

FIRST READING

*A reading from the First Book of Samuel
26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23*

Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph. So in the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him.

Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice. David answered Abishai, Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt?' David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them.

David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. David then called out, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R./ The Lord is kind and merciful.

SECOND READING

*A reading from the First Letter of St. Paul
to the Corinthians 15:45-49*

The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly man is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!
I give you a new commandment;
love one another as I have loved you.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
6:27-38*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. 'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

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

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C

23rd & 24th February, 2019

*God our protector,
It is so much easier to love
only those who love us in return.
Teach us to be like Your Son,
who loved and forgave
those who rejected Him.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



FOCUS ON THE READINGS

The radical teaching that was begun in last week's gospel as the beatitudes and woes is continued in this week's challenge to be forgiving, compassionate and generous in the same way that God expresses abundant love. As with the blessings and curses of the Beatitudes passage, this teaching continues the challenge to act against cultural and social expectations. What a powerful message Jesus delivered to people who were subjugated and oppressed by an invading army. It would have been easy, and somehow 'natural', for the people of Palestine to hate the Roman occupiers and to seek revenge upon them. How confronting then for Jesus to say, 'love your enemies'! He tells the people that the way to live God's way in this situation was to be compassionate towards the oppressors; that when they rob you of your cloak to present them with your shirt as well. To do otherwise is to become like the oppressors themselves. Meeting hatred with hatred never ended hatred. In this gospel, Jesus is the embodiment of God's compassion. Jesus wants all people to experience "first hand" the abundant love God holds for them. Today's gospel passage is a reminder that when we experience God's compassion we are also called to show it to others. Identify the people in your life who irritate you or even treat you badly. How can you put into practice the call to 'love your enemies' and 'do good to those who hate you'?

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: 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.

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C
23rd & 24th February, 2019

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:
Barbara Maher.



Those who we remember at this time:
Chanake Aponso, Terry McClusky, Ronald Neville, baby Henry Wise, Maureen Darcy, Tom Weerden Palmerino Capozzi, & Rosita Stavropoulos (40days).

The sick: Christopher Windebank, Giuseppina Zarro, Ada Arnold, Lesina Maio, Peter Dunlop, Catherine Turner, Peter Commons, Wilma Neville, Mary Brimelow, Steve Reid, Patricia Quinn, 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.

FIRST FRIDAY MASS – Friday 1st March 2019 at 11am. Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament from 10 am. Please stay for a cup of tea/coffee after Mass.

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.

MATER CHRISTI COLLEGE UPCOMING TOUR:

Bring your family and friends to our next Scheduled Tours, Friday 8th March departing at 9.30am and Sunday 24th March departing at 10.00am. Mater Christi girls consistently achieve region leading VCE and vocational results. A visit will enable your family to witness our vibrant, inclusive and warm community. Visit www.materchristi.edu.au to book your tour.

AUSTRALIAN SAFE KIDS SURVEY The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne is participating in two separate research studies related to child safety, being conducted by the Australian Catholic University. An information sheet is on the noticeboard at the back of the church containing all the relevant information. The survey is to be completed by 1st March, 2019. Should you have any questions, please contact Linda Franco on 9926 5621 or via email: linda.franco@cam.org.au

READY TO GIVE BACK? Come to the Palms Information session on Saturday 2nd March 2019, from 10.30am-12.00pm to find out about serving in projects abroad. will be held in the Jenny Florence Room, Ross House 247-251 Flinders Lane Melbourne. Or apply online at: palms.org.au

ST JOHN'S CARBOOT SALE on Saturday 2nd March 2019 at 17 Forest Rd F. T. G. **8am – 2pm.** Sellers Arrive by 7.15am on 2nd March. **BOOK NOW - On the day \$25 per stall**
Angle 0428 415 928
School office 9758 1013
Hire Trestles for \$10 ea
E:parentsandfriends@sjferntreegully.catholic.edu.au
RECYCLE|UPCYCLE|REDUCE|LANDFILL
DECLUTTER|TIDY|SPARKJOY



THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER will be on Friday 1st March at 7.30pm. This is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. It is run under the motto "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action," and is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March. Please support this event, which will be hosted by the Salvation Army this year at 37 Wattletree Rd, Ferntree Gully. All welcome. Please bring a plate of food to share

HEART OF LIFE Spirituality Centre, is running a program entitled 'Let the Heart Listen'. A 15-week x 3 hour program for people involved in listening to and supporting others.. Facilitated by Carole Carmody rsm, the program runs 9.30am-12.30pm on Thursdays from 28th Feb – 27th Jun 2019 at Heart of Life Spirituality Centre, Box Hill. Cost \$680. For bookings please Phone 9890 1101 or via email: holsc@bigpond.com

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND Forget life's tensions and interruptions and rekindle the closeness, intimacy, love and romance that brought you together. It is based around Catholic values but couples of all faiths are welcome. There is no group sharing. Couples and a priest present at the weekend, which is to be held on the weekend of 29th - 31st March 2019. Starts 7pm on Friday. Ends 5pm Sunday. Accommodation and all meals included. For Bookings: PH: Mercy and James 0409 183 676 .

ROSTERS: Mon 25th Feb to Sun 3rd March	
Flowers	Marg H
Altar Servers	6pm: Nicholas
Linen	Sue N
Welcomers	6pm: Myra N , Help needed please 9am: Marg & Adrian D, Anastasia 11am: Patrick S & Coral M
Lectors	6pm: Rosina L 9am: Gordon V 11am: Peter J
Counters	Peter & Dawn G George & Genevieve W
Gardening	Carlos E