

## FIRST READING

*A reading from the prophet Amos 6:1, 4-7*

The almighty Lord says this:  
Woe to those ensconced so snugly in Zion and to those who feel so safe on the mountain of Samaria. Lying on ivory beds and sprawling on their divans, they dine on lambs from the flock, and stall-fattened veal; they bawl to the sound of the harp, they invent new instruments of music like David, they drink wine by the bowlful, and use the finest oil for anointing themselves, but about the ruin of Joseph they do not care at all. That is why they will be the first to be exiled; the sprawlers' revelry is over.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/. Praise the Lord, my soul!*

## SECOND READING

*A reading from the first letter of St Paul to Timothy 6:11-16*

As a man dedicated to God, you must aim to be saintly and religious, filled with faith and love, patient and gentle. Fight the good fight of the faith and win for yourself the eternal life to which you were called when you made your profession and spoke up for the truth in front of many witnesses. Now, before God the source of all life and before Jesus Christ, who spoke up as a witness for the truth in front of Pontius Pilate, I put to you the duty of doing all that you have been told, with no faults or failures, until the Appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who at the due time will be revealed by God, the blessed and only Ruler of all, the King of kings and the Lord of lords, who alone is immortal, whose home is in inaccessible light, whom no man has seen and no man is able to see: to him be honour and everlasting power. Amen.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Jesus Christ was rich but he became poor,  
to make you rich out of his poverty.*

*Alleluia!*

## GOSPEL

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 16:19-31*

Jesus said to the Pharisees: 'There was a rich man who used to dress in purple and fine linen and feast magnificently every day. And at his gate there lay a poor man called Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to fill himself with the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. Dogs even came and licked his sores. Now the poor man died and was carried away by angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried.

'In his torment in Hades he looked up and saw Abraham a long way off with Lazarus in his bosom. So he cried out, "Father Abraham, pity me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames." "My son," Abraham replied "remember that during your life good things come your way, just as bad things came the way of Lazarus. Now he is being comforted here while you are in agony. But that is not all: between us and you a great gulf has been fixed, to stop anyone, if he wanted to, crossing from our side to yours, and to stop any crossing from your side to ours."

'The rich man replied, "Father, I beg you then to send Lazarus to my father's house, since I have five brothers, to give them warning, so that they do not come to this place of torment too." "They have Moses and the prophets," said Abraham "let them listen to them." "Ah no, father Abraham," said the rich man "but if someone comes to them from the dead, they will repent." Then Abraham said to him, "If they will not listen either to Moses or to the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead."

*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**

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

**28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2019**

*O God of justice,  
hear our cry and save us.  
Make us heed Your Word  
to the prophets;  
rouse us to the demand of the gospel,  
and impel us to carry it out.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



## FOCUS ON THE WORD

In the Old Testament, it is made very clear that how well the people are living in relationship with God is measured by how well the very least in the society are being treated. The theme continues then into today's gospel passage. The rich man lives in extravagant luxury but ignores the plight of Lazarus who is starving at his door. It's easy to be distracted by 'having' and forget to pay attention to 'being'. There is no suggestion in the gospel passage that the rich man is in any way wicked or sinful, other than his lack of attention to the needs of one sitting at his gate. In the eyes of his neighbours, he was probably a very upright and just man, fulfilling all the purity requirements of his faith. But his focus of attention was on himself and not others. He lacked the compassion and mellowness of heart that Jesus reminded people was expected by God. The poor man, Lazarus, is described as sitting at the gate of the rich man. We have a picture of Lazarus sitting on the outside looking in at all that he cannot have. Gates are used both literally and metaphorically throughout the gospel of Luke. In the cities and towns of Palestine, gates marked a physical barrier between those who were 'in' and those who were 'out'. But they also marked the boundaries of society. Those who were permitted to sleep within the walls were the acceptable of society. Those who were shut outside the gates and outside the city of an evening were the unacceptable. When the rich man asks that Lazarus be sent back to life to warn others of the fate that awaits them, Abraham reminds him that the people of Israel have had a long line of prophets calling them back to faithfulness but their message has been ignored.. Q. Is the man condemned to Hades for being rich or for something else? Q. If a society is measured by its treatment of the poorest, how would you rate our country? © Greg Sunter.

## FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Mon 30<sup>th</sup> Sept: St. Jerome

Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct: The Holy Guardian Angels

Tues 1<sup>st</sup> Oct: St Therese of the Child Jesus

Fri 4<sup>th</sup> Oct: St. Francis of Assisi

*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.

**26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C**  
**28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2019**

**PRAYING FOR...**

*All who have died recently*  
Pasquale Lotrionte



*And those who we remember at this time:*  
Concetta Rodolico, Raymond Marshall, Jim Healey.

*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 Hutton, 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 to participate in small-group retreat. Ending on 7<sup>th</sup> October. For further information please contact Phuong T: 9758 1031.

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARY** *Congratulations to Johanna & Raul Chavez* who celebrate their 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this weekend, by renewing their vows.



**FUNERAL MASS** The Funeral Mass for the late Pasquale Lotrionte will be celebrated here at St John's Church on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September, at 11am – Rosary will be recited prior to Mass at 10.30am

**LECTOR'S ROSTER** The new lector's roster has been completed and is ready for collection in the foyer of the church. All lectors are asked to please pick up your roster after Mass.

**WELCOMER'S ROSTER** A new welcomer's roster is being prepared, and we are looking for more people to assist in this vital role. A welcomer's primary duty is to warmly greet people as they arrive, to hand out a bulletin, to be friendly and offer a smile! If you feel that you would like to be part of this ministry, please contact the Parish Office now to register your interest.

**CAR BOOT SALE** is planned for Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October. 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; or drive in on the day \$25 Email: parentsandfriends@sjferntreegully.catholic.edu.au or call Ange on 0428 415 928



**HELP WITH TRANSPORTATION TO MASS** We have received a request for assistance to transport an elderly lady living in the vicinity of Parkview Dr Ferntree Gully, to 9am Mass on Sundays. If you live in this area, and would be willing to assist with transportation to and from 9am Mass, please contact the Parish Office, or see Sue in the Sacristy. Thank you

**MEN'S RETREAT 2019** Led by Fr Bruno Carrera.. Come and enjoy a weekend of input, reflection, sharing, prayer and fellowship at St Paul's Missionary College, 7 Norton La Wantirna South, from. 7.30pm on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> Oct, till 3.00pm on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> Oct. For more information contact Michael Ballek on T 0433 196 549 Or email: michaelballek@gmail.com

**"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, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm. Tickets available online at: www.trybooking.com/begut, or by email request to: 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 Wednesdays at 9.15am and Fridays at 11.00am.

**THE AUSTRALIAN BISHOPS' SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT FOR 2019-20** has been released. This year's statement is titled: *'Making it Real: Genuine human encounter in our digital world'*. It shares Pope Francis' challenge to us to 'boldly become citizens of the digital world'. It points out that we are called, not just to be inhabitants of this world, but active citizens shaping it. For further details about the Social Justice Statement, visit the website at www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au or call (02) 8306 3499 You can order the Statement online at: bit.ly/socialjusticeshop Follow us on Facebook: @socialjusticeACBC or Twitter: @JusticeCatholic

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE** please note that the Parish Office will be closed on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October, re-opening on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 9.00am.

**SAVE THE DATE: TRIVIA NIGHT** St John the Baptist Social Justice Group will be hosting a Trivia Night on the 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2019, to raise funds for their work with: "Opening the Doors Foundation" who assist in helping Aboriginal children stay at school and The Columban Brothers' Partnership Scheme, in the Philippines More information to follow in coming weeks.

**CELEBRATE LIFE** A concert by Catholic Artisans is to be held at 7.30pm on 11<sup>th</sup> October featuring Fr David Lemewu & Georga Byrne & Alyssa Agius whose song hit #5 in the charts of Australian Christian music. This will be a Not For Profit fundraiser. Don't miss out on the early bird rates for this concert by these most talented artists. For more info go to: www.trybooking.com/BEVLD or call T 0413398528 or email: cogtheatregroup@gmail.com

ROSTERS: Mon 30 <sup>th</sup> Sept to Sun 6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	
<b>Flowers</b>	Ann P & Connie B
<b>Linen</b>	Alvi M
<b>Welcomers</b>	6pm: Louise D, Peter G 9am: Sue & David W, Thelma B 11am: Andrew & Kath W, Maria L
<b>Lectors</b>	6pm: Ignatius L 9am: Tony D 11am: Sarah M
<b>Counters</b>	Peter & Dawn G
<b>Gardening</b>	Barry B