

## FIRST READING

*A reading from the first book of the Kings*  
19:16. 19-21

The Lord said to Elijah: 'Go, you are to anoint Elisha son of Shaphat, of Abel Meholah, as prophet to succeed you.'

Leaving there, Elijah came on Elisha son of Shaphat as he was ploughing behind twelve yoke of oxen, he himself being with the twelfth. Elijah passed near to him and threw his cloak over him. Elisha left his oxen and ran after Elijah. 'Let me kiss my father and mother, then I will follow you' he said. Elijah answered, 'Go, go back; for have I done anything to you?' Elisha turned away, took the pair of oxen and slaughtered them. He used the plough for cooking the oxen, then gave to his men, who ate. He then rose, and followed Elijah and became his servant.

*The word of the Lord.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/. You are my inheritance, O Lord.*

## SECOND READING

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Galatians*  
5:1. 13-18

When Christ freed us, he meant us to remain free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery. My brothers, you were called, as you know, to liberty; but be careful, or this liberty will provide an opening for self-indulgence. Serve one another, rather, in works of love, since the whole of the Law is summarised in a single command: Love your neighbour as yourself. If you go snapping at each other and tearing each other to pieces, you had better watch or you will destroy the whole community. Let me put it like this: if you are guided by the Spirit you will be in no danger of yielding to self-indulgence, since self-indulgence is the opposite of the Spirit, the Spirit is totally against such a thing, and it is precisely because the two are so opposed that you do not always carry out your good intentions. If you are led by the Spirit, no law can touch you.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

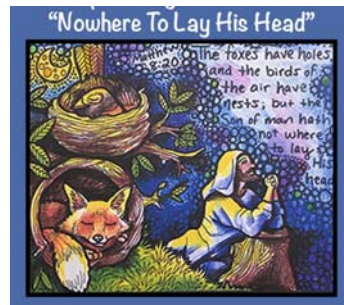
*Alleluia, alleluia!*  
*Speak, O Lord, your servant is listening;*  
*you have the words of everlasting life.*  
*Alleluia!*

## GOSPEL

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke*  
9:51-62

As the time drew near for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely took the road for Jerusalem and sent messengers ahead of him. These set out, and they went into a Samaritan village to make preparations for him, but the people would not receive him because he was making for Jerusalem. Seeing this, the disciples James and John said, 'Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to burn them up?' But he turned and rebuked them, and they went off to another village. As they travelled along they met a man on the road who said to him, 'I will follow you wherever you go.' Jesus answered, 'Foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.' Another to whom he said, 'Follow me,' replied, 'Let me go and bury my father first.' But he answered, 'Leave the dead to bury their dead; your duty is to go and spread the news of the kingdom of God.' Another said, 'I will follow you, sir, but first let me go and say good-bye to my people at home.' Jesus said to him, 'Once the hand is laid on the plough, no one who looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.'

*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**

**13<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C**  
**29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2019**

*Father God,*  
*May our hearts be ready*  
*to follow Your commandments,*  
*and to do what pleases You in all things.*  
*Teach us that although letting go can hurt,*  
*it can make room for something better,*  
*in order that we may serve with joyful hearts*  
*wherever you lead us.*  
*Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



## FOCUS ON THE WORD...

Today's Gospel is a difficult one on first reading; the second half of it seems to paint a picture of an unsympathetic and uncompromising Jesus. However, in the light of its positioning as the beginning of the second half of the gospel – the beginning of the end – it takes on more significance. A very central theme in Luke's writings is that of journey. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus' journey to Jerusalem is the vehicle for his preaching and for the formation of the disciples in what it means to be a follower of Christ. The incident of rejection in Samaria allows Jesus to make very clear that he will never resort to violence as a solution to any problem. The reaction of the disciples seems a bit extreme as a response to an inhospitable action! Jesus' rebuke to them reminds us that what he has offered all along is an invitation that was open to all – if some don't accept the invitation you can't call fire down on them from above! Once the hand is laid on the plough, no one who looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.' This seemingly uncompromising position by Jesus is a call to set our eyes clearly on the establishment of the Kingdom. If we look back – if we have doubts and want to return to the world of comfort and injustice – then we are not yet ready for the difficulties of bringing about the Kingdom of God. It reminds us that although God invites us all to enter into the Kingdom, we have to prepare ourselves to want to be part of the Kingdom.

## FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> July St Thomas, apostle  
Fri 5<sup>th</sup> July St Anthony Zaccaria, priest  
Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> July St Elizabeth of Portugal  
Sat 6<sup>th</sup> July St Maria Goretti, virgin martyr

***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 & 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**13<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C**  
**29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2019**

**PRAYING FOR...**

*All who have died recently:*  
Brock McAvaney.



*Those who we remember at this time:*  
Noreen & Clive Royle, Carmine Porcaro, Luigia & Giuseppe Cecchin, Antonietta & Giovanni Satori, Luigi Brotto, Anne Daelmans, Trevor Wishart, and Mary Smith.

