

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

66:18-21

The Lord says this: I am coming to gather the nations of every language. They shall come to witness my glory. I will give them a sign and send some of their survivors to the nations: to Tarshish, Put, Lud, Moshech, Rosh, Tubal, and Javan, to the distant islands that have never heard of me or seen my glory. They will proclaim my glory to the nations. As an offering to the Lord they will bring all your brothers, on horses, in chariots, in litters, on mules, on dromedaries, from all the nations to my holy mountain in Jerusalem, says the Lord, like Israelites bringing oblations in clean vessels to the Temple of the Lord. And of some of them I will make priests and Levites, says the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/. Go out to all the world
and tell the Good News.*

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

12:5-7, 11-13

Have you forgotten that encouraging text in which you are addressed as sons? My son, when the Lord corrects you, do not treat it lightly; but do not get discouraged when he reprimands you. For the Lord trains the ones that he loves and he punishes all those that he acknowledges as his sons. Suffering is part of your training; God is treating you as his sons. Has there ever been any son whose father did not train him? Of course, any punishment is most painful at the time, and far from pleasant; but later, in those on whom it has been used, it bears fruit in peace and goodness. So hold up your limp arms and steady your trembling knees and smooth out the path you tread; then the injured limb will not be wrenched, it will grow strong again.

The Word of the Lord.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

*I am the way, the truth, and the life,
says the Lord;
no one comes to the Father,
except through me.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
13:22-30*

Through towns and villages Jesus went teaching, making his way to Jerusalem. Someone said to him, 'Sir, will there be only a few saved?' He said to them, 'Try your best to enter by the narrow door, because, I tell you, many will try to enter and will not succeed.

'Once the master of the house has got up and locked the door, you may find yourself knocking on the door, saying, "Lord, open to us" but he will answer, "I do not know where you come from." Then you will find yourself saying, "We once ate and drank in your company; you taught in our streets" but he will reply, "I do not know where you come from. Away from me, all you wicked men!"

'Then there will be weeping and grinding of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves turned outside. And men from east and west, from north and south, will come to take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God.

'Yes, there are those now last who will be first, and those now first who will be last.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

FOCUS ON THE WORD.

This week's gospel passage picks up one of the major themes that runs throughout the gospel of Luke: the message of salvation is not reserved exclusively for the Jews, but is for all people; Jew and Gentile alike. Richard Leonard SJ says "Salvation has, rightly, always been the big issue. Who was going to make it, how it was going to happen and when would Christ return in glory have captured the imagination of each generation of believers." The early Christians took comfort from saying, that in the salvation race, the Jews might have started as the favourites, but they had missed the start and were now coming last. It is Church teaching now that our relationship to all people who share the best of our values must be characterised by acceptance, collaboration, dialogue and charity. It is God, not us, who does the saving and the judging.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

Knox Deanery

19 Forest Road, Ferntree Gully, 3156

Phone: 9758 1029

Email: office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C

24th & 25th August, 2019

National Day for Migrants & Refugees

*O God of the nations,
You have invited people
of every race and tongue
to the banquet of Your kingdom.
May all who are called to a place at Your
table come by the narrow way
to the unending feast of life.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



PERMANENT DIACONATE This weekend Deacon Peter Stringfellow will speak about the role of the Permanent Deacon, a God-given calling to ordained ministry, open to married and single men, in the service of the liturgy, the Word, and charity. Would you like to know more about the Permanent Diaconate? – you'll find information, readings and answers to questions at : cam.org.au/permanent-diaconate (Archdiocese of Melbourne website), and ausdeacons.org.au (Official diaconate website for Australia). Alternatively speak with Deacon Peter or call the Office of the Permanent Diaconate on 03 9412 3357 or email diaconate@cam.org.au.

PARISH OFFICE Please note the Parish Office will be closed for the morning of Thursday, 29th August, to allow staff to attend a workshop on 'Safeguarding Children and Young People'. The Office will be open from 1.30pm-3pm.

EMERGENCY FLOOD RELIEF heavy monsoon rains in the past weeks have caused extensive damage in several countries across Asia. Funds are urgently required to provide support and emergency relief for locals. If you can help with a donation, call 9377 6014 or go to the website: www.salesianmissionsaustralia.org.au Thank-you. – Salesian Missions Australia.

PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FOUNDATION ANNUAL FATHERS DAY APPEAL next weekend. Please support our priests who have served actively and tirelessly in the Archdiocese, and are living in retirement. Caring for those who cared.

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Tues 27th Aug St Monica

Wed 28th Aug St Augustine

Thur 29th Aug The Passion of St John the Baptist

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.

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C
24th & 25th August, 2019
National Day for Migrants & Refugees

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently
Pasquale Schiavone (Italy), Wilfred Meade.



And those who we remember at this time:
Margarete Felicetti, Jack Kolmus, Bartolomina Marotti, Chris Smolders, Graeme Milburn, Nancy Penna and Celeste Lizza.

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. All welcome. Enquiries: Tineke 97631096, or: Judy 9752 2986.

