

FIRST READING

A reading from the Book of Joshua 5:9-12

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.' The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R./ Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

SECOND READING

A reading from the second Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 5:17-21

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I will rise and go to my father and tell him:
Father, I have sinned against heaven
and against you.
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!*

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them: 'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery. 'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father. 'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate. 'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about.

(...CONTINUED OVERLEAF)



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

Knox Deanery

19 Forest Road, Ferntree Gully, 3156

Phone: 9758 1029 Fax: 9758 9234

Email: office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au

4th Sunday of Lent - Year C

30th & 31st March, 2019

*God of compassion,
You await the sinner's return
and spread a feast to welcome home the lost.
Save us from the temptations
that lead us away from You,
and draw us back by Your constant love,
that we may take our place in Your household.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen*



FOCUS ON THE WORD...

Today's gospel is perhaps the most famous of the parables that are unique to the Gospel of Luke. Sadly, what is often overlooked is the accusation aimed at Jesus that leads into the telling of this and two other shorter parables. The Pharisees and Scribes accuse Jesus of what they regard to be abhorrent behaviour in relation to the purity code that dominated 1st Century life: not only does Jesus welcome sinners, he actually shares meals with them. This would be absolutely scandalous behaviour. Rather than being embarrassed by the accusation that he ate with sinners, Jesus would have worn those words like a badge of honour. It was exactly what his mission and ministry was all about - being one with the poor; the outcast; the sinner & the lost. The parable of the lost son is a fascinating study of Jewish culture and purity laws. The son could not have distanced himself more from Jewish custom. Firstly, he demanded his inheritance, effectively treating his father as dead. Secondly, he travels to a pagan land and then in despair finds himself feeding pigs - animals whose meat was forbidden to Jews. He knows that his actions have alienated him from his family and culture and yet when he returns, his father gives him a fine robe and a ring to wear - signs of a father claiming a son as his own. The older brother reminds us of the Pharisees and Scribes who criticised Jesus for dining with sinners. They were sticklers for the rules and had no sense of compassion if it involved moving outside the requirements of Law. Like the older brother, they could not comprehend a God who could be extravagant in expressing his love!

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 & 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 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.

Fourth Sunday of Lent - Year C
30th & 31st March, 2019

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:



Those who we remember at this time:

Johannes (Joe) Homan, Giovanni Cavarra, Oscar Santurini, Giovanni Costanzo, Bob Lisle.

The sick: Frank Cassar, Christopher Windebank, Giuseppina Zarro, Ada Arnold, Lesina Maio, Peter Dunlop, Catherine Turner, Peter Commons, Wilma Neville, Mary Brimelow, 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 Keams, 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, 6th 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. 9am–10am each Tuesday (during school term) in the Parish Centre. For enquiries, please contact the Parish Office.

PROJECT COMPASSION 6th March to 20th April. "Give Lent 100%." to assist people in real poverty. Please consider collecting a box to participate.



A REMINDER: DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS NEXT WEEKEND: Daylight Savings concludes next Sunday morning 7th April, at 2am. Please remember to turn back your clocks!

SIGN UP SHEETS FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER are on the glass wall. If you would like to assist with any of the ministries/tasks available, please write your details in the spaces provided.

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR CHILDREN PREPARING FOR FIRST RECONCILIATION

This weekend you may notice prayer cards on the trollies. Each card contains the name of a child who'll be celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time, this coming week. We invite you to please select a prayer card, and to pray for the child named, over these coming days. Thank you for your prayers.

FIRST FRIDAY MASS – Friday 5th April at 11am. Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament from 10am. Please stay for a cup of tea/coffee after Mass.

FRIENDSHIP GATHERING – 7TH BIRTHDAY

The Friendship Gathering will celebrate 7 years of meeting old friends and making new ones. Everyone is welcome to join us for lunch in the Parish Hall on **Thursday, 4th April at 12 noon.**



NEW LECTORS' ROSTERS AND READINGS are available for collection from the church foyer.

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.

LENTEN CONCERT: 'ASHES TO EASTER', WITH PETER KEARNEY: Saturday 6th April, 7pm (following 6pm Mass) at Mother of God School Hall, 67 Blanche Street, Ardeer. Peter Kearney is an Australian Catholic songwriter, singer and guitarist whose hymns and songs include 'Fill My House', 'The Beatitudes' and 'Where is Your Song, my Lord?'. His concert weaves songs, stories and reflections on Lenten themes, looking ahead to Holy Week and Easter. *'Ashes to Easter creates a prayerful and spiritual atmosphere, a worthwhile part of the Lenten journey.'* Cost: Suggested donation for an adult \$10. Tea/coffee and finger-food provided.

(GOSPEL READING CONTINUED...)

"Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening." "The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

The Gospel of the Lord.

DATES FOR THE DIARY...

3rd & 4th April – Celebrations of First Reconciliation

HOLY WEEK 2019 – SCHEDULE

Sunday 14th April – Palm Sunday
Tuesday 16th April – 7pm Mass with extended Penitential Rite. Individual Reconciliation at 7.30pm
Wednesday 17th April Individual Reconciliation at 10am (after 9.15 am Mass)
Holy Thursday 18th April Mass of the Lord's Supper at 8pm
Good Friday 19th April Ecumenical Way of the Cross and Walk 10am Solemn Ceremonies at 3pm
Holy Saturday 20th April – Easter Vigil at 8pm
Easter Sunday 21st April – Masses at 9am & 11am.

ROSTERS: Mon 1st April to Sun 7th April

Flowers	Lent – No Flowers
Altar Servers	6pm: Help Wanted
Linen	Laurel S
Welcomers	6pm Sue N, Anna M 9am: Rosa L & Terry & Laurel S 11am: Gina M & Pat O'B
Lectors	6pm: Rosina L 9am: Peter F 11am: Peter J
Counters	Byron & Tony
Gardening	Patrick S & Harry R