

FIRST READING

A reading from the second book of Chronicles

2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/ Let my tongue be silenced,
if I ever forget You!*

SECOND READING

A letter from St. Paul to the Ephesians 2:4-10

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!

*God loved the world so much,
He gave us His only Son,
that all who believe in Him
might have eternal life.*

Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John
3:14-21

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.

Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.

For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son.

On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil.

And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



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

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR B

10th & 11th March, 2018

*O God, rich in mercy,
You so loved the world
that You sent Your only Son for our deliverance.
Lifted up from the earth, He is light and life;
exalted upon the cross, He is truth and salvation.
Raise us up with Christ
that we may walk always as children of the light
toward the paschal feast of heaven.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



FOCUS ON THE READINGS

The fourth Sunday of Lent is traditionally known as 'Laetare Sunday' a day of joy in the midst of Lent. As we continue on our Lenten pilgrimage with the Gospels our understanding of the who Jesus is deepens: Jesus emerged from his time in the wilderness to proclaim the Good News (Mk 1:12-15); Jesus was identified by God as the anointed one and the disciples were asked to listen to him (Mk 9:2-10); Jesus demonstrated that he was bringing a new understanding about sacrifice (Jn 2:13-25) and this week we see even more clearly that Jesus is a sign of God's great love for the world.

In learning more about Jesus we are also learning more about God. So great is God's love that he sent his only son as a powerful sign of his presence.

Perhaps the invitation for this week is to live as though we truly believe that this is a world loved by God. That this is a world where the love of God is present to us in every aspect of our lives – a reminder that no matter what, love is always greater than hate.

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Saturday 17th March St Patrick, bishop (*solemnity*).

A special Mass will be celebrated at 11am



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

SEMINARIAN:
Tom Christie 9758 1029

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.

Fourth Sunday of Lent - Year B
10th & 11th March, 2018
YEAR OF YOUTH

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:
Fr Joseph Micallef PE, Fr Peter McGrath CP, Mary Maguire, Jack Winters



Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:
Peter Kelly, Mary (Molly) Brewin, Tom Donegan

The sick: Stephen Murray, Daniel Vincent-Smith, Mary Hill, Sr. Una Melville PBVM, Catherine Turner, Keith Scutt, Peter Commons, Sasty Sastradipradja, 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, Miap 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, 7th April, 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 to 10 am each Tuesday (during school term)** in the Parish Centre. For enquiries, please contact the Parish Office.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS MAGAZINE

The Autumn Edition is available for free on the trolleys.

MELBOURNE CATHOLIC MAGAZINE: The latest edition is also available, for \$4 a copy.

A SEMINARIAN AMONG US: Tom Christie, a Fourth year seminarian from Corpus Christi College, Carlton, who arrived here at St John's this week to begin his 'pastoral placement'/'internship', is settling in. Tom will be among us until approximately the end of June, before heading to Rome to further his seminary studies. Please extend to him our usual warm 'Femtree Gully' welcome.

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

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PRIMARY SCHOOL OPEN DAY: All Welcome! Our primary school will be running an Open Day on **Wednesday 14th March 2018 at between 9.00am and 5.00pm.** If you are unable to attend our open day, personal tours may be arranged with the Principal (Mrs Cathy Mason) by contacting the school office on 9758 1013 or via Email: cmason@sjfemtreegully.catholic.edu.au

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 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, 24th May 2018 at 6.30pm. Parent Information Evening is on Thursday, 22nd March 2018 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 and register your interest. Classes will commence in Term 3. 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.

FAMILY GROUPS: This week we received the sad news of the death of Fr. Peter McGrath CP, the founder of the Passionist Family Group movement. Fr Peter passed away on Saturday 3rd March 2018. His legacy, in part, has been the 30 years of Family Groups here at St Johns. May he rest in Peace

MATER CHRISTI COLLEGE: Bring your family and friends to our Weekend tour, **Sunday 18 March, departing 9.00 am.** Mater Christi College girls consistently achieve region leading VCE and vocational results. A visit will enable your family to witness our vibrant, inclusive and warm community. Visit materchristi.edu.au to book your tour.

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 \$1227. 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 ☺

THE COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISHES' RAFFLE – 2018 Thanks to the support of Fr. Alan, St Vincent de Paul Society and the FTG Social Justice Group will again share the proceeds of the annual combined churches raffle.

We have similar aims in support of the disadvantaged and our two groups will work together on this parish project. As you know a percentage of the takings of the raffle returns to our parish. We have taken on this project in 2018 because the funds raised will provide basic food and other necessities to support the disadvantaged.

St Vincent de Paul spends approximately \$2,500.00 per month on those in need.

The Social Justice Group supports projects both locally, and overseas. Among the prizes on offer there are 3 cars, and a number of retail vouchers. The only way to have a chance of winning is to buy tickets. The sale of tickets will commence this weekend: **Sat 10th/Sun 11th March.** after each mass **through until Sat 5th/ Sun 6th May.** The draw takes place on 2nd June 2018. We look forward to your support by promoting these wonderful prizes. Also feel free to take a few books to sell to family and friends.

We thank you in anticipation for your continuing ongoing support in 2018.

Prizes:

1. New Suzuki Baleno - valued at \$17490
2. New Suzuki Baleno - valued at \$17490
3. New Suzuki Baleno - valued at \$17490
- 4th & 5th: Coles/Myer gifts cards @ \$1000 each
- 6th – 14th: Coles/Myer gift cards @ \$500 each

Jenny Keating & Patrick Sawyer

AFTERNOON TEA THANK-YOU A BIG thank you to the 40 ladies of all ages! who attended our International Women's Day Afternoon Tea. It was a lovely opportunity for the women of our parish to have some quiet reflective time and also meet and mingle with other women. They all went home with a beautiful Rose, a gift bag full of goodies and some newly formed friendships. Congratulations to our four ladies who won a door prize. Looking forward to our next gathering. Cheers & Blessings Carolyn

ROSTERS: Mon 12th to Sun 18th March	
Flowers	Lent – No flowers
Altar Servers	6pm: Nicholas
Linen	Anne
Welcomers	6pm: Queenie 9am: Peter, Neil, Lorraine, Joanna 11am: Tony, Christine
Lectors	6pm: Evangeline 9am: Adrian 11am: Carolyn S
Counters	Bryon, Stephanie
Gardening	Michael