

## FIRST READING

**A reading from the prophet Jeremiah**

**33:14-16**

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:

‘In those days and at that time, I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land.

In those days Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell in confidence. And this is the name the city will be called:

The Lord-our-integrity.’

**The Word of the Lord.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/. To you O Lord, I lift my soul.*

## SECOND READING

**A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians**

**3:12-4:2**

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

**The Word of the Lord.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Lord, show us your mercy and love,  
and grant us your salvation.*

*Alleluia!*

## GOSPEL READING

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke**

**21:25-28, 34-36**

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

‘Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.’

**The Gospel of the Lord.**



*Hope is Faith,  
Holding it's hand out  
in the Dark.*



## **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**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent - Year C – Hope**

**1<sup>st</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2018**

***Loving God,***

***We thank you for the hope you give us.***

***Help us prepare our hearts for the Lord's coming.***

***We ask this in the name***

***of the one born in Bethlehem,***

***Jesus Christ our Lord.***

***Amen.***



## FOCUS ON THE READINGS

Today begins a special time of year for us, as we begin the season of Advent, that period of waiting before Christmas. Be alert, be ready, be on guard. ‘hold your heads high’ (Lk 21:28). Luke’s Gospel encourages us to do two seemingly incompatible things – to be realistic about the world around us and yet not to lose hope in the future. This is difficult! By retelling the Jesus story again with every Advent season, the memory of God’s love becomes the ground of our hope. We light an advent candle today, a small dim light against a world that often seems forbidding and dark. But we light it because we are a people of hope, a people whose faith is marked by an expectation that we should always be ready for the coming of the Master. The future holds hope because of the past; the love of God was revealed in a totally new way when God sent his son as a newborn to bring us back to Him. As Advent begins, reflect upon how ready you are for Jesus’ coming. Are you preparing for it with the same fervour that you prepare for Christmas through shopping, cooking, decorating, all other commitments? If you find that you are not as prepared for His return in glory as you’d like to be, make this Advent a time when you get your heart ready.

Lord, as Advent begins, help me to put my eyes on You. Help me to open my ears to Your voice. And help me to open my heart to Your glorious presence.

## **FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK**

**3<sup>rd</sup> December – St Francis Xavier, priest**

**4<sup>th</sup> December John Damascene, priest, doctor**

**6<sup>th</sup> December - St Nicholas, bishop**

**7<sup>th</sup> December St Ambrose, bishop, doctor**

**8<sup>th</sup> December – The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Solemnity)**

***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: Peter.Stringfellow@cam.org.au

**FAITH DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR:**

Carolyn Sombekke 9758 1029  
 Email: csombekkesjb@gmail.com

**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 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.

**1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY ADVENT - YEAR C**  
**1<sup>st</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2018**  
**HOPE**

**PRAYING FOR...***All who have died recently:*

Laura Fabrizio

*We remember the anniversaries of:*

Luigia & Giuseppe Cecchin; Antonietta & Giovanni Sartori, John Masterson; Dimitri Rogers, Neil Brewster, John Dillon, David Hurley.

*The sick:*, Baby Xavier King; Giuseppina Zarro, Oscar Price, Tom McMahon, Brigida Mazzone, 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: 1<sup>st</sup> 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** meet **every Tuesday at 10.15am** in the Parish Hall followed by inspiring teaching and prayer ministry. All are welcome. Enquiries: Judy: 9752 2986

**MOTHERS' PRAYERS GROUP** invites mothers, grand-mothers and godmothers join in prayer from **9am–10am each Tuesday** (during school term) in the Parish Centre. For enquiries, please contact the Parish Office

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

**CARITAS GLOBAL GIFTS** When you choose a Global Gift card to give to family or friends this Christmas, you are supporting women give birth safely with access to expert care before and after babies are born. Order Global Gift cards online at www.globalgifts.org.au or call us on 1800 024 413.



