

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

1:4-5, 17-19

In the days of Josiah, the word of the Lord was addressed to me, saying, 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you came to birth I consecrated you; I have appointed you as prophet to the nations. So now brace yourself for action. Stand up and tell them all I command you. Do not be dismayed at their presence, or in their presence I will make you dismayed. I, for my part, today will make you into a fortified city, a pillar of iron, and a wall of bronze to confront all this land: the kings of Judah, its princes, its priests and the country people. They will fight against you but shall not overcome you, for I am with you to deliver you – it is the Lord who speaks.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R./ I will sing of your salvation.

SECOND READING

A reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

12:31-13:13

Be ambitious for the higher gifts. And I am going to show you a way that is better than any of them. If I have all the eloquence of men or of angels, but speak without love, I am simply a gong booming or a cymbal clashing. If I have the gift of prophecy, understanding all the mysteries there are, and knowing everything, and if I have faith in all its fullness, to move mountains, but without love, then I am nothing at all. If I give away all that I possess, piece by piece, and if I even let them take my body to burn it, but am without love, it will do me no good whatever. Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence, and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes. Love does not come to an end. But if there are gifts of prophecy, the time will come when they must fail; or the gift of languages, it will not continue for ever; and

knowledge – for this, too, the time will come when it must fail. For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophesying is imperfect; but once perfection comes, all imperfect things will disappear. When I was a child, I used to talk like a child, and think like a child, and argue like a child, but now I am a man, all childish ways are put behind me. Now we are seeing a dim reflection in a mirror; but then we shall be seeing face to face. The knowledge that I have now is imperfect; but then I shall know as fully as I am known. In short, there are three things that last: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor, and freedom to prisoners.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

4:21-30

Jesus began to speak in the synagogue, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.' And he won the approval of all, and they were astonished by the gracious words that came from his lips. They said, 'This is Joseph's son, surely?' But he replied, 'No doubt you will quote me the saying, "Physician, heal yourself" and tell me, "We have heard all that happened in Capernaum, do the same here in your own countryside."' And he went on, 'I tell you solemnly, no prophet is ever accepted in his own country. "There were many widows in Israel, I can assure you, in Elijah's day, when heaven remained shut for three years and six months and a great famine raged throughout the land, but Elijah was not sent to any one of these: he was sent to a widow at Zarephath, a Sidonian town. And in the prophet Elisha's time there were many lepers in Israel, but none of these was cured, except the Syrian, Naaman.' When they heard this everyone in the synagogue was enraged. They sprang to their feet and hustled him out of the town; and they took him up to the brow of the hill their town was built on, intending to throw him down the cliff, but he slipped through the crowd and walked away.

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

Knox Deanery

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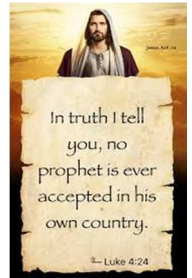
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Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C

2nd & 3rd February, 2019

*Lord Jesus, You give us the strength
to live our lives as witnesses to Your Love.
May we proclaim to all people,
the glory of Your name.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*



FOCUS ON THE READINGS

The small-town people of Nazareth thought they had Jesus pigeon-holed. He probably had worked in the carpentry shop for most of his life as offsideer to Joseph. They had given him an identity with which they could cope. But, each of us has an identity far, far, deeper than can be seen by those who think they have known us forever. The life project is to discern the identity willed for you, by our Creator, from all eternity. God speaks to us as he spoke to Jeremiah: 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you. Before you came to birth I consecrated you. I have appointed you as...' As what? To do what? Some of you have discovered the 'what' of your identity desired by God. Some of you have suppressed that identity, know it in your heart, and are sad. Some of you are still searching. The fact is, that you are not made in the image-ing of other people. You are made as a particular and unique image of God. The life task is to discover the outlines of this image and then to try to flesh it out. Try to discern this by reading the gospels and by being open to human need for healing, liberation and love wherever it may be. God is speaking to you through his Holy Word: 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you. Before you came to birth I consecrated you I have appointed you as' As? That is the question. For now, simply respond: 'Here I am, Lord.'

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

*Tue 5th Feb St Agatha, virgin, martyr; Wed 6th Feb St Paul Miki & companions, martyrs
Fri 8th Feb St Jerome Emiliani & St Josephine Bakhita, virgin; Sat 10th Feb St Scholastica, virgin*

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: deaconpeter@tutanota.com

FAITH DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR
Carolyn Sombekke 9758 1029
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PARISH OFFICE: 9758 1029
Monday to Friday 9am – 3pm
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.

Forth Sunday of Ordinary Time - Year C
2nd & 3rd February, 2019

PRAYING FOR...



All who have died recently:
Ron Prince, Faye Anderson, Len Masterson, Monica Commons, Geraldine Fitzpatrick, Elaine Brain, Rosita Stavropoulos, Margaret James.

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:
John Dunlop, Penrin Halliday, Maureen Hawley, Jennifer Trevena, Jim Dale and Pellegrino Migliore.