MOTHERS' PRAYERS 9am–10am Meet each Tuesday (during school terms) in the Parish Centre. For enquiries, contact the Parish office on 9758 1029.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS MAGAZINE (Spring Edition) is available for Free on the trolleys.

Dear Friends,
Firstly, thank you all most sincerely for the warm-hearted, generous, and very kind farewell many of you gave me at last Tuesday evening's Mass, in which I also celebrated the 25th anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood. I was moved to hear so many of you say how pleasing it was for you to be there. Thank you for the beautiful gift of the chasuble and embroidered stole (priest's vestment), and for your most generous monetary gift, which truly stunned me. And to the many others, who handed me cards with many thoughtful words and even more money or gifts, you have been so very generous. Thank you one and all, and a special thank you to the Parish Staff, to the members of the Parish Pastoral Group, to staff members of both St John the Baptist School and St Joseph's College, to those who spoke with such kindness, and to the many generous and talented volunteers who assisted with the preparation for, and the celebration of last Tuesday evening's liturgy, and with the gathering in the Hall afterwards. I was genuinely overwhelmed by the warmth and care you've shown to me, and I'd like you to know just how appreciative I'll remain, for such a wonderful and memorable evening, and of course, for the many blessings I've received over the last 14 years.

Good news! We have received news of an appointment to St John the Baptist! The Archbishop will be appointing **Fr Thomas Kuruvila** as Administrator of the parish, who'll take up his new appointment in the first week of October. Thomas who was ordained in 2005, is currently the Assistant Priest at St Monica's, Moonee Ponds, having held prior appointments at St Peter's, Clayton for three years (which included chaplaincy at Monash Hospital), and at St Martin de Porres', Laverton, for the few years before that. I hope you'll extend the same generous welcome to Thomas, as the one you extended to me, when I arrived back in 2005. I wish him all the best, and that he too may share in the many blessings I, and my brother priests, who've served here at St John's, have enjoyed.

As many of you are aware, I'll be heading off for my (pre-arranged) annual leave on 2nd September, prior to beginning my appointment at Cheltenham, on the 2nd October. I'm very grateful to the Salesian community at Lysterfield for their willingness to help out with the Masses here in my absence. Effectively, my last weekend in the parish will be next weekend, the 31st August / 1st September, and it's my hope that I'll have the opportunity to say goodbye to most of you in person. As I mentioned in my homily last Tuesday evening, I have learnt that priesthood is not so much given, as received, over time. As a gift, the experience of priesthood is received from those to whom we minister, from those amongst whom we discover our identity as priests, and from those who invite our priesthood to be realised. And my priesthood, in particular, has and is received from a community in whom it is discovered and recognised. In other words, I continue to discover my priesthood in yours, and for this I will always be grateful. Thank you and again I wish you all every blessing for the future.

- Fr Alan

BAPTISMS – We offer our congratulations to **Zachariah Johnston** son of Paul & Emily, who will be baptised this weekend: The Church of God welcomes you with great joy 

FR ALAN'S 25th ANNIVERSARY SIGNATURE BOOK this weekend will be the last opportunity to add to the signature book by either signing or leaving a message for Fr Alan. The book will be available at the back of the church before and after all Masses this weekend

THANK-YOU FROM CATHOLICCARE A big thank you for your generous donations to this appeal. Total donations amounted to **\$1249.30**.

ALL HEARTS AFIRE! A PATH TO MODERN SAINTHOOD Join us for a 6 week small-group retreat based on the popular book by Fr. Michael Gaitley MIC. This is one path to being a modern day saint. We say a prayer a day, focusing on the life of 4 saints: Louis de Montfort, Maximilian Kolbe, Mother Teresa, and John Paul II. This can be done in the comfort of your home. We meet once a week to watch a 30 minute video by Fr Gaitley and have a discussion. The 33 days start on the 4th Sept and end on 7th October. Information about the retreat can be found on the website at: www.allheartsafire.org/leaders/33-days-to-morning-glory-resources.html If you are interested please contact Phuong Ph.: 9758 1031.



KEEN TO PLAY TENNIS? The Thursday Morning Ladies Tennis Team would welcome new members. All enquires please call Beth on 0423 759 850

SLAMS presents: *High Fidelity* a musical based on the famous novel by Nick Hornby. Record store owner Rob re-examines his previous relationships. Performances run from 13th September to 21st September 8pm with one Matinee at 2pm on Sept 15th. **Venue:** Knox Community Arts Centre, Bayswater. For more information see the website at: www.slams.org.au or Ph.: 0412 605 182

ROSTERS: Mon 26 th Aug to Sun 1 st September	
Flowers	Marg H & Ange C
Linen	Jean B
Welcomers	6pm: Myra N, Help Needed! 9am: Peter C, Neil & Lorraine, Johanna C 11am: Tony & Christine E
Lectors	6pm: Phuong B 9am: Caroline Q 11am: Peter J
Counters	Tony B & Steph H
Gardening	Tom N & Chris M