

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

4:32-32

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common.

The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect.

None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
his love is everlasting.*

SECOND READING

A reading from the First Letter of St John

5:1-6

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets.

We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is – keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world – our faith.

Who can overcome the world?

Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God; Jesus Christ, who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness – since the Spirit is the truth.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!
You believe in me, Thomas,
because you have seen me;
happy those who have not seen me,
but still believe!
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
20:19-31

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me,
so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive,
they are forgiven;

for those whose sins you retain,
they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH
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2nd SUNDAY EASTER – YEAR B

7th / 8th April, 2018

***God of life,
source of all faith,
through the waters of baptism
you have raised us up in Christ Jesus,
and given us life that endures.
Day by day refine our faith,
that we who have not seen the Christ
may truly confess him as our Lord and God.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.***



FOCUS ON THE READINGS

Today, removed from the milieu of those early Christians and the witness they gave, it is good to reflect on the story of Thomas that raises the problem for those who wish to follow Jesus: that of believing.

Thomas had known Jesus, was his friend and apostle, had shared his life with him, felt called by him, but could not accept that Jesus' death could be accompanied by resurrection.

We know that Jesus proved that to him, and that Thomas learnt to believe. St John recounts the story that we too might believe and have life.

Thomas represents those of us who find it hard to believe that Christ is truly among us and that living in peace and forgiveness is possible. To him Jesus says, "Doubt no longer but believe." The evangelist tells us that he has written this for us, so that we will recognize the signs of the Risen Lord and believe.

Lord, you know how we try to believe. Help us to see how you reveal yourself to your people, so that, like Thomas, we too will believe.

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

PARISH PRIEST:
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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.

2nd Sunday Easter – Year B
7th / 8th April, 2018
YEAR OF YOUTH

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:
Giovanni Costanzo, Fr. George Branch MIC. OAM.

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:
Archbishop Sir Frank Little (10yrs), Giuseppe Feleppa, Estrella Maidre, Priscilla Ralph, Luigi Macario, John Alston, Lynda Kelly,

The sick: Wilhelmina Weerden, Angela Sawyer, Daniel Vincent-Smith, Mary Hill, 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, Miép 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, and 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 May, 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 We are having a break over the School Holiday period, and will resume to pray together from Tuesday 17th April at **9.00am to 10.00 am each Tuesday during school term** in the Parish Centre. For enquiries, please contact the Parish Office.

PROJECT COMPASSION *Please remember to return your Project Compassion boxes as soon as possible so we can forward your donations on to Caritas Australia.*

BAPTISMS Congratulations to *Mia Evers, Anastasia Holder, Isabella O'Neill De Castro, Olivia Borzeta and Maya Oraha*, who are to be baptised this weekend. The Church of God welcomes you with great joy.



NEW LECTORS' ROSTER - The new roster starting April to June 2018 is available in the church foyer for your collection. Thank you for your dedication to this Church Ministry.

NEW EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST ROSTER - for the period 21st April to 14th October 2018 has been sent to all with email addresses. Copies are available in the church foyer for those without email addresses. Thank you for your continued commitment to this ministry.

THE PALLOTTINE CAMINO is a 3 day, 65km walk from St Christopher's Parish Syndal to Pallotti College in Millgrove. This year it is from Saturday 21st April to Monday 23rd April 2018.

It includes daily Mass, times of silence and fellowship with other walkers.

Join this beautiful walk along Dandenong Creek, the Warburton Trail and O'Shannassy Aqueduct to Millgrove. All Welcome

This walk covers 20+ km per day. Training and a good fitness levels are required. Walkers participate at their own risk.

Contact Lorraine on 0402 217 123;
or via email: lorraine613@bigpond.com

BE A VOLUNTEER 'OUT THERE' Communities in Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste, Samoa, Kiribati and Kenya, seek volunteers to mentor locals and build capacity. Palms volunteers don't do quick fixes, but immerse themselves in overseas communities for long-term skill exchange.

If you have teaching, medical, business, admin or trade skills, please consider sharing them with our global family! Come to the Palms Info Session:

Saturday 5th May @ 10:30am
Ross House, Jenny Florence Room
247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne. or
go to www.palms.org.au/volunteer
or phone **Palms** on **02 9560 5333**



MASS FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS The Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Denis Hart at St Patrick's Cathedral on **Sunday 27 May at 11.00am**. Please note that registration closes on Friday 18 May phone 9287 5587 or email: lmf@cam.org.au. If you would like to attend.

THE COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISHES' RAFFLE – 2018 There are a number of wonderful prizes on offer, and the only way to be in the running to drive away in one of the amazing cars is to purchase a ticket.

Don't leave your run too late!!

Tickets will be on sale after all Masses each weekend, until Sunday 6th May.

Jenny Keating & Patrick Sawyer



ANZAC DAY DAWN WALK & WATCH Wednesday, 25th April in 'Quarry Park', Quarry Rd, FTG. An opportunity to remember Australians who served and died for our country and to honour their spirit of courage, mateship and sacrifice. Assemble from 5.30am in the Church car park for the silent walk to the park and the **Dawn Service at 6am**. Bring torches and, if you wish something to sit on. Refreshments afterwards in the Parish Hall. Bring food to share. Inquiries to Margot Anne Boyd (9758 8278) or contact the Parish Office.

OZANAM CONVERSATION Bishop Vincent Long, in conversation with Geraldine Doogue will discuss 'What it means to be a Catholic organisation in a post Royal Commission world'.

Thursday 26th April 2018 at 6.30pm at the Catholic Leadership Centre, 576 Victoria Parade East Melbourne. This is a FREE event, with drinks and canapés served from 6.00pm. **Please RSVP by 20th April** via Email: rsvp@svdp-vic.org.au or Phone: 03 9895 5935.

CATHOLIC MAN BREAKFAST SERIES featuring Daniel Wells, current Collingwood Champion. The venue is the CQ Club, 113 - 123 Queen St. Melbourne, 7am – 9am **Thursday 24th May 2018**, \$45/head. Enquiries and bookings contact Michael Bohan phone 0439172465 or Email: michael.bohan@menalive.org.au is an opportunity men to gather and to be inspired.

ROSTERS: Mon 9th to Sun 15th April

Flowers	Marg Houlihan & Ange Cavarra
Altar Servers	6pm Nicholas D.
Linen	Sue O'H
Welcomers	6pm Queenie Jayawardena 9am Peter C, Neil & Lorraine & Johanna C.. 11am Tony & Christine E
Lectors	6pm Jenny 9am Tony D 11am Kath V
Counters	Tony & Steph
Gardening	April: Patrick S & Harry R.