

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

9:26-31

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.

Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus.

The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/. I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

SECOND READING

**A reading from the First Letter of St John
3:18-24**

My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are the children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us, because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and that we love one another as he

told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; My branches bear much fruit.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
15:1-8**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more. You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away – he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it. It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**I am the vine,
you are the branches.
John 15:5**



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

5th SUNDAY EASTER – YEAR B
28th / 29th April, 2018

***Heavenly Father
you are the Vinedresser who nourishes
us through our connection to Jesus,
the True Vine. Prune any distractions
from our lives, and help us to remain
grafted to Jesus your Son,
that we might bear abundant fruit.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.***



FOCUS ON THE READINGS

The vineyard was one of the ancient images of the people of Israel, God's chosen people and God is the vinedresser. In John's Gospel the term 'I am' has a special significance. When Moses encountered God on Mt Sinai, God revealed himself as 'I am who am'. Jesus reveals himself as Son of God in the use of this term and tells something of his mission: I am the living water, I am the good shepherd, I am the way, the truth and the life, I am the light of the world, I am the bread of life.

Jesus continues to speak to the disciples through imagery which they understood from their everyday experience and with symbols that come from their Jewish tradition. The vine is a staple part of Israel's agricultural life. It carries the idea of the life which flows into the branches from the thick stalk of the vine. Jesus becomes that giver of life and prosperity, but behind his life-giving presence is the Father. Like the vine dresser, the Father must cut away anything which impedes that life or comes from a source which is not nourished from the 'true vine'. Jesus exists to make the Father known and so it must be with disciples of Jesus. We must 'remain with' Jesus and thus make the Father known.

In what way can you cultivate and keep healthy your connection to Jesus. Who or what helps you do this?

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Monday 30th April St Pius V, pope Tuesday 1st May St Joseph the Worker
Wednesday 2nd May St Athanasius, Bishop, doctor

***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.

5th Sunday Easter – Year B

28th / 29th April, 2018

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

All who have died recently:

Frances Thomas,

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Annie McCann, Joseph Kuek, Lucy Lee, and Giovanni Costanzo (1 month) .

The sick: Brigida Mazzone, 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, 5th 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 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.

FIRST FRIDAY MASS (with the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick) – Friday 4th May at 11am. Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament from 10 am. Please stay for a cup of tea/coffee after Mass.

FUNERAL MASS FOR FRANCES THOMAS will be celebrated here at **St John the Baptist Church on Monday 30th April at 11am.**

PYXES TO BE RETURNED if anyone has a parish Pyx at home, not being used, could we ask that you please return it to the sacristy. With winter coming on, the number of sick unable to leave home or hospital, who request Holy Communion is greater. A big thank-you to all who have returned pyxes.

PARISH MUSICAL – “It’s Not About the Girl” Help needed to Build Small Props We do still need some help with making props for the up-coming production. Could you help us by making any of the following?

Pretend fire in a tub or drum (the outdoors kind)
 A specials board for our restaurant scene, 16 small bread rolls preserved with PVA glue, 2 fake or real topiary trees with roses in them, 2 balloon trees
 A fake wad of money. Please contact the parish office on 9758 1029 for more information, or to register your interest.

THE COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISHES' RAFFLE – 2018 *A friendly reminder* that all unsold tickets and ticket butts **must be returned by next weekend, 4th and 5th May at the very latest.** Tickets can be returned during office hours to the Parish office. Thank you for your assistance and support.

Jenny Keating & Patrick Sawyer

AFTERNOON OF REFLECTION: MAKE YOUR HOME IN ME Sunday 29th April, 3.30–6.30pm St Bridget's, 48 Sweyn Street, North Balwyn. The Boroondara Deanery invites you to an afternoon of reflection on Easter themes this Sunday, commencing with an afternoon tea at 3.30pm, reflection in the church with Fr Kevin Lenehan at 4pm, a guided reflection and personal prayer space from 4.45pm and concluding with Mass at 5.30pm. **RSVP:** for catering to Berny Kirwan on 8862 4020 or hawthornparishsec@gmail.com

CAPUCHIN VOCATION EVENING FOR MEN Thursday 3 May, 6pm 180 Power Street, Hawthorn (near St Anthony's shrine) The Capuchin Friars invite single Catholic men (aged 18 to 35) who are discerning a possible religious or priestly vocation to come for an enquiry evening at 'Hermit's Retreat', Hawthorn. The night will include adoration, evening prayer, dinner and presentations on religious life/priesthood and Capuchin life and spirituality. Details and RSVP: Fr Thomas on 0432 362 052 or vocations@capuchinfriars.org.au

HELP NEEDED The 9am Sunday Mass choir here at St Johns desperately needs new members. Perhaps you could help out weekly, fortnightly or monthly? Please let us know how we can make it happen. Please contact Maree Wilson on 9758 6585



MUSICAL PLAY “Vincent Pallotti powered by Infinite Love.” On the **4th & 5th May 2018** at St Christopher's Parish in Syndal. For Bookings contact Florence D'Costa on 0433 851 662 or www.trybooking.com/URDB

TOUCHING THE FRINGE OF HIS GARMENT

A journey of inner healing retreat presented by the Catholic School of Evangelisation. BYO lunch and bible; morning and afternoon tea will be provided. **Saturday 5th May and Sunday 6th May 2018** from 9.00am–5.00pm St Clare's Hall, access from Killara Street, Box Hill North Bookings: by Monday 30 April at <https://www.trybooking.com/TEBY> (use promo code CSOE for 10% discount) or contact Rose on 0411 650 339 Cost: \$50 donation, students \$30

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND invest in your most precious asset...Your Marriage! Forget life's



tensions and interruptions and rekindle the closeness, intimacy, love and romance that brought you together. Recharge your relationship batteries and explore the precious nature of your marriage, allowing you both to share

your feelings, hopes and dreams with each other in ways that normal, daily living tends to inhibit. There is no group sharing. Couples and a priest present the weekend. It is based around Catholic values but couples of all faiths are welcome. 2018 Melbourne weekend dates: 1-3 June, 17-19 August, and 11-13 November 2018. Starts 7pm on Friday. Ends 5pm Sunday. Accommodation and all meals provided.

Information/Bookings: Website: www.wmwe.org.au
 PH: Andre and Maria 0411 225 992

ROSTERS: Mon 30th April to Sun 6th May	
Flowers	Sue Nichols
Altar Servers	6pm Nicholas D.
Linen	Laurel S
Welcomers	6pm Sue Nichols, Anna M. 9am Rosa L, Terry & Laurel S. 11am: Gina M, Pat O'B
Lectors	6pm Steph H 9am Pamela E. 11am Sarah M.
Counters	Peter & Dawn G, George & Genevieve W
Gardening	May Tom N. & Chris M..