

FIRST READING

A reading from the second book of Samuel
7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: 'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever.'"

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R./ For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
16:25-27

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ,

the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

*I am the servant of the Lord:
may His will for me be done.*

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
1 : 26 - 38

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

The Gospel of the Lord.



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Fourth Sunday of Advent - Year B

23rd & 24th December, 2017

Father,

May we welcome Jesus, Your Son,

the promised Emmanuel,

and proclaim the good news of his birth to all the earth.

That every age will see Your saving grace

and follow in Your way of love.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



FOCUS ON THE READINGS

God's love is faithful! Mary will give birth to a son. Holy is his name!

Our first reading focuses on the promise made to David – a member of his family would be a great king whose kingdom would last forever. This reading is filled with the fidelity of God: "I called you....I have always been with you....I promise to be with you forever....He will be like a son to me....I will never take my love away from him."

That promise is fulfilled in the Annunciation.

By the power of the Spirit, Mary will give birth to a child, and "he will be the ruler of the family of David."

In both of these readings we see the power of God at work in human beings – God's faithful love made real in history.

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Tuesday 26th December St Stephen, the first martyr

Wednesday 27th December St John, apostle, evangelist

Thursday 29th December The Holy Innocents, martyrs

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
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FAITH DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR
Carolyn Sombekke 9758 1029
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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.

Fourth Sunday of Advent Year B
23rd & 24th December, 2017

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:
Alyda (Lia) Donegan, Olga Aponso, Maureen Stone, Max Cartledge, Sr Joy Hanrahan PBVM



Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:
Patrick Owens, Maria Daraio, Peter South, Ryan Castricum, Maria Saracino, Mary Doyle, James Phylard

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, 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 1016.

FRIENDSHIP GATHERING: will take a short break and recommence Thursday 4th January, 2018. Everyone is welcome 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: will take a break during January 2018 and resume their meeting on Tuesday, 6th February 2018 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: will take a break in January 2018 and resume their meeting on Tuesday, 6th February from 9 am to 10 am at the Parish Centre. For enquiries, please contact the Parish

PARISH OFFICE HOURS THROUGHOUT THE CHRISTMAS/JANUARY HOLIDAY PERIOD

Closed 25th December 2017 to 1st January, 2018.

Open 2nd 3rd and 5th January 2018.

From the 8th 'til the 19th of January, the office will open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Normal offices hours resumes on 22nd January.

Please note that as Friday 26th January is a public holiday, the office will be closed.

Please note: the Parish Office will also be closed on Monday 29th January 2018.



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Sunday 24th December – Christmas Eve

7pm Carols
7.30pm Family Mass
9.30pm Carols
10pm Mass of Christmas Night

Monday 25th December – Christmas Day

9am Mass
11am Mass

For a more extensive Mass timetable during December/January please take a flyer from the trolley or visit: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au

THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FERNTEE GULLY CONFERENCE

would like to thank all parishioners for their generous donations of non-perishable food, as well as the donated presents and gift cards. All donations go directly to support needy families and their children. Special thanks to Fr Alan for his support and also to the school community for their generous donations. The combined amount of the school and parish appeal was approximately \$4,000. Each family Christmas hamper consisted of Christmas food (ham, cake, pudding and custard) a meat voucher, Woolworths card, non-perishable food as well as gift cards for the children – thereby each hamper was valued at between \$180-\$200. Thank you for your continued support. We have baskets available at the church doors for any ongoing non-perishable food donations. The Piety Store is open at each Mass for the purchases of personal religious items; the sale of these items further supports the work of St Vincent de Paul. We welcome new members to join us in assisting our neighbours. Wishing everyone a wonderful Christmas and a safe holiday.



FAITH SEEKING UNDERSTANDING:



Reflection entitled "The Fourth Sunday of Advent" by Carolyn, is on the trollies for you to take home.

DEACON PETER - PASTORAL VISITATION

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.

AUSTRALIAN NATIVITY SCENE: ST ELIZABETH'S, DANDENONG NORTH

On display until Friday 12th January, 2018. 107 Baker Road, Dandenong North Local artist Wilson Fernandez has been creating his stunning nativity scenes for the past thirteen years. This is regarded as one of Australia's best nativity displays and is months in the making each year. **Cost:** Free and open to all age groups **Viewing times:** After Mass and any other time by appointment **Details:** Wilson on 0428 927 110 or parish office on 9795 6217 <http://www.australiannativityscene.org/>

ROSTERS: Mon 25th Dec to Sun 31st Dec

Flowers	Sue N
Altar Servers	6pm: Nicholas
Linen	Sue O
Welcomers	6pm: Louise , Peter 9am: Sue, David, Thelma 11am: Kath, Andrew, Maria
Lectors	6pm: Louise 9am: Pamela 11am: Kath
Counters	Bryon, Ruby, Stephanie
Gardening	Patrick, Harry

Merry Christmas

...from all the Parish Staff