

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Wisdom 18:6-9

That night had been foretold to our ancestors, so that, once they saw what kind of oaths they had put their trust in, they would joyfully take courage. This was the expectation of your people, the saving of the virtuous and the ruin of their enemies; for by the same act with which you took vengeance on our foes you made us glorious by calling us to you. The devout children of worthy men offered sacrifice in secret and this divine pact they struck with one accord: that the saints would share the same blessings and dangers alike; and forthwith they had begun to chant the hymns of the fathers.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/. Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19

Only faith can guarantee the blessings that we hope for, or prove the existence of the realities that at present remain unseen. It was for faith that our ancestors were commended. It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going. By faith he arrived, as a foreigner, in the Promised Land, and lived there as if in a strange country, with Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. They lived there in tents while he looked forward to a city founded, designed and built by God. It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

The Word of the Lord.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Be watchful and ready:

You know not when the Son of Man is coming.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 12:32-48

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There is no need to be afraid, little flock, for it has pleased your Father to give you the kingdom. 'Sell your possessions and give alms. Get yourselves purses that do not wear out, treasure that will not fail you, in heaven where no thief can reach it and no moth destroy it. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

'See that you are dressed for action and have your lamps lit. Be like men waiting for their master to return from the wedding feast, ready to open the door as soon as he comes and knocks. Happy those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. I tell you solemnly, he will put on an apron, sit them down at table and wait on them. It may be in the second watch he comes, or in the third, but happy those servants if he finds them ready. You may be quite sure of this, that if the householder had known at what hour the burglar would come, he would not have let anyone break through the wall of his house. You too must stand ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.' Peter said, 'Lord, do you mean this parable for us, or for everyone?' The Lord replied, 'What sort of steward, then, is faithful and wise enough for the master to place him over his household to give them their allowance of food at the proper time? Happy that servant if his master's arrival finds him at this employment. I tell you truly, he will place him over everything he owns. But as for the servant who says to himself, "My master is taking his time coming", and sets about beating the menservants and the maids, and eating and drinking and getting drunk, his master will come on a day he does not expect and at an hour he does not know. The master will cut him off and send him to the same fate as the unfaithful.

'The servant who knows what his master wants, but has not even started to carry out those wishes, will receive very many strokes of the lash. The one who did not know, but deserves to be beaten for what he has done, will receive fewer strokes. When a man has had a great deal given him, a great deal will be demanded of him; when a man has had a great deal given him on trust, even more will be expected of him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

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19th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C

10th & 11th August, 2019

***Faithful God,
Keep our lamps burning brightly
and our hearts ever watchful
for your Son's return,
that we may open the door
as soon as he knocks.
Grant that one day we may be welcomed
by him to the eternal banquet.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.***



FOCUS ON THE WORD

This week's gospel passage carries with it the expectation of the late 1st Century as the early Christians awaited the triumphant return of the Christ (sometimes called the Second Coming or the Parousia). Across the gospels we can see that the communities were beginning to face the realisation that the promised return was taking longer than they had expected. In the gospel of Mark, it is clear that the community expects the Parousia at any moment, while by the time of the writing of the gospel of Luke, 10 or 15 years later, we can see that the language has taken on an aspect of uncertainty about the timing – it could be sooner or it could be later ('It may be in the second watch he comes, or in the third...'). What began to emerge was an attitude that if we don't know when the Parousia will come, then we need to live 'in anticipation' of it. We need to live as *if* the Parousia were imminent. So, rather than waiting for the kingdom of God to be delivered, we must live our lives in such a way as to bring about the kingdom; to draw the kingdom into the present. Jesus often spoke of the kingdom as both near and not yet. If we all live the values of the kingdom, by our very actions we bring the kingdom into being. This gives an incredible significance to the way we choose to live our lives. If we 'invest' in the kingdom by living out the values of the kingdom and living in expectation of the Parousia, then that 'investment' is its own reward. Jesus responds to Peter's questioning the gospel by speaking about a steward acting either faithfully and with wisdom or alternatively irresponsibly and recklessly. A steward is one who stands in the place of the master during the master's absence – taking on the duties, responsibilities and authority of the master. That's exactly what Christian people are called to do: become stewards who act in the place of Jesus as we await his return. As the prayer of St Teresa of Avila says, 'Christ has no body now on earth but yours'.

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Wed 14th Aug St Maximillian Mary Kolbe

Thur 15th Aug The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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: csombekesjb@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.

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C
10th & 11th August, 2019

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently

Frank Cassar.



And those who we remember at this time:
Janice Motteram, Adriana Warmerdam, Maria Veltri Waldemar Leos.