The sick: Ada Arnold, Lesina Maio, Peter Dunlop, Catherine Turner, Therese Edmunds, Keith Scutt, Peter Commons, Wilma Neville, Mary Brimelow, Steve Reid, Patricia Quinn, Charlie Kelly, Bonnie Williams, Kathleen Hatton, Edward Kitain, Scott Warner, Lilian Luiyf, Kayden McDevitt, David Merton, Rosa Jones, Peter Mitchell, Jemma Du Buisson Perrine, Brock McAvaney, Beryl Turner, Bernard Guerin, Michael Byrne, Ann Jayawardena, Mary Edmunds, Anabelyn Malabed, Miep Wirth, Ethel Arrowsmith, Eillian 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, Clive Geach.

SICK LIST – If you are aware that any names on the sick list need to be removed, please contact the Parish Office on 9758 1029.

GROUP ROSARY SESSION FOR PEACE
Date: **Saturday, 3rd March, 2018 at 10.30 am**
Venue: 37 Lane Road, FTG. All are welcome.
Contact: Pauline Barlow on 9758 5106.

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

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP will resume their meeting on Tuesday, 5th February 2019 at 10.15 am in the Parish Hall for praise and worship, inspiring teaching and prayer ministry. All are warmly welcome. Enquiries: Judy 9752 2986.

MOTHERS' PRAYER GROUP will resume on Tuesday 5th February. Do you desire to pray for your children but it doesn't seem to happen? Come and join with other mothers of any age to pray together. *Tuesday's* from 9am–10am each Tuesday (during school term) in the Parish Centre. For enquiries, please contact the Parish Office.

LENTEN GROUPS PROGRAMME ENTITLED "COMPASSION" Would you like to join a **Lenten reflection group** of prayer, biblical reflection and modern stories? It's a great way to reflect during Lent. This could be day or evening depending on when you are available. We will organise a time to suit most people. Please sign up on the sheets on the glass wall, or contact the parish office on 9758 1029 if you are interested. Participants books will need to be ordered, so please RSVP before the 11th February.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST BEGINNING OF SCHOOL YEAR MASS & COMMISSIONING OF STAFF will be celebrated this coming Thursday, 7th February, at 9.15am. All are most welcome!

SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP TRIVIA NIGHT

© *Come and join the fun.* ©

© *Don't need to be an expert.* ©



Date: Saturday 2nd March, 2019

Venue: School Hall starting at 7.00pm for 7.30pm.

Cost: \$10 per adult. BYO drinks and nibbles.

Make up a table or come and join one.

Tickets on sale after all w/e masses from the 9th & 10th February or contact Patrick 0434 072 831 (call or text). Proceeds in aid of "Opening the Doors Foundation" Donations also welcome ☺

ANNUAL COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISHES RAFFLE 2019 St John's Conference of St Vincent de Paul along with St John's Social Justice Group will share the Annual Combined Churches Raffle this year. Both groups have similar aims in working to support the disadvantaged and so both groups will work together on this parish project. A percentage of raffle takings return to our parish. The sale of the tickets will commence on 9th /10th February after weekend masses. There are wonderful prizes to be won. We look forward to your support. Also, feel free to take a few books to sell to family and friends. We thank you in anticipation for your continuing support in 2019.

NEW PARISH OFFICE HOURS we wish to advise that there will be a change to the Parish Office Hours effective from Monday 11th February. The change will be to the Wednesday Afternoon only, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday hours will remain 9am – 3pm, however on Wednesday the office will close at 12 noon to facilitate some staff training.

VIGIL MASS FOR PRAYER, REFLECTION AND ACTION AGAINST PEOPLE TRAFFICING A vigil Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Peter Comensoli at 7.30pm on Thursday 7th February at St Patrick's Cathedral. All welcome.

PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2019

This year we are offering preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist for any baptised children in Years 3 and above, who reside within the boundaries of our Parish. A **Parent Information Evening for Reconciliation** will be held on **Thursday 21st February at 7pm in St John the Baptist School Hall**. This meeting is for both parents and children in preparation for the **Celebrations of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the first week of April**. For children who attend schools other than our Parish primary school, mandatory Catechetical classes have been scheduled for **Wednesday 13th & 20th of March between 4pm-5pm, in the Parish Hall**. The families who already contacted the office to register their child's/children's name(s), will receive an email outlining these details. For the children attending St John's School, preparation will be coordinated by their teachers. All parents are required to present a copy of their child's/children's Baptismal certificate(s) at the Information Evening. First Eucharist Masses are scheduled to be celebrated mid-year, and there will be an additional Parent Information Evening on Thursday 9th May, 2019 focussing on preparation for First Eucharist, and to outline important dates. Please contact the Parish Office on 9758 1029 if you require any further information.

THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER will be on Friday 1st March at 7.30pm. Please support this event, which will be hosted by the Salvation Army at 37 Wattletree Rd, Ferntree Gully. All welcome. Please bring a plate of food to share.

GIVE YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE A BOOST! with a course, seminar or reflection day at Heart of Life. See what's on offer at www.heartoflife.melbourne and go to our Seminars & Courses tab. You can Book & Pay online or email us at holse@bigpond.com for more information and bookings. Spiritual direction is also available at any time. Phone 9890 1101.

ROSTERS: Mon 4th to Sun 10th Feb	
Flowers	Marg H
Altar Servers	6pm: Nicholas
Linen	Sue O'H
Welcomers	6pm: Sue N, & Anna M 9am: Rosa L, Terry & Laurel S 11am: Gina M & Pat O'B
Lectors	6pm: Louise D 9am: Pamela E 11am: Sarah M
Counters	Tony & Steph
Gardening	Barry