

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah 17:5-8

The Lord says this:
'A curse on the man who puts his trust in man,
who relies on things of flesh,
whose heart turns from the Lord.
He is like dry scrub in the wastelands;
if good comes, he has no eyes for it,
he settles in the parched places of the wilderness,
a salt land, uninhabited.
'A blessing on the man who puts his trust in the
Lord, with the Lord for his hope.
He is like a tree by the waterside
that thrusts its roots to the stream:
when the heat comes it feels no alarm,
its foliage stays green;
it has no worries in a year of drought,
and never ceases to bear fruit.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R./ Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

SECOND READING

*A reading from the First Letter of St. Paul
to the Corinthians 15:12, 16-20*

If Christ raised from the dead is what has been
preached, how can some of you be saying that
there is no resurrection of the dead? For if the
dead are not raised, Christ has not been raised,
and if Christ has not been raised, you are still in
your sins. And what is more serious, all who
have died in Christ have perished. If our hope
in Christ has been for this life only, we are the
most unfortunate of all people. But Christ has in
fact been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of
all who have fallen asleep.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!
Rejoice and be glad;
your reward is great in heaven.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
6:17, 20-26*

Jesus came down with the Twelve and stopped at a
piece of level ground where there was a large
gathering of his disciples with a great crowd of
people from all parts of Judaea and from Jerusalem
and from the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon who
had come to hear him and to be cured of their
diseases.

Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said: 'How
happy are you who are poor: yours is the kingdom
of God. Happy you who are hungry now: you shall
be satisfied. Happy you who weep now: you shall
laugh. 'Happy are you when people hate you, drive
you out, abuse you, denounce your name as
criminal, on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice
when that day comes and dance for joy, for then
your reward will be great in heaven. This was the
way their ancestors treated the prophets.

'But alas for you who are rich: you are having your
consolation now. Alas for you who have your fill
now: you shall go hungry. Alas for you who laugh
now: you shall mourn and weep.

'Alas for you when the world speaks well of you!
This was the way their ancestors treated the false
prophets.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Blessed
are the Poor
in Spirit*



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

Knox Deanery

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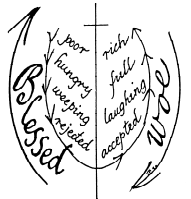
Email: office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C

16th & 17th February, 2019

*Lord God,
watch over us today
as we reflect upon Your Word,
so that our hearts and minds are open to Your love.
Give us grace to hear You and know You.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



FOCUS ON THE READINGS

It seems odd that anybody should be happy to be poor, hungry, mourning or reviled and we would certainly regard these as states of sadness and difficulty; not times for rejoicing at our good fortune! However, this gospel reminds us that God does not think, feel and behave as we might expect. God's actions are frequently contrary to the expectations of society. This Gospel makes it plain that the reign of God will upend the structures of society. It is in this context that the poor, the hungry and the outcast are regarded as happy. Their happiness comes from the reassurance that although they are rejected and dismissed by society, they are indeed the most favoured of God. Whatever the world dishes up, they can rejoice in the knowledge that in the reign of God their fortunes will be reversed and they will be favoured. However, just as the fortunes of the poor and afflicted will be reversed for the better, those who are rich, well fed, happy and well regarded will also have their fortunes reversed. Alas to them! Their comfort and joy leaves no room for the generosity of God! What the Beatitudes basically call for is a preparedness to be vulnerable in the light of this understanding of God and God's faithfulness. The context in which this instruction is given, to the afflicted multitude that presses in upon Jesus and the disciples, longing for healing. A vulnerable community can become for the afflicted an instrument of God's power. It is the vulnerable who make the world safe for humanity.

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Thurs 21st St Peter Damian, bishop, doctor Fri 22nd The Chair of St Peter, apostle
Sat 23rd St Polycarp, bishop, martyr

*I have come that you may have life and have it to the full
(John 10:10)*

PARISH PRIEST:
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DEACON:
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Email: deaconpeter@tutanota.com

FAITH DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR
Carolyn Sombekke 9758 1029
Email: csombekkesjb@gmail.com

PARISH OFFICE: 9758 1029
Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri 9am – 3pm
Wednesdays 9am -12 Noon
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.

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C
16th & 17th February, 2019

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:
Keith Scutt.



Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:
Lisa Di Donato, Pietro Cursaro, Frank Johnson, Eileen Johnson, Geraldine Fitzpatrick (1 month).

The sick: Christopher Windebank, Giuseppina Zarro, Ada Arnold, Lesina Maio, Peter Dunlop, Catherine Turner, Peter Commons, Wilma Neville, Mary Brimelow, Steve Reid, Patricia Quim, 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, Michael Byrne, Ann Jayawardena, Mary Edmunds, Anabelyn Malabed, Miop 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, Clive Geach.

