

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Malachi

3:19-20

The day is coming now, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and the evil-doers will be like stubble. The day that is coming is going to burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, leaving them neither root nor stalk. But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness will shine out with healing in its rays.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/. The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice.

SECOND READING

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Thessalonians

3:7-12

You know how you are supposed to imitate us: now we were not idle when we were with you, nor did we ever have our meals at anyone's table without paying for them; no, we worked night and day, slaving and straining, so as not to be a burden on any of you. This was not because we had no right to be, but in order to make ourselves an example for you to follow.

We gave you a rule when we were with you: not to let anyone have any food if he refused to do any work. Now we hear that there are some of you who are living in idleness, doing no work themselves but interfering with everyone else's. In the Lord Jesus Christ, we order and call on people of this kind to go on quietly working and earning the food that they eat.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!
Lift up your heads and see;
your redemption is near at hand.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

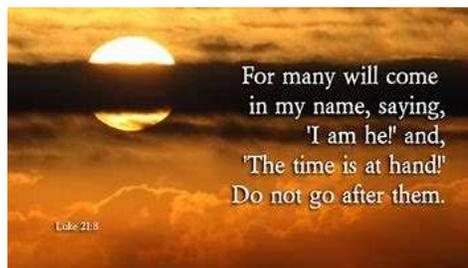
21:5-19

When some were talking about the Temple, remarking how it was adorned with fine stonework and votive offerings, Jesus said, 'All these things you are staring at now – the time will come when not a single stone will be left on another: everything will be destroyed.' And they put to him this question: 'Master,' they said, 'when will this happen, then, and what sign will there be that this is about to take place?'

'Take care not to be deceived,' he said, 'because many will come using my name and saying, "I am he" and, "The time is near at hand." Refuse to join them. And when you hear of wars and revolutions, do not be frightened, for this is something that must happen but the end is not soon.' Then he said to them, 'Nation will fight against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes and plagues and famines here and there; there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.

'But before all this happens, men will seize you and persecute you; they will hand you over to the synagogues and to imprisonment, and bring you before kings and governors because of my name – and that will be your opportunity to bear witness. Keep this carefully in mind: you are not to prepare your defence, because I myself shall give you an eloquence and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to resist or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relations and friends; and some of you will be put to death. You will be hated by all men on account of my name, but not a hair of your head will be lost. Your endurance will win you your lives.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

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33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C

16th & 17th November, 2019

*Lord God of all the ages,
the One who is, who was, and who is to come,
stir up within us a longing for Your kingdom,
steady our hearts in time of trial,
and grant us patient endurance
until the sun of justice dawns.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



FOCUS ON THE WORD

Our prayers can tell us a lot about the image of God we really have. For some it is of a Divine Parking Attendant in the sky. For others a sort of weather God who with sufficient entreaty can stop the rain during the second day of the Test Match. But if you were in Syria and your town was being strafed and bombed by government and rebel forces, with innocent people being wantonly killed, then your prayer would be very different. Your image of God would be of a Liberator from warfare, of a Saviour from crimes against humanity, and if it came to it, a Strengthener in time of torture and impending death. In today's Gospel, Jesus was preparing his followers for what he knew would be times of persecution in the immediate and ongoing futures for the Christian community. They would be looking for vindication of their perseverance in persecution. They would cling to Our Lord's assurance: 'Your endurance will win you your lives.' They would listen to the prophet Malachi: 'The day is coming now... evildoers will be like stubble... But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness will shine out with healing in its rays.' What a wonderful image of God, putting our rather pathetic parking spot attendant and weather God images to shame. 'The sun of righteousness will shine out with healing in its rays.' This is the image for God which would mean something very heartening in the midst of the seemingly endless darkness of persecution. God will do what the sun does, flooding the world with light and warmth, making our fragile planet habitable for human beings. It is our faith that out of the inky blackness of the cold tomb carved out of a hill near Calvary, the Son of righteousness did rise, shining out with healing in His rays. That is what the early church believed during those early centuries of persecution. They believed that Son when he had said: 'Your endurance will win you your lives. This belief is what sustains the martyrs of our present era. The word 'martyr' is the Greek word for witness. It simply means somebody who witnesses to something. A Christian martyr witnesses to Our Lord Jesus Christ, the pre-eminent martyr. Their blood is shed, as was His. They do so with the faith that for them, the Son of righteousness will shine out with healing. That is our faith, that is the faith of the church. Because the Son of Righteousness rose with healing in His rays. © Fr Michael Tate

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Thu 21st Nov The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Fri 22nd Nov St Cecilia

*I have come that you may have life and have it to the full
(John 10:10)*

PRIEST ADMINISTRATOR :

Fr Thomas Kuruvila 9758 1029
 Email: Thomas.Kuruvila@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 9.45am – 3.45pm
 Tuesday to Friday 9.00am -3.00pm
 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.

