

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

13:33-37

You, Lord, yourself are Our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name.

Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways

and harden our hearts against fearing you?

Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down

– at your Presence the mountains would melt.

No ear has heard, no eye has seen any God but you act like this for those who trust him.

You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you.

We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind.

No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins And yet, Lord, you are Our Father;

we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R./ Lord, make us turn to You,
let us see Your face
and we shall be saved. .*



SECOND READING

A reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians *1:3–9*

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ.

I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Lord, show us Your mercy and love,
and grant us Your salvation.*

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark *13:33-37*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

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First Sunday of Advent - Year B

2nd & 3rd December, 2017

*Lord God, in this Advent time,
help us to see Your Son, Jesus Christ,
in those around us, and in all experiencing difficulty.
May we be filled with hope in His promises,
and accept the challenge to spread that hope to the world,
through the proclamation of Your Good News.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.*



FOCUS ON THE READINGS

Our God is coming! Stay awake! Be ready!

Culturally, we are accustomed to thinking of all of Advent as preparation for the birth of Jesus. But liturgically, we find a quite different emphasis. Only on the Fourth Sunday of Advent do we focus on the birth of Jesus, the Messiah. The first Sunday reminds us of the coming of Christ at the end of time. The second and third Sundays focus on the acceptance of Christ in our lives today, through baptism. It is this tension between the present and the future that gives meaning to the fourth Sunday and, indeed, to our celebration of the historical birth at Christmas.

Our first reading today tells us that, in spite of God's continued love and care, the chosen people have sinned – they have wandered away from their covenant relationship with their creator. They cry out again for redemption.

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Monday 4th December St John Damascene, priest, doctor

Wednesday 6th December St Nicholas, bishop

Friday 8th December The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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: deaconpeter@tutanota.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 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.

First Sunday of Advent Year B
2nd & 3rd December, 2017

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:
Giuseppina Di Donato



Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: John Masterson, Raffaele Prasel, Desmond Tobias, Neil Brewster, David Hurler.

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 Hutton, 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.

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

Date: *Saturday, 6th January, 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.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY
CHRISTMAS 2017 ANGEL TREE




Each year our local SVDP Conference provides the needy families we've visited throughout the year with a Christmas Food Hamper and gift cards for each of their children. We would like to invite you to contribute to either of these. Under the Angel Tree bags/baskets have been provided for your Christmas food items, or for those who might like to donate a complete hamper. Please feel free to supply your own bags if you wish. The gift cards we will distribute allows the parents to purchase a suitable gift themselves according to the age and needs of their child/ren. You may like to take an "Angel" off the tree and purchase a gift card to the amount of either: \$10, \$20, or \$30. Please place your gift card donation in the box near the tree. The cards can be purchased from: Kmart, Target, Coles, Myer; or any other store of your choice. On behalf of our SVDP local conference, we would like to thank you most sincerely for your ongoing generosity this year in supporting our work with the disadvantaged. We would like to thank Fr Alan for his encouragement on behalf of our parish.

LECTORS ROSTER A new roster is being prepared for lectors for January – March. Could those who are currently on the roster please notify me if they are unavailable during that period or if there are any other changes required. If you would like to read at Mass please contact Stephanie on 9758 5497 or smhorgen@gmail.com before 22nd December. You may consider sharing the role by reading just one of the readings. Students in Yr 11 and 12 are welcome to be a part of this ministry. Rosters and guidelines will be available on the weekend 30th /31st December.

HELP FOR FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HARDSHIP CatholicCare's Dandenong office provides support for families living in the Greater Dandenong area, including refugee and asylum seeker families—many of whom experience a daily struggle to put food on the table. CatholicCare is calling for donations of the following items to distribute to families in need: Food ,toiletries, laundry products, basic stationery items, gift cards of any amount (e.g. Coles, Woolworths, Kmart, Target) are also very handy, allowing families to purchase exactly what they need. If you are able to help, please phone the CatholicCare Dandenong office on 8710 9600

FUNERAL MASS – The Funeral Mass for the late Giuseppina Di Donato will be celebrated here at St John's Church on Tuesday, 5th December - Rosary 10.30am prior to the 11.00am Funeral Mass

FAITH SEEKING UNDERSTANDING:
 Reflection entitled "The First Sunday of Advent" by Carolyn is on the trollies for you to take home.

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL: FESTIVAL OF READINGS, PRAYERS AND CAROLS on **Friday 15th December**, at **7.30pm** at **St Patrick's Cathedral**. Join our Archbishop, the Most Reverend Denis Hart, for the 49th Annual Festival of Readings, Prayers and Carols, with specially chosen readings and prayers reflecting the mystery, the beauty and the joy of Christmas. Cost: Free

FOOTSTEPS OF ST. PAUL PILGRIMAGE MAY 2018:The 14-day pilgrimage is led by Fr. Peter D'Souza from Broken Bay Cathedral, departing on 28th of May, 2018, featuring Athens, Corinth, Ephesus, Patmos, Crete, Santorini, Thessaloniki, Philippi, Meteora for an all-inclusive early-bird offer of \$5,690. To avail the early bird offer you can reserve your seats with an initial deposit of \$1000. This offer ends on 15th December, 2017. For further details or any queries please feel free to call Magi Pilgrimages on 03 8562 2246 or email: pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au

POSITIONS VACANT ACROSS THE ARCHDIOCESE Details can be found on the Archdiocese website for various administrative and liturgical positions. Go to... www.cam.org.au/Jobs.aspx

ROSTERS: Mon 4th Dec to Sun 10th Dec	
Flowers	Marg, Ange
Altar Servers	6pm: Nicholas
Linen	Sue N
Welcomers	6pm: Jayne, Myra 9am: Marg, Adrian, Anastasia 11am: Patrick, Angie, Coral
Lectors	6pm: Jenny 9am: Gordon 11am: Carolyn S
Counters	Tony, Stephanie
Gardening	Harry