

## FIRST READING

*A reading from the Book of Genesis 15:5-12,  
17-18*

Taking Abram outside the Lord said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

'I am the Lord' he said to him 'who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldaeans to make you heir to this land.' 'My Lord, the Lord' Abram replied, 'how am I to know that I shall inherit it?' He said to him, 'Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off.

Now as the sun was setting Abram fell into a deep sleep, and terror seized him. When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a Covenant with Abram in these terms: 'To your descendants I give this land, from the wadi of Egypt to the Great River.'

*The Word of the Lord.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R./ The Lord is my light and my salvation.*

## SECOND READING

*A reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians 3:17-4:1*

My brothers, be united in following my rule of life. Take as your models everybody who is already doing this and study them as you used to study us. I have told you often, and I repeat it today with tears, there are many who are behaving as the enemies of the cross of Christ. They are destined to be lost. They make foods into their god and they are proudest of something they ought to think shameful; the things they think important are earthly things. For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for,

the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe.

So then, my brothers and dear friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown..

*The Word of the Lord.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
king of endless glory!  
From the shining cloud the Father's voice is  
heard:  
this is my beloved Son, hear him.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
king of endless glory!.*

## GOSPEL

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 9:28-36*

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' – He did not know what he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him.' And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*



## ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

Knox Deanery

19 Forest Road, Ferntree Gully, 3156

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Email: office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent - Year C**

**16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2019**

*God of the covenant,  
Your presence fills us with awe,  
Your Word gives us unshakeable hope.  
Fix in our hearts  
the image of Your Son in glory,  
that, sustained on the path of discipleship,  
we may pass over with Him to newness of life.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



A NOTE FROM FR ALAN.

Dear Friends,

It's hard to avoid mentioning all that has been in the news these last 2 or 3 weeks. These dreadful revelations of sexual misconduct, and of the pain and trauma caused to young and innocent lives, have come as a shock to most, and to some extent our local communities have been numbed, or angered by these revelations. Some call it nothing other than a 'crisis' for the Church, and may in fact prove to be far from an insignificant one.

I'm sure there's a mix of emotions, I know I have moved from disappointment, to anger, and even to moments of disillusionment. This very public castigation of our 'community of faith' within the mass media and our society, in response to the conviction of such a high profile cleric, has surely shaken the faith of many Catholics. However it is worth remembering that all of us make up, and build up the 'Body of Christ', the Church. So it is my sincere hope that together we'll work diligently to build a more respectful and transparent Church (in its leadership & its mission) that will focus foremost on the example of Jesus Christ, evident in our preparedness to reach out to all who are in need, and to do so with deep respect, compassion and understanding. Let us pray for one another at this time.

In peace,

Fr Alan

*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 9am – 3pm  
Secretaries: Charmaine Premaratne  
and 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.

**Second Sunday of Lent - Year C**  
**16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2019**

**PRAYING FOR...**

*All who have died recently:*



*Those who we remember at this time:*

Mary Whelan, Michael Atkinson, Brian Mitchell.

**The sick:** Baby Ayden Tellis, Frank Cassar, Christopher Windebank, Giuseppina Zarro, Ada Arnold, Lesina Maio, Peter Dunlop, Catherine Turner, 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, 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, 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, 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2019 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** meet at 10am each Tuesday, for a 10.15am start, in the Parish Hall. Come and enjoy praise and worship, inspiring teaching and prayer ministry. All are warmly welcome. Enquiries: Judy 9752 2986.

**MOTHERS' PRAYER GROUP** . 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.


**PROJECT COMPASSION BEGAN** 6<sup>th</sup> March, "Give Lent 100%." to assist people in real poverty. Please consider collecting a box to participate.

**LECTORS' ROSTER** A new lectors roster for the period April – June is currently being prepared. If any existing rostered lector is unavailable during this period, or would like to request a change to the roster, please contact me before the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March (details below). If anyone else would like to read at Mass or would like to share the role by just reading one of the readings, please do get in touch. Students in Yr 11 and 12 might like to consider being a part of this ministry. Rosters and guidelines will be available on the weekend of the 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> March.  
- Stephanie (9758 5497 / smhorgen@gmail.com)

**ST JOSEPH'S COMMUNITY DAY** is on this Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> March from 10.00am – 2.00pm. Come  and be a part of this fun day! Free Rides and activities, food and drink are available at reasonable prices. This event is open to all. There will be face painting, college tours and displays, and meet the team from KIIS FM.

