

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Baruch

5: 1-9

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'. Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them. Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God. And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

SECOND READING

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Philippians **1:4-6, 8-11**

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes.

God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths: all people shall
see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke **3:1-6**

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness; Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

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

2nd Sunday of Advent - Year C – 'Peace'

8th / 9th December, 2018

*Lord God,
send Your Spirit of love to us this Advent
that we may accept the call to repent and renew.
Empower us with the grace to believe in You,
and remain faithful to your Word.
In You Lord, we find our peace. Amen.*



FOCUS ON THE READINGS

The second and third weeks of Advent this year focus particularly on the role of John the Baptist as the one who prepared the way for Jesus and announced his coming. It continues the theme of preparation that was begun last week, but rather than preparing for the birth of Jesus, we are exploring the wider theme of preparation. The gospel writer includes a quote from Isaiah in which the prophet says, 'Prepare a way for the Lord.' The emphasis - that John was preaching 'a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins' - is a reminder to us that Advent is a season of preparation. The preparation is all about making way for the love of God in our lives. The love of God surrounds us all the time. It's like a rapidly flowing stream and sometimes we have placed boulders in the stream that send the water flowing around us. The call to make a way for the Lord is a call to clear the rocks out of the stream; to remove the obstacles that are directing the love of God around us and allow it instead to flow directly through us.

- What are some of the obstacles to God that you have put up in your life?

- Identify ways that you could 'Prepare the way' - make the road clearer and open yourself up to a more positive relationship with God.

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

8th December – The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Solemnity)

11th December – St Damasus I, pope

12th December Our Lady of Guadalupe

13th December - St Lucy, Virgin, martyr

14th December – St John of the Cross, priest, 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: 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 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 ADVENT - YEAR C

8th / 9th December, 2018

PEACE

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Pasquale Parente

**We remember the anniversaries of:**

Carmela Piro (1 month), Raffaele Prasel, Jacques Walter, Maureen Hawkins, John Masterson, George Kuhlmann.

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: 1st Saturday of each month, at 10.30am.
 Venue: 37 Lane Road, FTG. All are welcome.
 Contact: Pauline Barlow on: 9758 5106.

FRIENDSHIP GATHERING: will take a break from Thursday 13th December till Thursday 10th January. We wish everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP Tuesday 11th December will be our Christmas break-up. Meet in the Hall at 10am, with a lunch to follow, 12 midday at the Ferntree Gully Bowling club.

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.

BAPTISMS We offer our congratulations to: **William Bonner** son of Byron & Elizabeth; **Luca Nguyen Woodward** son of Nicholas & Huyen and **Madison Grantham** daughter of Damian & Nicole, who are to be baptised this weekend: The Church of God welcomes you with great joy.

**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 trolleys. 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.

THANK YOU The Society of St Vincent de Paul sincerely thanks Fr Alan for his support throughout the year, Knox City Council for the funding received towards the seniors' lunch, Mrs Cathy Mason for helping to serve lunch, and thank you to the school children who set up the hall, Terry Stephens and his team of drivers, Lyle and his team of musicians, Sue Nichols and the team of volunteers inside the kitchen and outside serving the meals, putting together lolly bags etc. Everyone who played a part, no matter how big or small, your time and efforts are truly appreciated. May God bless you all this holy season of Christmas and may peace and you be with you all.

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020: What is God asking of us in Australia at this time? To lend your input to this discussion, please consider visiting: plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/ by 6th March, 2019.

MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSION APPEAL

will take place this weekend. Your generous financial support and prayers will assist communities in some of the world's most remote countries to receive basics such as clean water, schooling, healthcare, agricultural skills, etc. Donations \$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 21st 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 29th/30th December.

ROSTERS: Mon 10th Dec to Sun 17th Dec.

Flowers	Anne P & Connie B
Altar Servers	6pm: Nicholas D
Linen	Alvie M
Welcomers	6pm: Sue N & Anna M 9am Rosa L & Terry & Laurel S 11am Gina M & Pat O'Brien
Lectors	6pm: Phuong B 9am: Gordon V 11am: Kath V
Counters	Steph, George & Genevieve
Gardening	Patrick S & Harry R