*The sick:* Bonnie Hoefler, Frank Cassar, Christopher Windebank, Giuseppina Zarro, 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, 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: Each First Saturday of the Month at 10.30am.  
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' PRAYERS** Come and join with other mothers of any age to pray together. 9am–10am each Tuesday (during school term) in the Parish Centre. For further enquiries, please contact the Parish Office.

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL WINTER APPEAL**  
This week there will be a special collection in support of many clients who have had the following experiences: unemployment, drug and alcohol abuse, mental / physical / emotional abuse and homelessness. We invite you to support our Winter Appeal by: Donating a variety of non-perishable food for our weekly food hampers, volunteering in our Op Shop, Donating household items to our Op Shop, making generous financial donations or contributing to our Knox Vincentian Scholarship Scheme.

**MORNING TEA FOR FARMERS IN DROUGHT**  
St John the Baptist Friendship Gathering invites you to join them for a fundraising event on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July between 10am – 12pm in the Parish Hall, to raise funds to assist Farmers affected by Drought in the East Gippsland area. Cost: \$10 entry, and raffle tickets will be available for purchase. Let's dig deep for to help those affected.

**ST JOHN'S SCHOOL P&F SUPPER CLUB**  
Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> August is our inaugural St John the Baptist School 'Supper Club' From 7.30pm, in the school hall, 'Free to Feed' will provide us with a delicious Middle Eastern banquet, and share their traditional recipes and experiences as refugees in Australia. Come and meet Mahshid Babzartabi, a former business translator from Tehran. After arriving in Australian in 2013 she has become an Iranian community advocate and leader. Reflecting on her reason to leave Iran Mahshid says "I didn't feel safe as a person and not free as a woman and not valued as a human being." With a big heart and a cooking prowess to match, Mahshid is a living advocate of connecting and healing through food. Tickets are \$35 per head, and will be on sale from the school office next term. Space is limited, so get in early, to avoid missing out. Any queries – call Ange 0428 415 928.

**OUR CONGRATULATIONS** go to Coreen & Colin Hereford on the occasion of their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. May God grant them every grace and blessing along with the prayerful best wishes of St John's Parish community.

**LECTORS' ROSTERS** have been completed and are ready for collection in the foyer of the church, all lectors are asked to please pick your roster up after mass.

**REFRAMING RETIREMENT** We invite you to join us as we reflect on this important stage of life. The Day will be held at Heart of Life in Box Hill and facilitated by a qualified Clinical Psychologist/Spiritual Director on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> July 2019 from 10 am – 4pm. Cost \$60. Enquiries and bookings can be made by reply email (holsc@bigpond.com) or T: 9890 1101.

**FIRST FRIDAY MASS – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at 11am.** Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament from 10 am. Please stay for a cup of tea/coffee after Mass.

**SAVE THE DATE :** Tuesday, 20th August is the 25th Anniversary of Fr Alan's Ordination to the Priesthood. A day well worth celebrating! We will start with Mass at 7pm followed by a gathering in the hall afterwards where a gift from the parish will be presented. (contributions towards this would be appreciated). If you would like to help with the organising of this event please contact Sue Nicholls on 9762 8640 or Carolyn Sombekke at the parish office, or via email: csombekkesjb@gmail.com.



**PETER'S PENCE ANNUAL COLLECTION FOR THE HOLY FATHER NEXT WEEKEND**  
Pope Francis uses the collection proceeds to provide emergency assistance and aid to the most disadvantaged around the world. Please bring a little extra to donate to this worthy cause.

**A NIGHT TO HELP "LIFEBOAT" AND HAVE A GREAT TIME AS WELL!** Sue Jones and her talented band entertained 120 people at Tosaria Restaurant in Henderson Rd., Rowville last year. It was a fabulous night, enjoyed by all. Sue has once again generously offered her talent at no cost for "Lifeboat" which will use all funds generated for the support of people still suffering from the effects of church-related sexual abuse in their childhood. Abundant, top quality finger food will be offered throughout the evening, on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July at, 7.30pm - 10.30pm. Tickets are \$50, of which \$30 will go to "Lifeboat". For Bookings contact: Brian Crowley PH 0429 090 770 or email – brian.g.crowley@gmail.com or Fr. Kevin Dillon – 0421 777 360 or email: frkd@stsimonsparish.com.au

<b>ROSTERS: Mon 8<sup>th</sup> July to Sun 14<sup>th</sup> July</b>	
<b>Flowers</b>	Marg H & Judy G
<b>Linen</b>	Sue Nicholls
<b>Welcomers</b>	<b>6pm: HELP NEEDED</b> <b>9am:</b> Peter C, Neil & Lorraine R, Joanna C <b>11am:</b> Tony & Christine E
<b>Lectors</b>	<b>6pm:</b> Ignatius L <b>9am:</b> Peter F <b>11am:</b> Peter J
<b>Counters</b>	Peter & Dawn G, George & Genevieve
<b>Gardening</b>	Carlos E