

## FIRST READING

*A reading from the book of Leviticus*

19:1-2, 17-18

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: 'Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.

"You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord."

*The Word of the Lord.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/. The Lord is kind and merciful*

## SECOND READING

*A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians*

3:16-23

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

Make no mistake about it: if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are, or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Whoever keeps the word of Christ grows perfect in the love of God.

Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to*

*Matthew*

5:38-48

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

**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**

**7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A**

**22<sup>nd</sup> / 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2020**

*Heavenly Father,  
You call us to love one another.  
Forgive us when the words we speak  
and the life we live,  
sit uncomfortably together,  
Help us to exchange resentment and bitterness  
for love, and Your unending grace.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen*



## FOCUS ON THE WORD

Matthew's Gospel continues Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, where, like Moses, Jesus teaches the community his code of behaviour. What he teaches sounds impossible, but it is what he lived and what some others have also been capable of living. Occasionally, in the midst of terrible wars and atrocities, we hear of people who have been able to rise above their own suffering and rage, to find in themselves the ability, the grace, of forgiveness. Such people speak of being determined not to let others control their lives and that in being able to forgive they find their own integrity and freedom. They become whole. When Matthew says, 'Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect', I think this means something like being a whole person. The Greek word used here is 'telos' and it has the sense of completion, of being whole, of having arrived at the end. With this in mind, Jesus' code of behaviour calls us to be whole people, and this is how we can also be holy people. © Mary Coloe

Fr. Faber in a booklet on kindness has a poem which we could all learn and practice with great profit for ourselves and for a neighbour in need of kindness. He says:

"It was but a sunny smile, and little it cost in the giving,  
But it scattered the night like the morning light and made the day worth living.  
It was but a kindly word, a word that was lightly spoken,  
Yet not in vain, for it chilled the pain, of a heart that was nearly broken.  
It was but a helping hand, and it seemed of little availing,  
But its clasp was warm, it saved from harm, a brother whose strength was failing."

## FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

26<sup>th</sup> Feb – Ash Wednesday (Fast & Abstinence)



*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 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.

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A  
22<sup>nd</sup> / 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2020

**PRAYING FOR...**

*All who have died recently*



*And those who we remember at this time:*

Palmerino Capozzi, Terry McClusky, Eileen Johnson, Frank Johnson, Ron Neville, Guy & Olga Walter, Henry Wise.

**The sick:** Ruby Samtoy, Fame Pelgrim, Elsie Johnson Anne Jayawardena, Lea Hartley, Tom Clynnnes, Cosimo Petracca, Christopher Windebank, Giuseppina Zarro, Lesina Maio, Peter Dunlop, Catherine Turner, Peter Commons, Wilma Neville, Mary Brimelow, Patricia Quinn, Charlie Kelly, Edward Kitain, Scott Warner, Lilian Luyf, David Merton, Rosa Jones, Peter Mitchell, Beryl Turner, Michael Byrne, Mary Edmunds, Anabelyn Malabed, Ethel Arrowsmith, Eillien Patrick, Brendan Kearns, Maria Iaconis, Bev McNamara, Anthony McNamara, Victoria Lewis, Nicole Moore, Peter Fairhurst, Hans Whitaker, Edward Osborne, Allida Serafin, Barbara Kenny, Clive Geach.

**NEW GUIDELINES SICK LIST** – From next week, names will remain on the sick list for 6weeks, then removed, unless notification to continue is received at 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.

**SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM-CONFIRMATION**

This year the Sacrament of Confirmation is offered to Year 5 and 6 children who have already been baptised, and who reside within the boundaries of our Parish. Confirmation Mass will be celebrated on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020 at 6.30pm. **Parent Information Evening is on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 7pm in the School Hall.** If your child attends a school other than St John's, please contact the Parish Office on 9758 1029 to register your interest. Dates for the preparation classes will be advised at this meeting. Information for children attending at St John's will be distributed via Year 5 & 6 teachers. You will be required to present a copy of your child's Baptismal certificate

**COMBINED CATHOLIC CHURCHES PARISH RAFFLE** tickets will go on sale on 29<sup>th</sup> February – 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2020. This year all proceeds from the sale of these tickets will be for the Parish.

