

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy 6:2-6

Moses said to the people: 'If you fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and if you keep all his laws and commandments which I lay on you, you will have a long life, you and your son and your grandson. Listen then, Israel, keep and observe what will make you prosper and give you great increase, as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you, giving you a land where milk and honey flow.

'Listen, Israel: The Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let these words I urge on you today be written on your heart.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/. I Love you, Lord, my strength.

SECOND READING

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews 7:23-28

There used to be a great number of priests under the former covenant, because death put an end to each one of them; but this one, Christ, because he remains for ever, can never lose his priesthood. It follows, then, that his power to save is utterly certain, since he is living for ever to intercede for all who come to God through him.

To suit us, the ideal high priest would have to be holy, innocent and uncontaminated, beyond the influence of sinners, and raised up above the heavens; one who would not need to offer sacrifices every day, as the other high priests do for their own sins and then for those of the people, because he has done this once and for all by offering himself. The Law appoints high priests who are men subject to weakness; but

the promise on oath, which came after the Law, appointed the Son who is made perfect for ever.

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 Mark 12:28-34

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him anymore.

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

KNOX DEANERY

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Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au

Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

3rd / 4th November, 2018

Almighty Father,

So we never forget, write on our hearts

that You want us to love You

with our whole soul, our whole mind,

and all our understanding,

and with every ounce of our strength.

And let our love for You spill over to our neighbour.

Through Christ our Lord Amen.



FOCUS ON THE READINGS

When we begin today's gospel passage we may be expecting a trap being laid by the scribe. In Jewish tradition, a lot of teaching occurs through a question and answer style. Jesus is asked which commandment is first and he provides two commandments as his answer. However, he doesn't bundle them together as one overarching commandment – he very distinctly identifies them as first and second. His qualification of the first commandment – to love God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength – is a way of capturing the whole person. What Jesus is saying is to love God completely and utterly with your whole person. Then he follows up and adds another commandment – 'You must love your neighbour as yourself.' The scribe agrees with Jesus' teaching and adds that these are far more important than offering sacrifice. This is a pretty controversial statement from a scribe! Sacrifice has been the official form of prayer practised in the Temple for a very long time and he suggests that love of God and love of neighbour are far more important! It is because of this understanding about the priority of love over religious practice – the hallmark of the kingdom of God that Jesus proclaims – that Jesus pronounces the scribe to be 'not far from the kingdom of God.' Fulfilling the Dual Command, we guard against the extremes of religious piety or social activism and become Christian humanists loving God and neighbour.

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

9th November – The dedication of the Lateran Basilica.

10th November – St Leo the Great, pope, 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
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DEACON:

Rev. Peter Stringfellow 9758 1029
 Email: Peter.Stringfellow@cam.org.au

FAITH DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR:

Carolyn Sombekke 9758 1029
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PARISH OFFICE:

9758 1029
 Monday to Friday 9:00 am – 3:00 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.

Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B
3rd / 4th November, 2018

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

Fr. Leo Griffin PE, Daphne Mullins (Ireland).

**Those who we remember at this time:**

Fr Bill Bainbridge (15yrs), George Edmunds, Eileen Roberts, David Howell, Salvatore Teofilo, Pius & Florence Silva, Alan Lawson, Vincenzo Caruso, Elena Catalano, William Ooi Kok Chin & Edwin Lew Fook, Gerry Daelmans, Louis Theodore, Margaret Cecchin, Francis Cassar, Paul Savanah, Agnese Paternoster, Cameron Coney, Pauline Wite, Emily Morrison, George Brown and Vince Sasso (1 month).

The sick: Baby Xavier King; Giuseppina Zarro, Oscar Price, Tom McMahon, Brigida Mazzone, Wilhelmina Weerden, Daniel Vincent-Smith, Keith Scutt, Peter Commons, 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, Peter Mitchell, Jemma Du Buisson Perrine, Brock McAvaney, Beryl Turner, 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: 1st Saturday of each month, at 10.30am.
 Venue: 37 Lane Road, FTG. All are welcome.
 Contact: Pauline Barlow on: 9758 5106.

FRIENDSHIP GATHERING: Everyone is welcome on **Thursdays between 10am to 1pm** for a chat over a cuppa, join a card game, knit or just sit for a while.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP owing to the Cup Day Public Holiday, there will be no meeting on the 6th of November. We will resume on 13th November.

