

FIRST READING

A reading from the Book of Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am' he answered. 'Come no nearer' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,' he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God. And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.' Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

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 10:1-6, 10-12

I want to remind you how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate

the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert. These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer. All this happened to them as a warning and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ,
Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom
of heaven is at hand.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ.*

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 13:1-9

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."'

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

3rd Sunday of Lent - Year C

23rd & 24th March, 2019

*God of salvation,
we stand before You on holy ground,
for Your name is glorified
and Your mercy revealed.
Since You are holy, help us always
to seek the way of repentance.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



FOCUS ON THE WORD.

We can try to influence international affairs where we know that the innocent are still massacred by the Pilates of this world. We can try to influence the workings of our financial system where people suffer whilst others take the profits, like the builders of the Tower of Siloam. But does it all seem too difficult, and in any case not showing much evidence of any impact? Jesus then turns to us with a metaphor and he says to you and me: You are like a fig tree. You may not be bearing much fruit just now, but, I am a terrific gardener: I will water you, and dig around you, and make sure you are well nourished, and I am confident that you will bear the fruits I desire. And, how does Our Lord do that? He waters us with the waters of baptism. He digs around us by disturbing our complacency. He prunes us, especially during Lent. He nourishes us with the bread of life in Holy Communion. What a gardener! The original Garden of Eden went wrong. The Book of Revelation pictures the New Jerusalem, through which flows the River of Life; on either side of which are the Trees of Life yielding twelve fruits, and the leaves of which are the healing of the nations. Let us allow Our Lord to garden us - so that he may create that heavenly botanical garden of the whole of humanity. © Fr Michael Tate

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 9am – 3pm
Secretaries: Charmaine Premaratne
and 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.

Third Sunday of Lent - Year C
23rd & 24th March, 2019

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Baby Ayden Tellis & Steve Reid.



Those who we remember at this time:

Margaret Reed, Angelo, Federico, and Silvia Zarro, Margherita, Damiano, Jilda and Luigi Coviello, Dean O'Brien, Thomas Schepisi, Troy Chapman, Adam Brown & Janina James.

The sick: Frank Cassar, Christopher Windebank, Giuseppina Zarro, Ada Arnold, Lesina Maio, Peter Dunlop, Catherine Turner, Peter Commons, Wilma Neville, Mary Brimelow, 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, Miep Wirth, Ethel Arrowsmith, Eillien Patrick, Brendan Keams, 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, 6th April, 2019 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.

PROJECT COMPASSION 6th March to 20th April. "Give Lent 100%." to assist people in real poverty. Please consider collecting a box to participate.

CARBOOT SALE THANK YOU. A huge note of thanks to all who held stalls or assisted in any way in the running of the P&F Car boot sale held on the Lower School carpark on the 2nd March. The P&F have raised over \$1,000 – with some sausages and Zooper doopers still available for purchase. The P&F would be most grateful for any feedback/thoughts on having another one, on a Sunday in October. Please send us your feedback via email: parentsandfriends@sjferntreegully.catholic.edu.au



ANNUAL COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISHES' RAFFLE 2019 Tickets are still available, so please continue your invaluable support of this fundraising venture, by buying a raffle ticket or two, or taking a book to sell to family and friends. There are wonderful prizes to be won Your assistance is much appreciated, and the money raised will be used by St John's Conference of St Vincent de Paul along with St John's Social Justice Group in working to support the disadvantaged.

EMMAUS COLLEGE OPEN DAY will be held this Thursday 28th March 2019, from 1.30pm – 6.30pm at the Vermont South Campus. For bookings call 9845 3211. or see the College website: www.emmaus.vic.edu.au



SLAMS PRESENTS "ALL SHOOK UP" a new musical comedy built around songs made famous by Elvis Presley. Among the 24 songs featured in the score are classics like "Heartbreak Hotel," "Love Me Tender," "Don't Be Cruel," "Can't Help Falling in Love," and of course the title tune. Performances will be held at The Alan Ross Centre (Billanook College) 197-199 Cardigan Road Mooroolbark, on: Saturday 23rd March, at 8pm, Sunday 24th March at 2pm, Wednesday 27th March at 8pm, Thursday 28th March at 8pm, Friday 29th March at 8pm and Saturday 30th March at 8pm Cost: Adults \$35 Concession \$32 Group (10+) \$30 Child \$20 For further information check the SLAMS (St Luke's Amateur Musical Society) web site at www.slams.org.au or contact the Ticket Secretary on 0409 100 044

AGING PERSONS AND PASTORAL CARE Australians are living longer and our society is an aging one. This unit, presented by Rev. Dr Laurence McNamara CM, will explore the pastoral needs of our aging communities—individual and social. Numbers are limited so register early! Held on Saturdays 30th March, 13th April, 11th and 25th May from 9am–3.30pm. Enquiries: contact the Academic Records Office on 9412 3309 or Dean@ctc.edu.au or Download the flyer: <https://bit.ly/2C4NJo3>

BORONIA & THE BASIN COMMUNITY FETE Incorporating St. Joseph's & St. Bernadette's Primary Schools & Parish, will be held at 212 Boronia Rd, Boronia from 10.00am-4.00pm on Saturday, 30th March. Enjoy Live Entertainment, Jumping Castle Food Court, Free Activities and much more.

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: phone: Mercy & James on T: 0409 183 676

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES HOMELESS FORUM On Saturday 8th June, 2019, with the onset of Winter, Catholic Social Services Victoria will host a forum "Homelessness – What can Parishes do?" at Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert Street, East Melbourne, from 9.30am-1.00pm. The forum will focus on demonstrating practical ways participants can increase or renew support for homeless people in our communities. Cost: \$20, includes lunch. Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/BBQOR>; Direct enquiries to: Adrian Foley T: 0497 780 233 or E: Adrian.foley@css.org.au

FAIR TRADE CHOCOLATE *Pope Francis said that "every person ought to have the awareness that purchasing is always a moral – and not simply an economic – act."* Cocoa is a key ingredient of chocolate and many children in West Africa are enslaved to pick the cocoa beans. They will never taste the delicious chocolate their slavery helps produce. Buy only slavery-free chocolate to ensure no enslaved children were involved in the production.



ROSTERS: Mon 25th Mar to Sun 31st March	
Flowers	Lent – No Flowers
Altar Servers	6pm: Help Wanted
Linen	Anne J
Welcomers	6pm: Myra N, Help Wanted 9am: Marg & Adrian, Anastasia A 11am: Patrick S & Coral M
Lectors	6pm: Jenny K 9am: Tony D 11am: Kath V
Counters	Bryon & Ruby
Gardening	Carlos E