The sick: Noel McNamara, Christopher Windebank, Giuseppina Zarro, 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, Beryl Turner, Michael Byrne, Ann Jayawardena, Mary Edmunds, Anabelyn Malabed, 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
When: Each First Saturday of the Month at 10.30am.
Where: 37 Lane Road, FTG. All are welcome.
Contact: Pauline Barlow on 9758 5106.

FRIENDSHIP GATHERING: is on Thursdays between 10am and 12.30pm in the Parish Hall. Ladies and Gentlemen welcome anytime to have a cuppa and a chat.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP meet at 10am each Tuesday for a 10.15am start, in the Parish Hall. Come and enjoy praise & worship, inspiring teaching and prayer ministry. This week (13th August) we finish with a Book Sale. All warmly welcome. Enquiries: Tineke 97631096, or: Judy 9752 2986.

MOTHERS' PRAYERS will not be on this coming Tuesday, but will meet again on Tuesday 20th August at 9am–10am in the Parish Centre. For further enquiries, please contact the Parish Office.

MELBOURNE CATHOLIC MAGAZINE The August issue is available in the church foyer for \$4 a copy

FUNERAL MASS – The Funeral Mass for the late Frank Cassar will be celebrated here at St John's Church on Wednesday 14th August, at 11am – Rosary will be recited prior to Mass at 10.30am

FR ALAN'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION CELEBRATION & FAREWELL – You are invited to attend a **Mass of Thanksgiving at 7pm on Tuesday 20th August**, to celebrate Fr Alan's 25th



Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood. Following Mass you are invited over to our School Hall for supper, where we'll also have the opportunity to both thank and farewell Fr Alan, as he commences his annual leave on 2nd September, and subsequently prepares to take up his new appointment at Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Cheltenham, on the 2nd October. There will be some words of appreciation and a presentation made.

What might you be able to do to contribute or assist?

- Please consider bringing along a plate of finger food to share. The hall will be open between 5.45pm – 6.45pm for any food to be dropped in.
- This weekend, you'll find envelopes available on the church pews. These are available for your use, should you wish to contribute towards Fr Alan's farewell gift. Simply drop your envelope in the collection basket at Mass, or alternatively, drop your envelope into the Sacristy, or the Parish Office.
- A book to sign or leave a message will be available in the hall on the night, and will also be available at the back of the church before and after all Masses on the following weekend of 24th / 25th August.
- Any assistance with the set up and clean up, and help during the gathering in the hall, would also be greatly appreciated.

For further information, or to assist with planning, please contact Sue Nicholls on: 9762 8640, or the Parish Office on: 9758 1029.

FAMILY GROUPS ANNIVERSARY MASS all are invited to celebrate the Anniversary of Family Groups on **Sunday, 18th August at 11am Mass**. Family Groups were established in this Parish 31 years ago with the aim to build an extended family atmosphere within our Christian community and by getting to know other members of our parish to be able to support one another. If you are new to the Parish and would like to join up with an existing Family Group in your street or area please contact John and Sue on 9758 2902



CATHOLIC CARE ANNUAL APPEAL THIS WEEKEND 10th / 11th AUGUST – This Church Appeal is CatholicCare's major annual fundraiser. Please donate generously to help CatholicCare provide counselling services to individuals and families, assistance to couples preparing for marriage, support for newly-arrived refugees, and help for families who are struggling with alcohol or other drug dependencies.

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION THURSDAY 15th AUGUST
Holy Day of Obligation
Masses will be celebrated at **9.15am** and at **7pm**.

CHRISTIAN BOOK SALE Second and final week to obtain very good quality books on Tuesday 13th August at 12.15pm in the Parish hall - some brand new and some second-hand from a wide range of authors on various topics. The sale is a fundraiser, to assist CCR to help Catholic Girls to attend a seminar in New Zealand. Come & browse, & buy a book or maybe two.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT & CARPARK NEWS the school building works have now come to completion, and the staff & students of St John's Primary have moved in and are enjoying the new classrooms and work areas. As a result, the upper carpark is once again available for parking. Please be sure to park your vehicle within the marked bays, for optimum use of the space. We are most grateful for your understanding and support over the construction period.

THE PILGRIM STATUTE OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA will be at St Luke's Parish located at 1 Ipswich Court Wantirna from Saturday 10th August until Friday 16th August. There will be Rosary at 8.30am on Monday and Tuesday, and on Wednesday 14th August Mass at 7pm, Exposition, Rosary at 8pm followed by Benediction. All welcome.

| ROSTERS: Mon 12 th Aug to Sun 18 th August | |
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| Flowers | Marg H & Judy G |
| Linen | Sue N |
| Welcomers | 6pm: Myra N ; Help needed please 9am: Marg & Adrian & Anastasia A 11am: Patrick S & Coral M |
| Lectors | 6pm: Rebecca L 9am: Peter F 11am: Trish M |
| Counters | Peter & Dawn, George & Genevieve |
| Gardening | Patrick S & Harry R |