

## FIRST READING

*A reading from the book of Proverbs*

*31:10-13.19-20. 30-31*

A perfect wife – who can find her? She is far beyond the price of pearls. Her husband's heart has confidence in her, from her he will derive no little profit. Advantage and not hurt she brings him all the days of her life. She is always busy with wool and with flax, she does her work with eager hands. She sets her hands to the distaff, her fingers grasp the spindle. She holds out her hand to the poor, she opens her arms to the needy. Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty; the woman who is wise is the one to praise. Give her a share in what her hands have worked for, and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R./ Happy are those who fear the Lord.*

## SECOND READING

*A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians*

*5: 1-6*

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about 'times and seasons', since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and peaceful it is' that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it. But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Live in Me and let Me live in you,  
says the Lord;*

*My branches bear much fruit.  
Alleluia!*

## GOSPEL

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew*

*25: 14-30*

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out.

The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The man who had received two made two more in the same way. But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Next the man with the two talents came forward, "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Last came forward the man who had the one talent. "Sir," said he "I have heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back." but his master answered him, "You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest. So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ...*Gospel continued overleaf*



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**Knox Deanery**  
**19 Forest Road, Ferntree Gully, 3156**  
**Phone: 9758 1029 Fax: 9758 9234**  
**Email: office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au**  
**Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au**

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**33<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year A**

**18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2017**

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*Heavenly Father,  
from whose own abundance  
all gifts and skills are lavishly bestowed,  
encourage us to use our talents  
as generously as You have allotted them,  
so that, being faithful to Your purpose,  
we may share in Your glory.  
We ask this through Christ, our Lord.  
Amen.*



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## FOCUS ON THE READINGS

Since it is difficult to harmonise our two readings, we will begin with the Gospel.

We are nearing the end of the liturgical year, and the Gospel, like last week's, directs our thoughts to the end of time. Last week the focus was vigilance. This week and next it is "rendering our account." God has given each of us talents, grace, a vocation in life. It is clear from the Gospel that we are meant to use those talents for the good of the reign of God. The importance of the parable is that our reward, "Come be happy with me," is not dependent on the size of our talents, but on our use of what we have been given.

The woman in the first reading is praised because she lived her vocation as wife and mother in a most charitable and noble way. Each of us is called to do that.

## FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

*Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November St Cecilia, virgin, martyr*

*Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November Sts Andrew Dung-Lac, priest, and Companions, martyrs*

*Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November St Catherine of Alexandria, virgin, martyr*

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

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**PARISH PRIEST:**  
Fr Alan Fox 9758 1029  
Email: Alan.Fox@cam.org.au

**DEACON:**  
Rev. Peter Stringfellow 9758 1029  
Email: deaconstringfellow@gmail.com

**FAITH DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR**  
Carolyn Sombekke 9758 1029  
Email: csombekkesjb@gmail.com

**PARISH OFFICE:** 9758 1029  
Monday to Friday 9am – 3pm  
Secretaries: Carol Leatham, Carole D'Souza  
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 at 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.

**33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A**  
**18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2017**

**PRAYING FOR...**

*All who have died recently:*



**Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:**  
Jim Moloney, Eileen & Lionel Roberts, Norm Boyle, Theresa Sinclair, Mikayla Hutchings, Giuseppe & Luigia Cecchin, Clive Royle, Leonard Nash, Members of the Albicini & Ruggi families

**The sick** – Catherine Turner, Therese Edmunds, Keith Scutt, Peter Commons, Wilma Neville, Mary Brimelow, Steve Reid, Ron Prince, Patricia Quinn, Charlie Kelly, Bonnie Williams, Kathleen Hatton, Edward Kitain, Scott Warner, Lilian Luiyf, Kayden McDevitt, David Merton, Rosa Jones, Peter Mitchell, Jemma Du Buisson Perrine, Lisa Whittaker, Brock McAvaney, Beryl Turner, Bernard Guerin, Michael Byrne, Ann Jayawardena, Mary Edmunds, Anabelyn Malabed, Miep Wirth, 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.

**GROUP ROSARY SESSION FOR PEACE**

Date: **Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December, at 10.30 am**  
Venue: 37 Lane Road, FTG. All are welcome.  
Contact: Pauline Barlow on 9758 5106.

**FRIENDSHIP GATHERING:** Everyone is welcome on Thursdays between 10 am and 1 pm for a chat over a cuppa, join a card game, knit or just sit for a while.

**CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP**

We meet **every Tuesday at 10.15 am** in the Parish Hall for praise and worship, inspiring teaching and prayer ministry. All are warmly welcome. Enquiries: Judy 9752 2986 or Andrew 9755 2443.

**MOTHERS' PRAYER GROUP** Come and join with mothers, grandmothers, spiritual mothers and godmothers, to pray together from 9am–10am each Tuesday (during school term) in the Parish Centre. For enquiries, please contact the Parish Office.

**AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS MAGAZINE** (Summer Edition) is available on the trolleys.

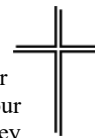
**BAPTISMS** – We offer our congratulations to **Bethany Gonsalves** daughter of Donald & Nilofer, who is to be baptised this weekend: The Church of God welcomes you with great joy



**Gospel continued...**As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

*The Gospel of the Lord*

**REMEMBERING OUR FAITHFUL DEPARTED** 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, you're invited 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 are available on the trolleys.



**SENIORS CHRISTMAS LUNCH** "The annual St. John the Baptist Parish and St. Vincent de Paul Seniors Christmas lunch will be held on 2nd December 2017. We invite you to come and be part of this beautiful celebration. If you are able to help with transport on the day kindly please call Terry Stephens on 9758 4249. If you are able to help with serving food or just talk with those who attend please come to the Parish school hall.

**THANK YOU** for your generous donations to the following appeals: World Mission \$1798 & Catholic Deal Appeal \$834.15

**ST JOHN'S SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP TRIVIA NIGHT** Thanks to all who attended the Trivia Night. Thanks also to the many who made donations. Everyone seemed to have a great time. **We raised \$1168** A great result. We will be donating this equally to Opening the Doors Foundation in Thornbury and the Community Based Rehabilitation Foundation in the Philippines. Thanks again. Date for your diary. Next Trivia Night - Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2018.

**ST. SIMON'S ROWVILLE ADVENT MISSION WITH FR. RICHARD LEONARD SJ** "Advent Mission" at St. Simon's, Rowville, commencing at all Masses (6pm Vigil, 8 am, 9.30am and 11am) on the First Sunday of Advent (Sat. Dec. 2, Sun. Dec. 3) and continuing from Mon. Dec. 4 to Wed. Dec.6 at both 9.15am and 7.30 pm. Those in neighbouring parishes are most welcome. A more detailed Mission Programme is available on the St. Simon's Parish website: www.stsimonsparish.com.au.

**DEACON PETER - PASTORAL VISITATION**

We have celebrated together the feasts of all saints and souls, we have erected our November Cross and offer prayers for those we love. That love transcends death. The loss of those we love is the universal human experience, I have felt the pain in my own life and so have most of you. Should you feel the need to reflect on, or pray about your experience in life or loss, then I wanted to let you know that I am available for pastoral visitation. I am a great respecter of privacy and confidentiality so I will always await an invitation, rather than approach unsolicited. Pastoral care is not a replacement for professional counselling, grief or otherwise, it is rather the mission of care to be exercised by all Christians in their love of God and neighbour.

**NEW STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES**

commence this weekend. If you have not picked up or received yours as yet please contact the parish office. Thank you again for your generous support.

<b>ROSTERS: Mon 20<sup>th</sup> Nov to Sun 26<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	
<b>Flowers</b>	Marg & Judy
<b>Altar Servers</b>	<b>6pm:</b> Nicholas
<b>Linen</b>	Anne
<b>Welcomers</b>	<b>6pm:</b> Queenie <b>9am:</b> Peter, Neil, Lorraine, Joanna <b>11am:</b> Tony & Christine
<b>Lectors</b>	<b>6pm:</b> Louise <b>9am:</b> Adrian <b>11am:</b> Sue
<b>Counters</b>	Peter, Dawn, George, Genevieve
<b>Gardening</b>	Michael

**DON'T MISS OUT!**  
**AUDITIONS TODAY Sun Nov 19<sup>th</sup> 2017**  
**ST JOHNS' PARISH MUSICAL 5-8<sup>TH</sup> July 2018**  
**"IT'S NOT ABOUT THE GIRL!"**  
We are looking for people, 12 years old and above, to be in our Parish Musical. There are speaking and non speaking parts; singing and non singing parts. Contact me, via email at: csombekkesjb@gmail.com or contact the parish office on 9758 1029 to let me know how you'd like to be involved Thanks, Carolyn Sombekke