

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Genesis

22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood. Then he stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/ I will walk in the presence of the Lord
in the land of the living.*

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans *8:31-34*

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard: this is My Beloved Son, hear Him.
Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!*

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark *9:2-10*

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi', he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them anymore but only Jesus.

As they came down the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

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2ND SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR B

24th & 25th February, 2018

***Ever-faithful God,
You were well pleased with Abraham's obedience
and You accepted the sacrifice of Your Son,
who gave Himself up for us all.
Form us by Christ's teachings and obedience
to walk His way of sacrifice,
and thus come to share in Your glory.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.***



FOCUS ON THE READINGS

In the biblical tradition important things happen on mountains: our ancestors saw the mountain top as a place where people were closer to God and the transcendent.

This week, Jesus leads Peter, James and John to the top of a 'high' mountain and then something astonishing happens. They see Jesus in a new light – perhaps in a way that would not have been possible if they had not been alone with him in an isolated place. They suddenly realise what a close relationship Jesus had with their ancestors. They were fearful. Their powerful experience concludes with them hearing God anoint Jesus as his son and with the request to 'listen to him'.

As 21st century readers of the Gospel we know that the drama of the story is building and that Jesus is set now for certain suffering. But how can we listen to what this means for our hearts and souls? Perhaps there is something we can learn this week about being attentive. An insight about the 'science of attention' might help: 'The science of attention teaches us that we tend to pay attention to what we have been taught to value and that we tend to be astonishingly blind to change until something disrupts our pattern and makes us see what has been invisible before. The same science also teaches us that we don't have to depend on surprise, crisis or trauma to help us see better. Rather, we can seek out the best partners, tools, and methods to help us see. We can internalise the message of the basic brain science of attention.'

Perhaps this is a week for being attentive.

I have come that you may have life and have it to the full

(John 10:10)

PARISH PRIEST:

Fr Alan Fox 9758 1029
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DEACON:

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FAITH DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR

Carolyn Sombekke 9758 1029
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PARISH OFFICE:

9758 1029
 Monday to Friday 9 am – 3 pm
 Secretaries: Carole D'Souza, 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 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.

Second Sunday of Lent - Year B

24th & 25th February, 2018

YEAR OF YOUTH**PRAYING FOR...**

All who have died recently:

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Antonius (Tom) Weerden, Palmeriono Capozzi, Pietro Cursaro, Joseph Edmunds, Frank Johnson, Ronald Neville, Baby Henry Wise; May & Harold Tracey



The sick: Eileen Johnson, Sr. Una Melville PBVM, 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, 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 be removed, please contact the Parish Office on 9758 1029.

GROUP ROSARY SESSION FOR PEACE

Date: **Sat, 3rd March, 2018 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 to 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 **9 am–10 am each Tuesday (during school term)** in the Parish Centre. For enquiries, please contact the Parish Office.

PROJECT COMPASSION For over 50 years the Project Compassion appeals have been an important means by which the Australian church has shown its solidarity with those in need around the world, providing funds for development and emergency aid, and increasing our awareness of the work of Caritas Australia.

This year's campaign *For a Just Future* relates to the year of Youth. Pope Francis encourages us to challenge our young people when he writes *'Cultivate with love the seeds of goodness, beauty and truth that God sows in every new generation'*.

As we all reach out to young people in our community this year we can encourage them to think of their contemporaries around the world, open their hearts to those struggling materially, and work to 'make poverty history'.

Envelopes and boxes are available on the trolleys in the church. Please donate generously.

FIRST FRIDAY – 2nd MARCH Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament from 10am. Mass at 11am. Please stay for a cuppa after Mass.

AFTERNOON TEA FOR WOMEN: Come along and be reminded of how special you are. **Thursday 8th March** is International Women's day and I would like to invite you to an afternoon tea for women to help celebrate the beautiful creation that all women are. This will take place in St John's parish hall **from 1.30 till 3 pm**. You will meet other women of all ages and be pampered with a lovely afternoon tea. As this is meant to be a relaxing and nurturing time for women it would be best if you could arrange child minding if you have little ones. If this is a problem please do contact me and we will see what we can do to help. **RSVP** is essential for catering purposes. Please contact the parish office on 9758.1029 or email me at: csombekkesjb@gmail.com
 Cheers & Blessings, Carolyn

ST JOHN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL IS COLLECTING COLES SPORTS FOR SCHOOLS VOUCHERS

Step 1: For every \$10 spent at Coles you will receive one Sports for Schools voucher. Step 2: You then bring the vouchers to church, placing them in the collection box in the foyer. Step 3: Every voucher you donate to our school can be redeemed for leading brand sports equipment.



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

SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP TRIVIA NIGHT

Come and join the fun on **Saturday 3rd March**
 Venue: School Hall starting at **7pm for 7.30pm**.
 Cost: **\$10 per adult. BYO drinks and nibbles**.
 Tickets on sale after all weekend masses from the 10th February or contact Patrick 0434 072 831 (call or text). Proceeds in aid of "Opening the Doors Foundation" (Aboriginal students support), Thornbury and the "Community Based Rehabilitation Foundation" (via Columban Fathers) in the Philippines.– Donations Welcome!

YOUTH AND VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT

An Upcoming Event in this series is: **Quo Vadis (Discerner's group)** Starting **March 2nd** and continuing on the **First Friday of the month at 6.30 pm** Evening includes Adoration, an opportunity for onfession, Mass, discussion and a shared meal. For more Information Contact the Vocations Office on **9926 5733** or **vocations@cam.org.au** for more details

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This year's World Day of Prayer Service will be held at the **Uniting Church, 6 The Avenue, Ferntree Gully**, on **Friday March 2nd, at 1.30pm**. The theme is: "All God's Creation is very Good" and has been prepared by the people of SURINAME which lies on the north-eastern coast of South America. All are welcome. A plate of food to share for afternoon tea would be welcome. Enquiries: Gordon Veerasawmy on 0412 225 355.

PASTORAL THEOLOGY OF POPE FRANCIS

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Bayswater invites you to a night of prayer and reflection with Br Mark O'Connor on the Pastoral Theology of Pope Francis, on **Wednesday, 28th February, 7:30 PM - 9.00 PM**. For Bookings email **mark.oconnor@marists.org.au** or call 9389 3106.

ROSTERS: Mon 26th Feb to Sun 4th March	
Flowers	Lent – No flowers
Altar Servers	6pm: Nicholas
Linen	Jean
Welcomers	6pm: Jane, Myra 9am: Marg, Adrian, Anastasia 11am: Patrick, Angie, Coral
Lectors	6pm: Louise 9am: Gordon 11am: Kath
Counters	Tony, Sasty
Gardening	Barry