

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Wisdom 9:13-18

What man can know the intentions of God? Who can divine the will of the Lord? The reasonings of mortals are unsure and our intentions unstable; for a perishable body presses down the soul, and this tent of clay weighs down the teeming mind. It is hard enough for us to work out what is on earth, laborious to know what lies within our reach; who, then, can discover what is in the heavens? As for your intention, who could have learnt it, had you not granted Wisdom and sent your holy spirit from above? Thus have the paths of those on earth been straightened and men been taught what pleases you, and saved, by Wisdom.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/. In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Philemon 9-10, 12-17

This is Paul writing, an old man now and, what is more, still a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for a child of mine, whose father I became while wearing these chains: I mean Onesimus. I am sending him back to you, and with him – I could say – a part of my own self. I should have liked to keep him with me; he could have been a substitute for you, to help me while I am in the chains that the Good News has brought me. However, I did not want to do anything without your consent; it would have been forcing your act of kindness, which should be spontaneous. I know you have been deprived of Onesimus for a time, but it was only so that you could have him back for ever, not as a slave any more, but something much better than a slave, a dear brother; especially dear to me, but how much more to you, as a blood-brother as well as a brother in the Lord. So if all that we have in common means anything to you, welcome him as you would me.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!
Let your face shine on your servant,
and teach me your laws.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 14:25-33

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

'And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying, "Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish." Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



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

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C

7th & 8th September, 2019

Child Protection Sunday

*God of mercy,
Jesus showed us how much
You really love us,
by dying on the cross for our sake.
Give us the generosity to follow him,
and to live in service of others.
We ask this through
Christ our Lord. Amen.*



FOCUS ON THE WORD

'Hate' is an emotive and extremely harsh word in our society. In its gospel context, the word is not used as an opposite of 'love' but as an indication of deserving of less significance than another thing. So the teaching about hating father, mother, etc can be read as saying that being a disciple of Jesus must take precedence over everything else, even family. In 1st Century culture, family was foremost above everything else; it was the very fibre that held society together. Jesus is saying that discipleship must be put above even that which is most important and most intrinsic to life in this world. That is why he goes on to tell the two stories about the need to count the cost before undertaking an important venture. He makes clear to his listeners that discipleship is more important than anything else and that there are huge costs associated with taking it on. A believer has to literally 'count the cost' of what it will mean to place discipleship above family, friendships, career, politics and even life itself. Jesus makes no apologies for the fact that what he is asking is incredibly demanding. Our 'possessions' are all those things – material, emotional, and psychological – that we cling to and that we think give us our identity and status. Jesus called for a radical reinterpretation of status and position. He tells his listeners that they cannot truly be disciples if they continue to cling to those things that are considered important in this world. They have to surrender the things that bind them to this world's ideas of status and position before they can fully embrace the kingdom view of the world. As Jesus said, you have to really count the cost! © Greg Sunter

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Mon 9 th Sept	St Peter Claver	Thurs 12 th Sept	The Most Holy Name of Mary
Fri 13 th Sept	St John Chrysostom	Sat 14 th Sept	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

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.

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C
7th & 8th September, 2019
CHILD PROTECTION SUNDAY

PRAYING FOR...
All who have died recently
Luigia (Gena) Colella, Sabina Parrello.



And those who we remember at this time:
Martina Galang, Lucy Rainsford, Kellie Cecchin, Emmanuel Deidun, Alfea Cursaro, John Brotto, Margaret Hill, Carmine Mazzone, Maureen Addicott, Leno Vindi.

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 will take a break in order to participate in the **Path to modern sainthood** small-group retreat. The 33 day retreat will 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 T: 9758 1031.

FUNERAL MASS – The Funeral Mass for the late **Sabina Parrella** will be celebrated here at St John's Church on Wednesday 11th September, at 11am – Rosary will be recited prior to Mass at 10.30am.

FUNERAL MASS – The Funeral Mass for the late **Luigia (Gena) Colella** will be celebrated here at St John's Church on Friday 13th September, at 11am – Rosary will be recited prior to Mass at 10.30am.

LECTORS' ROSTER A new lectors' roster for the period October - December 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 20th September (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 28th/29th September. All enquires please contact Stephanie email: smhorgen@gmail.com T: 9758 5497

POWER DRIVE AUTOMOTIVE SJB PARENTS & FRIENDS FUNDRAISER- Where is the spare wheel on my car? - How do I check & top up the oil? - Where do I fill up the wind screen wiper water?



If you would like to know this, and more, book your slot at the Power Drive Automotive SJB Fundraiser, on Sunday 15th September. You'll have a chance to inspect your vehicle whilst it's up on the hoist, receive a brake test report AND they'll replace your number plate mounting screws with anti-theft screws! All this, and only \$10 per vehicle!! Full details can be found in the yellow forms on the trolleys. Drop your completed forms in to the school office, or email them to: Parentsandfriends@sjferntreegully.catholic.edu.au

CAR BOOT SALE The St John the Baptist Primary School P&F have joined in with garagesaletrail.com.au to put secondhand first on Saturday 19th October, by hosting another car boot sale. Get your Marie Kondo on (again!) have a spring clean, and make yourself some extra \$\$\$ Early-bird stalls (booked / paid by 30th September) \$20; drive in on the day \$25 Book at the school office, call Ange 0428 415 928 or email parentsandfriends@sjferntreegully.catholic.edu.au

EXCELSIS CONCERT -JUBILATE DEO come and enjoy an exciting performance of diverse and beautiful choral pieces in Deakin Edge at Federation Square. 2 Concerts – 2.30pm and 7.30pm on Saturday 14th September, 2019. Cost \$A\$25/Conc.\$20. Bookings- www.trybooking.com/BEITP

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES Please note there will be **no weekday mass on Tuesday night or Thursday Morning** during Fr Alan's leave. We are most grateful to the visiting Salesian Priests who will celebrate Mass on Wednesday's at 9.15am and Friday's at 11am.

BAPTISMS – We offer our congratulations to **Harper Lawson** daughter of Matthew & Teri Lawson, and **Grace Black** daughter of Michael & Natalie Black who are to be baptised this weekend: The Church of God welcomes you with great joy!



CHILD PROTECTION SUNDAY this weekend, the Catholic Church in Australia marks Child Protection Sunday, on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. The Parish of St John the Baptist Ferntree Gully and the Diocese of Melbourne are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and vulnerable people in our community. May our message be that child protection and the dignity of every person is the responsibility of every adult. You can find out more about the Church's work in this area at: www.catholic.org.au/responseandprevention

A NOTE OF THANKS FROM CARITAS Dear people of the Archdiocese of Melbourne, Thank you for the whole hearted response you gave to the Caritas Australia Project Compassion 2019 appeal. Through parishes, schools and individual contributions you all donated \$1,528,032 to the appeal – a major contribution to supporting people in need in the many places where Caritas Australia supports programs. Across Australia, the appeal raised around \$10.8 million, money that enables programs that give people hope. Thanks again for your help in enabling Caritas Australia to be the gospel in action. – (Deacon) Jim Curtain, Caritas Australia Diocesan Director.



ROSTERS: Mon 9 th to Sun 15 th September	
Flowers	Carole & Lia
Linen	Carole D
Welcomers	6pm Myra N 9am: Marg & Adrian D, Anastasia A 11am: Patrick S & Coral M
Lectors	6pm: Ignatius L 9am: Gordon V 11am: Trish M
Counters	Bryon & Steph
Gardening	Tom N & Chris M