of our 7:30pm Christmas Eve Family Mass. All children (especially the little ones) are invited to come dressed as Angels or Shepherds. Costume, need not be elaborate – a white dress or fairy skirt & wings for angels and tea towel headwear for shepherds will do. The children will be asked to sit in the area surrounding the altar.



FUNERAL MASS – The Funeral Mass for the late Walter James (Wally) Johnson will be celebrated here at St John's Church on **Friday, 4th January, 2019, at 11am.**

ROSARY will be recited in St John's Church on the evening prior: Thursday 3rd January, at 7.30pm.

MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSION APPEAL A big thank you for your generous contribution of **\$2,036.10** to the Annual Melbourne Overseas Mission Appeal held on the weekend of 8th / 9th Dec

LECTORS ROSTER The new lectors roster is ready for collection in the Church foyer. Thank you for your commitment to this Church ministry.

THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL – FERNTREE GULLY CONFERENCE would like to thank all parishioners for their donations of Gift cards, Christmas hampers and items of non-perishable food for distribution to disadvantaged families in our area. We are pleased to inform you that all donated non-perishable food and cash has been used directly to support the needy in our parish area this Christmas. Thanks to Fr Alan and a special thanks to our school community who also made very valuable and generous donations of gift cards: \$1500.60 was contributed by our Parish Primary school; and the Parish Appeal raised \$2,550. Thank you to the Parish Friendship Group who contributed \$125. Each Family Christmas Hamper contained non-perishable food; your gift cards for the children; a food voucher for meat and a \$50.00 Woolworths card. FTG Conference personally distributed 70 hampers to families totalling a cost of approx. \$14,000.00. A basket is always available at the doors of church for any on-going food donations. The piety store is available every Sunday for your personal religious purchases. We are always delighted to welcome new volunteers to continue this vital work in supporting our neighbour. Wishing everyone a wonderful Christmas and a safe summer holiday season.

– SVDP : Ferntree Gully Conference.



CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE 2019 Study Options are Now Available! Undergraduate and Postgraduate Options. On offer is the choice of Philosophy, Systematic Theology, Moral Theology, Religious Education or Christian Spirituality units. Audit options available. Please Direct your enquiries to Mr John Bartholomeusz (Assistant Dean) either by Phone: 9412 3309 or via Email: ctc@ctc.edu.au

ROSTERS: Mon 24th Dec to Sun 30th Dec.	
Flowers	Sue N & Lynne K
Altar Servers	6pm: Nicholas D
Linen	Sue O
Welcomers	6pm: Louise D, Peter G 9am: Sue & David W, Thelma B 11am: Kath & Andrew W & Maria L
Lectors	6pm: Jenny K 9am: Tony D 11am: Steph H
Counters	Bryon M & Ruby S
Gardening	Patrick S & Harry R