

## FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48.

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up,' he said, 'I am only a man after all!'

Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said, 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

**The Word of the Lord.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/. The Lord has revealed to the nations  
his saving power.*

## SECOND READING

A reading from the First Letter of St John

4:7-10

My dear people,  
let us love one another since love comes from God and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.

Anyone who fails to love can never have known God, because God is love.

God's love for us was revealed when God sent into the world his only Son so that we could have life through him; this is the love I mean not our love for God, but God's love for us when he sent his Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

**The Word of the Lord.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*All who love me will keep my words,  
and my Father will love them  
and we will come to them.*

*Alleluia!*

## GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John  
15:9-17

Jesus said to his disciples:

'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love.

I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete.

This is my commandment:

love one another, as I have loved you.

A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.

You are my friends, if you do what I command you, I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant does not know his master's business;

I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father.

You did not choose me, no, I chose you;

and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last;

and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name.

What I command you is to love one another.'

**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**

**6<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY EASTER – YEAR B**

**5<sup>th</sup> / 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2018**

*O God, to whom every heart is open,  
every desire known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden;  
purify the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily praise your holy name.  
Amen.*



*Greater love  
has no one than this:  
that he lay down his life for his friends.  
John 15:13*

## FOCUS ON THE READINGS

The heart of today's gospel lies in Jesus repeating himself: 'Love one another'. The model for this love is the love that Jesus showed towards all those who follow him. Jesus has changed the way in which God relates to human beings. We are no longer servants of God but are drawn into deep intimacy and friendship through the Son. This new relationship is not dependent on our choice or will. God has chosen us and we are now commissioned to bear fruit, fruit that will last. The Christian command to love is not a vague feeling of good will; it is a love which suffers all and may demand great sacrifice. The command to love as Jesus loved may be the most difficult test of our Christianity. This is how the presence of Jesus is experienced even in his absence.

Jesus wants to emphasise the closeness and intimacy between himself and the disciples He speaks of this relationship in a radical way when he names them friends. Friendship implies equality, an openness and sharing of life and experience, a mutual concern and interest. We are usually more comfortable in imagining our relationship with God as with a superior rather than a friend.

How does this image of friendship and intimacy challenge you? .

How are we called to 'lay down our life for our friends' in our daily existence?

## FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> St Nereus and Archilleus, martyrs St Pancras, martyr

*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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday Easter – Year B**  
**5<sup>th</sup> / 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2018**

**YEAR OF YOUTH****PRAYING FOR...****All who have died recently:**

Ortensia Murarotto, Pietro Zandona (Italy).

**Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:**

Fred Delaney, Rogelio Tangog, Joseph Knur, Ernest Royal.

**The sick:** Paddy McCann, 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, 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, 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 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.

**FUNERAL MASS FOR Ortensia Murarotto** will be celebrated here at **St John the Baptist Church** on **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May at 11am.** Rosary will be recited prior to the Mass.

**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 BREAKFAST Sunday 27th May at 10.00am** in the School Hall. The Social Justice Group invites you to join us for a hearty cooked breakfast in the good company of your fellow parishioners. Then listen to our speaker Josh Wilkins from One Voice who will inform us about his experience with the Mobile shower bus for the homeless and the like. Tickets (\$22 each) will be on sale after all weekend masses. Queries please contact: Patrick Sawyer 0434 072 831

**PARISH MUSICAL "It's Not About the Girl" Help needed** We do still need some help with making props for the up-coming production. Could you help us by making any of the following?

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, and a Banner naming the Restaurant 'The Vineyard' Please contact the parish office on 9758 1029 for more information.

**Ticket Sales** are now in full swing. Pick up a blue ticket order form from the trolleys or see our friendly ticket seller after mass. Buy early for the best seats.

**CONFIRMATION PRAYER Could you spare a prayer?** The celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation is fast approaching. Your prayers would be much appreciated, to lend support to our young Candidates. Please consider picking up a Bookmark available from the trollies, each bearing the a name of a Candidate who would value your prayers. Thank you for your support.

**MATER CHRISTI COLLEGE**

Bring your family and friends to our upcoming tour, on **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May, at 9.30am.** Mater Christi girls consistently achieve region leading VCE and vocational results. A visit will enable your family to witness the vibrant, inclusive and warm college community. Visit materchristi.edu.au to book your tour.



**PROJECT COMPASSION ANNUAL SPECIAL APPEAL** A Big thank you for your generous donations to this appeal. Total collection amounted to \$2,782.90

**MELBOURNE CATHOLIC MAGAZINE** May issue now available, in the church foyer – \$4 a copy

**SOUTHERN STARS SOCIAL CLUB** is a friendly social club for single Catholics in the **25-60 age group** is hosting an **Over 28's Party Night**, which will take place on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at 8pm. **Venue** is Benedict House, 301 Warrigal Rd Burwood (One house past the Presbytery). Cost \$13.00 which includes luck door prizes and supper. Enquiries: please phone Peter on 9885 2167.

**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 9-11 November 2018. Starts 7pm on Friday. Ends 5pm Sunday. Accommodation and all meals provided. Information / Bookings: Website: www.wwme.org.au Tel: Andre & Maria 0411 225 992

**LIFE COACHING WITH PHUONG** Come and join us for a free Coaching 101 workshop to find balance in life and set some goals for the next season in your life journey on Wednesday 16th May 2018 at 7:30pm – 9:30pm Venue: Our Lady of Lourdes Church foyer 23 Orange Grove Bayswater  
 RSVP: 03 9729 2622 (Church office)  
 The session will start with the rosary followed by an inspiring workshop looking at you and exploring your own life. Bring a friend if you prefer to discuss topics with them privately.  
 Coffee and Tea will follow after 9:30pm for those that wish to mingle.

<b>ROSTERS: Mon 7<sup>th</sup> May to Sun 13<sup>th</sup> May</b>	
<b>Flowers</b>	Marg H & Judy G
<b>Altar Servers</b>	6pm Nicholas D.
<b>Linen</b>	Sue Nichols
<b>Welcomers</b>	6pm Queenie J 9am Peter C Neil & Lorraine. & Johanna C. 11am: Tony & Christine E
<b>Lectors</b>	6pm Evangeline 9am Caroline Q 11am Steph H
<b>Counters</b>	Peter & Dawn G, George & Genevieve W
<b>Gardening</b>	MAY: Tom N. & Chris M.