SICK LIST – If you are aware that any names on the sick list need to be removed, please contact the Parish Office on 9758 1029.

GROUP ROSARY SESSION FOR PEACE
Date: *Saturday, 3rd March, 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 and 1 pm for a chat over a cuppa, join a card game, knit or just sit for a while.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP meet at 10am each Tuesday, for a 10.15am start, in the Parish Hall. Come and enjoy praise and worship, inspiring teaching and prayer ministry. All are warmly welcome. Enquiries: Judy 9752 2986.

MOTHERS' PRAYER GROUP. Do you desire to pray for your children but it doesn't seem to happen? Come and join with other mothers of any age to pray together. *Tuesday's* from 9am–10am each Tuesday (during school term) in the Parish Centre. For enquiries, please contact the Parish Office.

PLEASE NOTE: NEW PARISH OFFICE HOURS
are now effective see details in the left column.

HAPPY RETIREMENT after 9 years serving our faith community as Parish Secretary, we prepare for the retirement of Carole D'Souza. Carole has chosen to retire so that she can fully embrace her on-going role as a grandmother, especially with a new grandchild due very soon. We wish to formally acknowledge Carole's work in the office, and thank her for her contribution on staff over the last 9 years. We certainly wish her all the best. Happy Retirement Carole!



POSITIONS VACANT ACROSS THE ARCHDIOCESE Details about the position of Parish Secretary here at St John's, and other vacancies, can be found on the Archdiocese of Melbourne website. For more information visit... www.cam.org.au/jobs

SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP TRIVIA NIGHT
☺ *Come and join the fun.* ☺
☺ *Don't need to be an expert.* ☺
Date: Saturday 2nd March, 2019
Venue: School Hall starting at 7.00pm for 7.30pm.
Cost: \$10 per adult. BYO drinks and nibbles. Make up a table or come and join one.



Tickets on sale after all w/e masses from the 9th & 10th February or contact Patrick 0434 072 831 (call or text). Proceeds in aid of "Opening the Doors Foundation" Donations also welcome ☺

ANNUAL COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISHES RAFFLE 2019 St John's Conference of St Vincent de Paul along with St John's Social Justice Group will share the Annual Combined Churches Raffle this year. Both groups have similar aims in working to support the disadvantaged and so both groups will work together on this parish project. A percentage of raffle takings return to our parish. The sale of the tickets has commenced and tickets are available after weekend masses. There are wonderful prizes to be won. We look forward to your support. Also, feel free to take a few books to sell to family and friends. We thank you in anticipation of your continuing support in 2019.

FAITH SEEKING UNDERSTANDING: Reflection entitled "Once in a Blue Moon" by Carolyn Sombekke is on the trollies for you to take home. Be sure to read this important reflection. Don't wait till you see changes happening, before you realise that you missed an opportunity to have your say!



PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2019
This year we are offering preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist for any baptised children in Years 3 and above, who reside within the boundaries of our Parish. A **Parent Information Evening for Reconciliation** will be held on **Thursday 21st February at 7pm in St John the Baptist School Hall**. This meeting is for both parents and children in preparation for the **Celebrations of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the first week of April**. For children who attend schools other than our Parish primary school, mandatory Catechetical classes have been scheduled for **Wednesday 6th & 13th of March between 4.00pm-5.30pm, in the Parish Hall**. The families who already contacted the office to register their child's/children's name(s), will receive an email outlining these details. For the children attending St John's School, preparation will be coordinated by their teachers. All parents are required to present a copy of their child's/children's Baptismal certificate(s) at the Information Evening. First Eucharist Masses are scheduled to be celebrated mid-year, and there will be an additional Parent Information Evening on Thursday 9th May, 2019 focussing on preparation for First Eucharist, and to outline important dates. Please contact the Parish Office on 9758 1029 if you require any further information.

ST JOHN'S CARBOOT SALE on Saturday 2 March 2019 at 17 Forest Rd Ferntree Gully **8am – 2pm. Early bird \$20** Sellers must Book & pay by Friday 22nd Feb
Arrive by 7.15am on 2nd March.



BOOK NOW - On the day \$25 per stall
Ange 0428 415 928
School office 9758 1013 Hire Trestles \$10 ea
E:parentsandfriends@sjferntreegully.catholic.edu.au
RECYCLE|UPCYCLE|REDUCE|LANDFILL
DECLUTTER|TIDY|SPARKJOY

ROSTERS: Mon 18th to Sun 24th Feb	
Flowers	Sue N
Altar Servers	6pm: Nicholas
Linen	Laurel S
Welcomers	6pm: Louise D & Peter G 9am: Sue & David W & Thelma B 11am: Kath & Andrew W & Maria
Lectors	6pm: Jenny K 9am: Tony D 11am: Carolyn S
Counters	Bryon M & Ruby S
Gardening	Barry