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C**16th & 17th November, 2019****PRAYING FOR...***All who have died recently**And those who we remember at this time:*

Mary Stewart, Luigia Cecchin, Clive Anthony Royle, Leonard Nash, Frances Middlebrook, Victor Peirre Cyril Etienne, Norman Boyle, Jim Moloney.

The sick: Tom Clynes, 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.

WEEKDAY ROSARY on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, Rosary will be recited 25 minutes prior to the Weekday Mass. All are welcome to join in the recitation.

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.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP meet at 10am each Tuesday, for a 10.15am start, in the Parish Hall. Come and join us as we unwrap “The Gift” a 7 week course to learn more about the gift of the Holy Spirit. Enquiries: Tineke 97631096, or: Judy 9752 2986

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.

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

**ADVENT PREPARATION EVENING**

As we speed towards Christmas, I would like to invite you to spend some time with me in quiet contemplation and preparation for the Advent season. The evening will take place on Wednesday 27th November at 7.00pm - 8.30pm in the parish hall. It will involve some quiet reflection and activities along with a light supper and opportunity to socialise with fellow parishioners. Please contact me, Carolyn, via email: csombekkesjb@gmail.com or the Parish Office on 9758 1029 to register your interest. – Carolyn Sombekke Faith Development Coordinator.

ANNUAL CATHOLIC DEAF APPEAL A big thank you for your generous donations to this appeal. Total donations amounted to \$893.65. This will support the work of the John Pierce Centre for the Deaf.

NATIONAL PRAYER CAMPAIGN FOR THE GIFT OF RAIN. The Catholic Church in Australia is dedicating the month of November as a time to pray for those affected by crippling drought conditions and to pray for the gift of rain. You can find out more about this initiative by accessing the National Prayer Campaign website at www.catholic.org.au/drought.

PRAYER FOR RAIN

Father of all compassion, strengthen, sustain and give new heart to our farmers and to all who are affected by drought; be with those who support them. In your loving providence, send abundant rain to those areas most in need and restore our parched earth. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

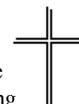
SAVE THE DATE The St Vincent de Paul Senior Citizens Lunch will be on Saturday 7th December at St John's School Hall. More details soon!

MASS FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS this Wednesday – 20th November 2019 at 12 noon, St. Mary MacKillop Chapel at ACU, 8 Brunswick St Fitzroy. This Mass marks the beginning of a week of Red Wednesday events and is to pray for Persecuted Christians around the world. St Patrick's Cathedral will be floodlit in red each night during this week, and will hold a Rosary or offer Mass for our persecuted brothers and sisters. RSVP justice@cam.org.au by Monday 18 November. See full message on wall in church foyer or visit website <https://cam.org.au/justice/RedWednesday>



THANK YOU to all those who helped in many different ways at our **working bee** last weekend. We appreciate the time spent on the garden, the delicious morning tea and the very generous payment of the skip to take all the clippings away. We couldn't have done it without you.

NOVEMBER CROSS November is the month of the Holy Souls where we pray for parishioners, friends and members of our families who have died. We pray that they will live forever with the Lord. As is our custom at St John's, during November you'll have the opportunity to write the names of those you would like remembered on our Memorial Cross. For those who would like to have a Mass offered for their deceased relatives and friends, November offering envelopes will be available on the trolleys.



THANK YOU to all those who helped to make our **memorial mass** such a moving and special time last Tuesday evening. This was a wonderful occasion to gather together and pray for our departed loved ones.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH?

Soon we will be starting a small informal group to chat and learn more about the Catholic Faith. If you or anyone you know would like to join us then please email me csombekkesjb@gmail.com or leave your name with the parish office 97581029 and I will get back to you. Carolyn Sombekke (Parish Faith Development Coordinator)

**BUSHFIRE APPEAL MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP OF MELBOURNE**

“St Vincent de Paul are on the ground throughout our communities providing support in those life-giving ways that people need in times of disaster and tragedy. May I encourage our people of Melbourne and beyond to support the Vinnies Bushfire Appeal through www.vinnies.org.au or through your local parish.” Most Rev Peter A Comensoli. Full message on wall in church foyer.

CHANGED PARISH OFFICE HOURS On Mondays the Parish Office will be open at 9.45am until 3.45pm. Tuesday to Friday 9.00am to 3.00pm

ROSTERS: Mon 18 th to Sun 24 th November	
Flowers	Marg H & Ange C
Linen	Jean B
Welcomers	6pm: Myra N & Help Needed 9am: Peter C, Neil & Lorraine R & Joanna C 11am: Maria L & Help Needed
Lectors	6pm: Rosina L 9am: Caroline Q 11am: Peter J
Counters	Steph H, Tony B
Gardening	Carlos E