MOTHERS' PRAYER No meeting due to Cup day holiday this week.

THE 2019 COLUMBAN CALENDAR is now available in the Piety Stall. Cost **\$8 per copy**.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS MAGAZINE your free copy is Available on the trolleys to collect.

NOVEMBER CROSS November is the month of the Holy Souls, where we pray for parishioners, friends, and members of our families, who have gone before us in faith.



Our prayer is that they will live forever with the Lord. As is our custom at St John's, during November you'll have the opportunity to write the names of those you wish to remember on our November Cross. For those who would like to have a Mass offered for deceased relatives and friends, November Offering envelopes are available on the trolleys.

THE ANNUAL COLLECTION FOR THE CATHOLIC DEAF will be taken up next week. at all masses. Please bring a little extra to support this work

STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES Your new series of Stewardship envelopes is now available for collection in the church foyer. A big thank you to everyone for your generous support.

ST JOHN'S SCHOOL BUILDING WORKS

The temporary fencing has now been erected. Please find below some possible solutions to the limited parking options for the duration of the building works

1. School staff will park behind the school hall to allow an extra 8 parking spaces for the weekday masses, Tuesday's Prayer Group, Thursday's Friendship Group, and other Parish activities during the week.
2. Some parishioners might generously choose to park in the lower car park area for weekend Masses, to alleviate the demand for the limited parking around the church.
3. Parishioners may consider carpooling
4. Consider walking to Mass (where possible)

we are very grateful for your understanding and support during this time.

- Fr Alan Fox (PP) & Cathy Mason (Principal)

ADVENT REFLECTION AND AFTERNOON TEA

An Advent Reflection Day will be held on Thursday 29th November between 1.30pm and 3.00pm in the Parish Hall. Come and join us for an afternoon tea of joyful reflection and community connection. Please RSVP to the parish office so that I can prepare something special for you.



- Carolyn Sombekke, Faith Development Coordinator.

ADVENT IS FAST APPROACHING have you considered joining or starting an **Advent Discussion Group**? There's time for prayer, the reading of Scripture, as well as discussion. Please indicate your interest on the sign-up sheet beneath the poster entitled **Saviour: Advent & Christmas Daily Reflections**, situated on the glass wall. Books: \$4.00.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL ANNUAL BREAK-UP Inviting all volunteers and friends of St. Vincent de Paul, to our annual break-up dinner on Wednesday 21st November at the Royal Hotel in Upper Ferntree Gully from 6.30pm. Kindly RSVP by 14th November by phone to either Connie Bala on 9753 5000 or Bev McNamara on 9758 2818



DEVONSHIRE TEAS at the Fete raised a total of \$713.50 on the day – a huge thank you to all who contributed and assisted with this.

SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP TRIVIA NIGHT A big thank you to all who attended the trivia night. Thanks also to the many who made donations. We raised **\$1172**, 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. Date for your diary: Next Trivia Night Saturday 2nd March 2019.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC?

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is an opportunity to explore the Catholic faith in a non-confronting environment. RCIA is for those who may be searching for God, for those not baptised, for those baptised in another Christian tradition, for those baptised but who have not received other Sacraments of Initiation. If you would like to find out more at a relaxed, informal meeting, please contact the Parish Office on 9758 1029.

THE WORLD MISSION APPEAL 2018 COLLECTED ON 21ST OCTOBER

raised a total of **\$2,879.75**. Thank you for your most generous support! Through this act, you are part of Mission, supporting the life-giving work happening in 160 countries around the world. Please keep missionaries in your prayers.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE KNOX LOCAL AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

are now open. If you would like to make a nomination, download a form from the website at www.knox.vic.gov.au or contact the Governance Team on Ph 9298 8000. Nominations close on Wednesday 28th November 2018.

ROSTERS: Mon 5th Nov to Sun 11th Nov.	
Flowers	Marg H & Ange C
Altar Servers	6pm: Nicholas D
Linen	Jean B
Welcomers	6pm: Jayne P & Myra N 9am Marg & Adrian D, Anastasia 11am: Patrick S & Coral M
Lectors	6pm: Steph H 9am: Gordon V 11am: Peter J
Counters	Tony B & Lia U
Gardening	NOV: HELP NEEDED!