**LENT BEGINS WITH ASH WEDNESDAY MASS** on this coming Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2020. Mass will be celebrated at **9.15am and 7.00pm** Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. The law of fasting binds those who have completed their 18<sup>th</sup> year until the beginning of their 60<sup>th</sup> year; the law of abstinence binds those who have completed their 14<sup>th</sup> year. Lent is a penitential season of prayer, self-denial and a time for lending a hand to others e.g. attending to the sick, the lonely or the over-burdened.

Lent is also an appropriate time to prepare for and celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation



In this way, the whole Church prepares for Easter.

**THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** The Stations of the Cross are a 14-step Catholic devotion that commemorates Jesus Christ's last day on Earth as a man. The 14 devotions, or stations, focus on specific events of His last day, beginning with His condemnation. The stations are commonly used as a mini pilgrimage as the individual moves from station to station. At each station, the individual recalls and meditates on a specific event from Christ's last day.



Specific prayers are recited, then the individual moves to the next station until all 14 are complete. **We will be having the Stations of the Cross on Friday at 10.30 am during lent followed by mass at 11.00 am. All are invited to join.**

**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PRIMARY SCHOOL OPEN DAY** will take place on **Wednesday 11th March from 8.00am-5.00pm.** Thank you to the parents who have offered to help out on the day with school tours.



Please invite any friends, family or neighbours who have a child eligible to start school in 2021 to come along and see our wonderful school in action. We already have children enrolled for Prep 2021. If you have a child who is eligible to start Prep in 2021 please make contact with the school office ph 9758 1013 to complete an enrolment form.

**MATER CHRISTI COLLEGE:** Bring your family and friends to our next Scheduled Tour on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February departing 9.30am. Mater Christi girls consistently achieve region leading VCE and vocational results. A visit will enable your family to witness our vibrant, inclusive and warm community. To book your tour visit: materchristi.edu.au

**BAPTISMS** – We offer our congratulations to **Oliver Bakker son of Steve & Kylie Bakker**, who is to be baptised this weekend: The Church of God welcomes you with great joy



**BUSHFIRE RECOVERY APPEAL 2020** is a partnership between CatholicCare, the Archdiocese of Melbourne and the Diocese of Sale. In response to the devastating bushfires in East Gippsland, **CatholicCare is establishing a Community Recovery Service, to support families and communities for 3yrs.** This project will need compassionate support, **so our parish will be accepting your donations this weekend.** Thank you for your support of these communities in the long term

**ST JOHN'S SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP TRIVIA NIGHT** Come and join the fun. Don't need to be an expert.

**Date: Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> February.**  
**Venue: School Hall starting at 7.00pm for 7.30pm.** Make up a table or come and join one.



Tickets on sale **Cost: \$10 Adults**, after all w/e masses or contact Patrick 0434 072 831 (call or text). Proceeds in aid of "Opening the Doors Foundation" (Aboriginal students support), Thornbury and the Alfajiri Street Kids Art, Kenya <https://www.alfajiri.org/>

**WINTER SLEEPOVER** is an initiative of local churches to offer a welcome, hospitality and a place to stay for **homeless people sleeping rough** over the winter period in the Knox and Dandenong Ranges. There will be a meeting at the Hub Cafe, Boronia Community Church of Christ, located at 59 Boronia Rd Boronia, on **Thursday 27th February from 1.30pm - 3pm** to discuss the plans for 2020, including information on church building requirements, permits and funding opportunities. If you would like to hear how you can help, please contact Stephen Barrington on 8711 8677

**ROSTERS: Mon 24th Feb to Sun 1st Mar**

<b>Flowers</b>	Carole D & Lia U
<b>Linen</b>	Carole D
<b>Welcomers</b>	6pm: Myra Noth, Help please! 9am Marg & Adrian D, Anastasia A 11am Patrick S & Help please!
<b>Lectors</b>	6pm: Rosina L 9am: Gordon V 11am: Trish M
<b>Counters</b>	Bryon & Ruby
<b>Gardening</b>	Barry Blake