

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah
3: 14-18

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud! Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away. The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear. When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem: Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp. The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/. Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

SECOND READING

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Philippians
4:4-7

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
3:10-18

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

The Gospel of the Lord.



*I Baptize With Water
But One Mightier
Is Coming*



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

KNOX DEANERY

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3rd Sunday of Advent - Year C – 'JOY'

15th / 16th December, 2018

*Lord, ready our hearts for your coming,
baptise us in the fire of the Holy Spirit.
Burn the chaff from our wheat,
Warm our hearts to receive you, and to
share your love with everyone.
In You Lord, we find our joy. Amen.*



FOCUS ON THE READINGS

Is it any wonder that there was a growing sense among the people that John might be the Christ? John's teaching demonstrates for us just how much he was preparing the way for Jesus: In this instance, the people gathered around John (presumably having been baptised by him) are asking how they should live out their new-found conversion of heart. John's response to the three groups is about the need for generosity and justice. It is about not taking more than your share when someone else does not have sufficient. He tells them, 'Share with those in need, be fair in your dealings with others and don't abuse your power.' When the people start to talk about him being the Christ, John is quick to point them to the one who is still to come; the one who will share with them more fully the love of God and the fire of the Holy Spirit. The baptism that John preached and practised was a baptism of repentance. What he called on people to do was to recognise the areas of their lives that were unbalancing their relationship with God. There was a strong recognition that unless they were in right relationship with one another they could not be in right relationship with God. In recognising the need for change in their lives, John challenged them to also make a change of heart: to approach their lives differently. This is why they were questioning him about practical ways of living out their new commitment.

-Apart from charitable giving, how can generosity be expressed?

- In what aspect/s of your life could you need to adopt a more generous spirit?

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.

3rd SUNDAY ADVENT - YEAR C
15th / 16th December, 2018
JOY

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:
 Philomena Walsh (Ireland), Wally Johnson.

*We remember the anniversaries of:*

Maria Daraio, Riccardo Garbuio, Members of the Barretto and D'Cunha Families, Benjamin Bullen, Kevin Leddin, Ryan Castricum, Giuseppe Rizio, Maria Saracino, Max Cartledge, Alyda Donegan, Patrick O'Reilly.

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 2019. We wish everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP will be taking a break over the Christmas period Our first meeting for 2019 will be **Tuesday 5th February at 10.15 am** in the Parish Hall. We wish everyone a happy and holy Christmas and every blessing for 2019.

MOTHERS' PRAYERS GROUP will take a break over the Christmas Period, and re-start **5th February 2019**, Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all.

CARITAS GLOBAL GIFTS. You can Order Global Gift cards online at www.globalgifts.org.au or call us on 1800 024 413.

GAUDETE SUNDAY the Third Sunday of Advent is often referred to as Gaudete ("Rejoice") Sunday. The title comes from the beginning of the Latin introit for this Sunday, "Gaudete in Domino semper: iterum dico, gaudete" ("Rejoice in the Lord; again I say, rejoice," Philippians 4:4, from the second reading for this Sunday). With only one more Sunday before Christmas, the liturgy takes on a more eager and urgent sense of anticipation.

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.

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

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 can help out with the music over the Christmas Masses.

THE 2019 COLUMBAN CALENDAR is now available at the Piety Stall. Cost **\$8 per copy**. These make great Christmas Gifts



EXTENDED PENITENTIAL RITE
 Tuesday 18th December within 7pm Mass, and followed by the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Individual) after Mass.

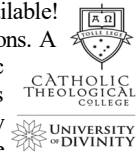
BAPTISMS – We offer our congratulations to **Evie Langmead** daughter of Nyall & Laura and **Valentino Chavez** son of Raul & Johanna and, who are to be baptised this weekend: The Church of God welcomes you with great joy.



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.



CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE 2019 Study Options are Now Available! Undergraduate and Postgraduate Options. A Choice of Philosophy, Systematic Theology, Moral Theology, Religious Education or Christian Spirituality units. Audit options available Please Direct your enquiries to Mr John Bartholomeusz (Assistant Dean) either by Ph: 9412 3309 or Email: ctc@ctc.edu.au



FAITH SEEKING UNDERSTANDING Carolyn has written us a reflection this week on the topic of Lip Service. Please feel free to take home a copy available on the trollies.

ROSTERS: Mon 17th Dec to Sun 23rd Dec.	
Flowers	Marg H & Ange C
Altar Servers	6pm: Nicholas D
Linen	Jean B
Welcomers	6pm: Queenie J, 9am Peter C, Neil & Lorraine R, Joanna C 11am Tony & Christine E
Lectors	6pm: Steph H 9am: Pamela E 11am: Carolyn S
Counters	Bryon M & Ruby S
Gardening	Patrick S & Harry R