**FIRST FRIDAY ANOINTING MASS Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 11am.** Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament from 10am. Mass includes the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. Please stay for a cup of tea/coffee after Mass.

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL ANGEL TREE CHRISTMAS 2018**

Each year we provide needy families that we have visited throughout the year with a Christmas food hamper and gift cards for each of their children. We invite you to contribute to either of these:

- Under the Angel Tree we will provide basket/bags for your Christmas food items or those who might like to donate a complete hamper. Please feel free to supply your own bags if you wish.
- The gift cards we will provide allows the parents to purchase a suitable gift themselves according to the age and needs of their child or children.

You may like to take an "Angel" from the tree and purchase a gift card to the amount of either \$10, \$20, or \$30. Please place your donation in the box near the tree. The Gift cards can be purchased **from Kmart, Target, Coles, Myer** or any other store of your choice.

Should you wish to make a cash donation to the SVDP Christmas Appeal, envelopes are available on the trollies. These can be placed on the collection baskets during mass.

On behalf of our SVDP local conference, we would like to sincerely thank you for your ongoing generosity this year in supporting our work with the disadvantaged. We also thank Fr Alan for his encouragement on behalf of our parish. – SVDP :- Ferntree Gully Conference.

**FOOTHILLS COMMUNITY CHURCH CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH**

You are invited to a free lunch from 12 noon on Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> December. Food, drinks, entertainment, presents from the Christmas Angel. Transport can be arranged. To be held in our Parish Hall. Please contact the Parish Office on 9758 1029 to register if you would like to attend.

**IDEAS FOR GRATITUDE AND HOSPITALITY.**

As part of the recent Parish Advent reflection afternoon, participants were provided with a Calendar of ideas to foster "Gratitude and Hospitality" over the season of Advent. Carolyn has kindly made copies of this calendar available on the Trollies, for collection. Should you wish to implement these ideas during the Advent season, please take a copy home.

**MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSION APPEAL**

will take place next weekend. Please bring a little extra, to donate to this appeal. Be generous in your financial support and in your prayers so that communities in some of the world's most remote countries may receive the basics for human living. Donations of \$2.00 and over are tax deductible.

**CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS**

Once again the "Nativity play" will be part of our 7:30pm Christmas Eve Family Mass. All children (especially the little ones) are invited to come dressed as Angels or Shepherds. Costume, need not be elaborate – a white dress or fairy skirt & wings for angels and tea towel headwear for shepherds will do. We are also looking for children (Grade 3 and above) to play the parts of Mary, Joseph, 3 Kings and Caesar. All costumes for these main characters will be provided. The children will be asked to sit in the area surrounding the altar. If you are interested, or if you have any questions, please contact the Parish Office on 9758 1029.



**HELP NEEDED** Singers / Musicians are invited to join in the Choir for the up-coming Christmas Masses. Please contact Maree Wilson on BH 9758 1029 Wednesday – Friday or AH 9758 6585 if you are interested in joining us.

**LECTORS' ROSTER**

a new roster is being prepared for lectors for January – March. Could those who are currently on the roster please notify me if they are unavailable during that period or if there are any other changes required. If you would like to read at Mass please contact Stephanie ph: 9758 5497 or via email smhorgen@gmail.com before 21<sup>st</sup> December. You may consider sharing the role by reading just one of the readings. Students in Years 11 & 12 are welcome. Rosters will be available on 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> December.

**ROSTERS: Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec to Sun 9<sup>th</sup> Dec.**

<b>Flowers</b>	Marg H & Judy G
<b>Altar Servers</b>	6pm: Nicholas D
<b>Linen</b>	Sue N
<b>Welcomers</b>	6pm: Jayne P, Myra N 9am Marg & Adrian D & Anastasia A 11am Patrick S & Coral M
<b>Lectors</b>	6pm: Louise D 9am: Adrian S 11am: Sarah M
<b>Counters</b>	Steph, George & Genevieve
<b>Gardening</b>	Patrick S & Harry R