**ANNUAL COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISHES RAFFLE 2019** Tickets are still available, so please continue your invaluable support of this fundraising venture, by buying a raffle ticket or two, or taking a book to sell to family and friends. Your assistance is much appreciated.

**KNOX DEANERY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WORKSHOP** This Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, at 7pm (6.30pm for a cuppa) there will be a workshop at St Joseph's Parish Boronia focusing on Domestic Violence. 1 in 4 women experience at least one incident of violence by an intimate partner, 1 in 4 children witness violence against a mother /step-mother. Sr Nicole Rotaru RSM will facilitate this workshop promoting a greater awareness and understanding of the many faces of domestic violence. RSVP by 19<sup>th</sup> March for catering purposes, to Leigh Fleming on 0430 194 590 or yahc@bigpond.com

**MATER CHRISTI COLLEGE UPCOMING TOUR:** Bring your family and friends to our next  Scheduled Tours, Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March, departing at 10.00am. Mater Christi girls consistently achieve region leading VCE and vocational results. A visit will enable your family to witness our vibrant, inclusive and warm community. To book your tour visit: <http://www.materchristi.edu.au/>

**BORONIA & THE BASIN COMMUNITY FETE** Incorporating St. Joseph's & St. Bernadette's Primary Schools & Parish, will be held at 212 Boronia Rd, Boronia from 10.00am-4.00pm on Saturday, 30th March. Enjoy Live Entertainment, Jumping Castle Food Court, Free Activities and much more.

**PARISH STAFFING:** Following the recent, retirement of Mrs Carole D'Souza from her position as part-time Parish Secretary, I am pleased to announce that Mrs Charmaine Premaratne has accepted the vacant position. It would be somewhat remiss of me, were I not to formally acknowledge Carole's work in the office, and thank her for her loyal and unassuming contribution to the "engine room" of our parish, over the last 9 years. We certainly wish her all the best for her retirement. Charmaine formally commenced work in the Parish Office on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February. Her significant professional experience in office administration, and commitment to her own parish, will undoubtedly contribute to parish life here at St Johns. Welcome on staff, Charmaine.  
- Fr Alan

**EMMAUS COLLEGE OPEN DAY** will be held on  **EMMAUS COLLEGE** Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019, from 1.30pm – 6.30pm at the Vermont South Campus. For bookings see the College website: [www.emmaus.vic.edu.au](http://www.emmaus.vic.edu.au) or call 9845 3211.

**PROPOSED WINTER SHELTER FOR HOMELESS.** There are 7 churches in this area expressing strong interest in hosting homeless men at night, over 12 weeks in winter. There will be a meeting on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March at the Salvation Army, 37 Wattletree Rd Ferntree Gully, at 7.00pm-9.00pm. All those interested to see how this proposal can proceed. are invited. The Guest speaker Gitta Clayton, will talk about the practicalities of a church providing food and shelter for homeless men one night a week over the 12 week period. Enquiries, contact Stephen Barrington, Foothills Community Care on 8711 8677. All welcome.

**SLAMS PRESENTS "ALL SHOOK UP"** a new musical comedy built around songs by Elvis Presley. From March 22<sup>nd</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> Adults \$35, Ch\$20 For further information check the SLAMS web site at [www.slams.org.au](http://www.slams.org.au) or contact the Ticket Secretary on 0409 100 044.

<b>ROSTERS: Mon 18<sup>th</sup> Mar to Sun 24<sup>th</sup> March</b>	
<b>Flowers</b>	Lent – No Flowers
<b>Altar Servers</b>	<b>6pm:</b> Nicholas
<b>Linen</b>	Sue O'H
<b>Welcomers</b>	<b>6pm:</b> Louise D & Peter G <b>9am:</b> Sue & David W & Thelma B <b>11am:</b> Kath & Andrew & Maria L
<b>Lectors</b>	<b>6pm:</b> Phuong <b>9am:</b> Adrian S <b>11am:</b> Sarah M
<b>Counters</b>	Tony B, Steph H
<b>Gardening</b>	Carlos E