

## FIRST READING

*A reading from the book of Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14*

The Lord spoke to Moses, 'Go down now, because your people whom you brought out of Egypt have apostatised. They have been quick to leave the way I marked out for them; they have made themselves a calf of molten metal and have worshipped it and offered it sacrifice. "Here is your God, Israel," they have cried, "who brought you up from the land of Egypt!" I can see how headstrong these people are! Leave me, now, my wrath shall blaze out against them and devour them; of you, however, I will make a great nation.'

But Moses pleaded with the Lord his God. 'Lord,' he said, 'why should your wrath blaze out against this people of yours whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with arm outstretched and mighty hand? Remember Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, your servants to whom by your own self you swore and made this promise: I will make your offspring as many as the stars of heaven, and all this land which I promised I will give to your descendants, and it shall be their heritage for ever.' So the Lord relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/. I will rise and go to my father*

## SECOND READING

*A reading from the first letter of St Paul to Timothy 1:12-17*

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, and who judged me faithful enough to call me into his service even though I used to be a blasphemer and did all I could to injure and discredit the faith. Mercy, however, was shown me, because until I became a believer I had been acting in ignorance; and the grace of our Lord filled me with faith and with the love that is in Christ Jesus. Here is a saying that you can rely on and nobody should doubt: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. I myself am the greatest of them; and if mercy has been shown to me, it is because Jesus Christ meant to make me the greatest evidence of his inexhaustible patience for all the other people who

would later have to trust in him to come to eternal life. To the eternal King, the undying, invisible and only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*God was in Christ to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.*

*Alleluia!*

## GOSPEL

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 15:1-10*

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:

'What man among you with a hundred sheep, losing one, would not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the missing one till he found it? And when he found it, would he not joyfully take it on his shoulders and then, when he got home, call together his friends and neighbours? "Rejoice with me," he would say "I have found my sheep that was lost." In the same way, I tell you, there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner than over ninety-nine virtuous men who have no need of repentance.

'Or again, what woman with ten drachmas would not, if she lost one, light a lamp and sweep out the house and search thoroughly till she found it? And then, when she had found it, call together her friends and neighbours? "Rejoice with me," she would say "I have found the drachma I lost." In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing among the angels of God over one repentant sinner.'

*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**

**24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C**

**14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2019**

**Social Services Sunday**

*Undaunted You seek the lost, O God,  
exultant You bring home the found.  
Touch our hearts with grateful wonder  
at the tenderness of Your forbearing love.  
Grant us delight in the mercy  
that has found us, and bring all to rejoice  
at the feast of forgiveness.*

*We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen*



## FOCUS ON THE WORD

The gospel passage this week begins with an accusation that Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. This is the gravest social accusation one could level at another because who you ate with was a reflection of your own status. To welcome sinners and to eat with them was to effectively become one of them yourself. In response to this accusation, rather than mounting an argument, the gospel writer has Jesus tell three parables about the lost being found. The answer to the accusation, is that those dismissed as 'sinners' are the 'lost' who will be celebrated with extravagant rejoicing when they have been 'found' again through their acceptance of the message of Jesus. All three parables display great folly. What shepherd would leave 99 of his sheep in the wilderness to go in search of just one? Similarly what woman is going to reveal to her friends how poverty-stricken she really is by inviting them to rejoice with her at the finding of one lost drachma – the least valuable of coins. When we come to the father rejoicing at his son's return, this too would have seemed a ridiculous folly. Because of his actions, the son completely shamed himself and his father. The father's expected and justified response would have been to turn his back on his son and banish him forever. To welcome him back would have been unthinkable to Jesus' audience. In an echo of God's ridiculous and unbounded loving forgiveness, the father welcomes his son with open arms and reclaims him as his own.

© Greg Sunter In summing up, Brendan Byrne SJ, tells us that "taken together, the parables show that the chief issue at stake is not so much sin and its forgiveness but the loss and recovery of human beings, who are so precious in God's sight. The whole mission of Jesus is to reclaim human lives for God and to show people how much God values them by publicly celebrating that reclamation."

## FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

*Mon 16<sup>th</sup> Sept St Cornelius, and St Cyprian*

*Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> Sept St Robert Bellarmine*

*Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> Sept St Januarius*

*Fri 20<sup>th</sup> Sept St Andrew Kim Tae-gon & St Paul Chong Ha-sang*

***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 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.

**24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C**  
**14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2019**  
**Social Services Sunday**

**PRAYING FOR...**

*All who have died recently*  
Fr Burns Huggan PE



*And those who we remember at this time:*  
Noe Judit, Florence Silva, Max Gottwald, Valentina Parente, Joseph Phong Tran, Phaolo Hien, Thelma Crocker, Rosa Lotrionte, Grace Gamley, Teresa Johnson.

