

FIRST READING

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah 43:16-21

Thus says the Lord, who made a way through the sea, a path in the great waters; who put chariots and horse in the field and a powerful army, which lay there never to rise again, snuffed out, put out like a wick: No need to recall the past, no need to think about what was done before. See, I am doing a new deed, even now it comes to light; can you not see it? Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness, paths in the wilds. The wild beasts will honour me, jackals and ostriches, because I am putting water in the wilderness (rivers in the wild) to give my chosen people drink. The people I have formed for myself will sing my praises.

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 3:8-14*

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him. I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts, the perfection that comes from the Law, but I want only the perfection that comes through faith in Christ, and is from God and based on faith. All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I can assure you my brothers, I am far from thinking that I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
king of endless glory!
With all your heart turn to me,
for I am tender and compassionate.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
king of endless glory!*

GOSPEL READING

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
8:1-11*

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and don't sin any more.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

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5th Sunday of Lent - Year C

6th & 7th April, 2019

*God of power and mercy,
You bring forth springs in the wasteland
and turn despair into hope.
Look not upon the sins of our past,
but lift from our hearts
the failures that weigh us down,
that we may find refreshment and life
in and through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.*



FOCUS ON THE WORD...

For the scribes and Pharisees the main point is not to get the woman punished but to set a trap for Jesus. Would he defy the prescriptions of the law of Moses or would he, by condemning the woman, usurp the prerogative of the Roman occupying power who reserved the death penalty to themselves? When the accused woman is brought before Jesus for judgment he neither looks at the woman nor at the accusers. He bends down and writes in the dirt. When the accusers melt away, Jesus (still kneeling on the ground) looks up at the woman to speak to her. She has probably never been treated with this level of respect in all her life. With this action, as much as anything else, Jesus restores dignity and honour to the woman. No longer looked down upon, she can begin a new life. The words Jesus speaks to the accused woman could as easily be addressed to each of us. We all feel at times that we've done the wrong thing - something we don't deserve to be forgiven for. However, Jesus says to us, I know you've done the wrong thing, and you are already forgiven, but you need to make a commitment to change and not repeat the error. It is Jesus' promise not to give up on us - not to forget about us - that we can draw strength from as we try to respond to his challenge to change.

Jesus restored dignity and honour to the woman who was the focus of the group. Try this week to identify simple ways in which it is possible for you to give back honour and dignity to a person who has fallen out of favour with a group.

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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FAITH DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR
Carolyn Sombekke 9758 1029
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PARISH OFFICE: 9758 1029
Monday to Friday 9am – 3pm
Secretaries: Charmaine Premaratne & 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 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.

Fifth Sunday of Lent - Year C
6th & 7th April, 2019

PRAYING FOR...
All who have died recently: 
Bechir Labbad, Peter Cole-Adams, Tracey Williams.

Those who we remember at this time:
Archbishop Frank Little, Janina James, John Alston, Ester Maidre, Giuseppe Feleppa, Luigi Macario, Lynda Kelly, Christopher Betka.

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 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
When: First Saturday of the Month at 10.30 am.
Where: 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. Come and join with other mothers of any age to pray together. 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.

PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO MORNING MASS ON WEDNESDAY 10th APRIL due to a meeting of the clergy of the Archdiocese.

SIGN UP SHEETS FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER are on the glass wall. If you would like to assist with any of the ministries/tasks available, please write your details in the spaces provided.

ANNUAL COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISHES RAFFLE 2019 We thank you for your support to the Combined Parish Raffle ticket sales. This is an **URGENT REMINDER that all books sold/unsold MUST be returned** to the parish representative selling tickets at the mass you attend.  **Latest return timeline is 10:30am on Sunday 14th April.** All UNRETURNED tickets sold/unsold will be deemed LOST and WILL NOT be considered in the draw. Kindly please return any books you have taken home in the hope of selling these tickets. Your help would ease our follow up phone calls. In appreciation of your assistance.

DATES FOR THE DIARY... SCHEDULE FOR THE LITURGIES OF HOLY WEEK 2019
Sunday 14th April – Palm Sunday
Tuesday 16th April – 7pm Mass with extended Penitential Rite. Individual Reconciliation at 7.30pm
Wednesday 17th April
Individual Reconciliation at 10am (after 9.15 am Mass)
Holy Thursday 18th April
Mass of the Lord's Supper at 8pm
Good Friday 19th April
Ecumenical Way of the Cross and Walk 10am
Solemn Ceremonies at 3pm
Holy Saturday 20th April – Easter Vigil at 8pm
Easter Sunday 21st April – Masses at 9am & 11am.

WOMEN'S RETREAT DAY: IN CELEBRATION OF LOVE When: Saturday 13th April from 9am-5pm
Where: Benedict House, 301 Warrigal Rd, Burwood (enter church car park from Loudon Road) Mass will be celebrated with the parish at 9am in Our Lady's chapel at St Benedict's Church. Please consider bringing a plate to share for lunch, along with your Bible, a notebook & pen. All other materials will be provided. Cost: donation. Bookings: Petranell on 0401 046 949 or email: petranelferrao@gmail.com; or call Nicole on 0481 837 622 or email her at: pryor.nicole@gmail.com
Download the flyer from: https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Portals/0/flyer_fullpage_Apr19.pdf

NEW LECTORS' ROSTERS AND READINGS thanks to everyone who collected their roster. Your assistance is much appreciated.

ARCHBISHOP'S CATHOLIC MAN BREAKFAST SERIES continues on the 16th May 2019, and features Union Leader Mr Joe de Bruyn. Come along and hear the former National Secretary of the SDA talk the application of Catholic Social Teaching in the Labour Movement. The *Catholic Man Breakfast Series* is an opportunity for men to gather and be encouraged and inspired in their faith." The venue: CQ Club 113 – 123 Queen St Melbourne. Cost \$45. Time 7.00am – 9.00am sharp. Enquiries Michael Bohan on PH 0439 172 465 or Bernie Docherty on PH 0428 890 185. Bookings: via Trybooking: www.trybooking.com/484991

FAIR TRADE CHOCOLATE Last month, while speaking about modern slavery Pope Francis said that, faced with the tragic reality of modern slavery, "no one can wash their hands of it, without being in some way, an accomplice to this crime against humanity". **Thinking of buying Easter eggs?** Use your money justly – please. What Easter eggs will you enjoy this Easter? There is now a wide range of slavery-free chocolate and Easter eggs available, including a budget-priced range of UTZ certified products in ALDI, Coles and a wide selection at Haight's and OXFAM shops; Chocolatier also produces FAIRTRADE Easter chocolate. **Good news:** The Sydney Archdiocese is reviewing and revising all relevant contractual and business practices as part of its commitment to eradicating human trafficking. They are joining a powerful movement that will change, forever, the lives of enslaved children – God's children. **Action:** Tell three people about the importance of buying only slavery-free chocolate this Easter and beyond. Try some and tell them how good it tastes.



ROSTERS: Mon 8th April to Sun 14th April	
Flowers	Lent – No Flowers
Linen	Sue N
Welcomers	6pm Queenie J 9am: Peter C, Neil & Loraine R, Joanna C 11am: Tony & Christine E
Lectors	6pm: Louise D 9am: Tony D 11am: Carolyn S
Counters	Peter & Dawn, George & Genevieve
Gardening	Patrick S & Harry R