*The sick:* Cosimo Petracca, 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 7<sup>th</sup> October. Information about the retreat can be found on the website at: [www.allheartsafire.org/leaders/33-days-to-morning-glory-resources.html](http://www.allheartsafire.org/leaders/33-days-to-morning-glory-resources.html) If you are interested please contact Phuong T: 9758 1031.

**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 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> September. All enquires please contact Stephanie email: smhorgen@gmail.com T: 9758 5497

**CAR BOOT SALE** the St John the Baptist Primary School P&F have joined in with [garagesaletrail.com.au](http://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 30<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:parentsandfriends@sjferntreegully.catholic.edu.au)

**PARISHES COOPERATING TO PROVIDE WINTER SHELTER FORUM** Catholic Social Services Victoria is hosting a forum to learn from those parishes and groups of churches that are providing shelter for people sleeping rough during winter. The aim is to resource more parishes to participate during the 2020 winter. This will take place on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September, 6pm for 6.30pm – 8.30pm in the Cathedral Room of the Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert Street, East Melbourne. The Cost: \$20 Enquiries: [adrian.foley@css.org.au](mailto:adrian.foley@css.org.au)

**MATER CHRISTI COLLEGE** will be running a School tour on Sunday 13th October at 10.00am. Apply now for  enrolments in 2021 and 2022. Visit [materchristi.edu.au](http://materchristi.edu.au) for tour and scholarship information.

**FLEETWOOD MAX" - AMAZING TRIBUTE TO THE MUSIC OF FLEETWOOD MAC!** You can provide much needed support to the life-saving work of the *"Lifeboat Foundation"* (for survivors of church-related sexual abuse) by attending (with many friends and family!) this fantastic performance. You won't pick the difference between this amazing band and the "original" "Fleetwood Mac" (who performed recently at Rod Laver Arena this week). Where? **Wheeler Auditorium, Nazareth College, Manning Drive, Noble Park North. Tickets: \$50. On Saturday, Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm. Tickets available online at: [www.trybooking.com/begut](http://www.trybooking.com/begut), or by email request to: [office@stsimonsparish.com.au](mailto:office@stsimonsparish.com.au)**

**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 11.00am.

**PARENTS & FRIENDS SAUSAGE SIZZLE** thank you to all our helpers on Saturday, and all who supported us by buying a sausage or two. Despite the weather we managed to sell 74kg of sausages and raised another \$1,675! Well done all!

**SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY** is recognised nationally on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2019, however, you are advised in the Archdiocese of Melbourne that **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2019 is acknowledged as Social Services Sunday**. On this day we are invited to acknowledge and pray for all the Catholic social services agencies across the archdiocese that offer professional and volunteer services and support to those most needy and marginalised in our society. More information and support possibilities can be found at [www.css.org.au](http://www.css.org.au)

**THE HERO'S JOURNEY** on this day, you will be invited to question your own Journey, to discern the presence of the Hero within, however unlikely that may appear at first. This Day will be held at Heart of Life in Box Hill and facilitated by a qualified Clinical Psychologist/Spiritual Director on Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> September 2019 from 10.00 am – 4.00pm. Cost \$60. Enquiries and bookings can be made by reply email: [holsc@bigpond.com](mailto:holsc@bigpond.com) or T 9890 1101 or see the website at : [www.heartoflife.melbourne](http://www.heartoflife.melbourne).

**CATHOLIC MAN BREAKFAST SERIES** takes place on Friday 20th September 2019 and features Fr Leo Patalinhug. Cost is \$50 with group discounts available. The time is strictly 7.00am – 9.00am. There is a new venue being the Athenaeum Club, 87 Collins St Melbourne (not the Athenaeum Theatre) His talk will be "be a man and feed your family".

ROSTERS: Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> to Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup> September	
<b>Flowers</b>	Sue N
<b>Linen</b>	Laurel S
<b>Welcomers</b>	6pm Sue N & Anna M 9am: Rosa L & Terry & Laurel S 11am: Gina M & Pat O'Brien
<b>Lectors</b>	6pm: Rebecca L 9am: Pamela E 11am: Trish M
<b>Counters</b>	Bryon & Steph
<b>Gardening</b>	Tom N & Chris M