

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Genesis 18:20-32

The Lord said, 'How great an outcry there is against Sodom and Gomorrah! How grievous is their sin! I propose to go down and see whether or not they have done all that is alleged in the outcry against them that has come up to me. I am determined to know.' The men left there and went to Sodom while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. Approaching him he said, 'Are you really going to destroy the just man with the sinner? Perhaps there are fifty just men in the town. Will you really overwhelm them, will you not spare the place for the fifty just men in it? Do not think of doing such a thing: to kill the just man with the sinner, treating just and sinner alike! Do not think of it! Will the judge of the whole earth not administer justice?' The Lord replied, 'If at Sodom I find fifty just men in the town, I will spare the whole place because of them.' Abraham replied, 'I am bold indeed to speak like this to my Lord, I who am dust and ashes. But perhaps the fifty just men lack five: will you destroy the whole city for five?' 'No', he replied 'I will not destroy it if I find forty-five just men there.' Again Abraham said to him, 'Perhaps there will only be forty there.' 'I will not do it' he replied 'for the sake of the forty.' Abraham said, 'I trust my Lord will not be angry, but give me leave to speak: perhaps there will only be thirty there.' 'I will not do it' he replied 'if I find thirty there.' He said, 'I am bold indeed to speak like this, but perhaps there will only be twenty there.' 'I will not destroy it' he replied 'for the sake of the twenty.' He said, 'I trust my Lord will not be angry if I speak once more: perhaps there will only be ten.' 'I will not destroy it' he replied 'for the sake of the ten.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/. Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians 2:12-14

You have been buried with Christ, when you were baptised; and by baptism, too, you have been raised up with him through your belief in the power of God who raised him from the dead. You were dead, because you were sinners and had not been

circumcised: he has brought you to life with him, he has forgiven us all our sins. He has overridden the Law, and cancelled every record of the debt that we had to pay; he has done away with it by nailing it to the cross.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!
You have received the Spirit which makes us
God's children,
and in that Spirit we call God our Father.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 11:1-13

Once Jesus was in a certain place praying, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said, 'Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.' He said to them, 'Say this when you pray:

"Father, may your name be held holy, your kingdom come; give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive each one who is in debt to us. And do not put us to the test."

He also said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a friend and goes to him in the middle of the night to say, "My friend, lend me three loaves, because a friend of mine on his travels has just arrived at my house and I have nothing to offer him"; and the man answers from inside the house, "Do not bother me. The door is bolted now, and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up to give it to you." I tell you, if the man does not get up and give it him for friendship's sake, persistence will be enough to make him get up and give his friend all he wants.

'So I say to you: Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For the one who asks always receives; the one who searches always finds; the one who knocks will always have the door opened to him. What father among you would hand his son a stone when he asked for bread? Or hand him a snake instead of a fish? Or hand him a scorpion if he asked for an egg? If you then, who are evil, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!'

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

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C

27th & 28th July, 2019

**Heavenly Father,
with the prayer Your Son taught us
always on our lips,
we ask, we seek, we knock at Your door.
In our every need, grant us
the first and best of all Your gifts,
the Spirit who makes us Your children.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**



FOCUS ON THE WORD

In today's gospel, Jesus provides his disciples, and all Christians, with a model for prayer, the common prayer of all Christians, regardless of denomination. The parable and teaching that follow the Lord's Prayer make clear the particular purpose of prayer that Jesus was highlighting – prayer as petition. Here, Jesus assures us that if we pray for what we need with conviction and confidence, then God cannot fail to respond to our prayer. Jesus in fact encourages us to be demanding and persistent in our prayer. However, the parable used to demonstrate the persistent nature of prayer is not focused on demands for selfish purposes, but rather the neighbour needs assistance in fulfilling his obligations of hospitality to a traveller. He is not waking his neighbour in the middle of the night to ask for bread for himself; he asks for bread to give to his guest. He asks for help to fulfil his duty and responsibility. This gives us something of an idea about how we might focus our prayer. The final element of the gospel passage provides us with a description of God's love and care: if human parents would not do harm instead of good to their children, God is even less likely to act like this towards us. God's love is greater than anything within our experience or imagination. The actions of asking, searching and knocking are means by which we initiate the encounter with God. If we don't ask, search and knock, how is anyone (including God) to know our needs or know what it is that we are searching for. Particularly in our spiritual lives, it is only through the search and the knocking on the doors of different experiences that we ever come closer to finding answers

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Mon 29th July St Martha Tue 30th July St Peter Chrysologus, bishop, doctor
Wed 31st July St Ignatius of Loyola, priest Thur 1st Aug St Alphonsus Liguori, bishop, doctor
Fri 2nd Aug St Eusebius of Vercelli, bishop & St Peter Julian Eymard, priest
Sat 3rd Aug St Dominic, Priest

***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 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.

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C
27th & 28th July, 2019

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Sebatiano Catinello (Italy).

And those who we remember at this time:

Pvt. Benjamin Ranaldo, Frederico Ranaldo, Giuseppe Daraio, Primo Scapin.



The sick:, Noel McNamara, 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, 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: is on Thursdays between 10am and 12.30pm in the Parish Hall. Ladies and Gentlemen welcome anytime to have a cuppa and a chat.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP meet at 10am each Tuesday for a 10.15am start, in the Parish Hall. Come and enjoy praise & worship, inspiring teaching and prayer ministry. All warmly welcome. Enquiries: Tineke 97631096, or: 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.

MELBOURNE CATHOLIC MAGAZINE The July issue is available in the church foyer for \$4 a copy

FIRST FRIDAY MASS – Friday 2nd August 2019 at 11am. Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament from 10 am. Please stay for a cup of tea/coffee after Mass.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP Annual statements for your contributions to Stewardship/Thanksgiving are available for collection in the church foyer. A heartfelt thank you for your generous financial support of the Parish, through Stewardship.

FR ALAN'S 25th ANNIVERSARY & FAREWELL

Preparations are well underway for Fr Alan's 25th Anniversary of Ordination Mass, to be celebrated here at St John's at **7.00pm on Tuesday 20th August, 2019.**

This occasion also now offers our Parish community the opportunity to farewell Fr Alan, following the unexpected news of his pending new appointment to Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Cheltenham. If you would like to help with the planning please contact Sue Nicholls on: 9762 8640, or Carolyn Sombekke, at the Parish Office on: 9758 1029, or via email at: csombekkesjb@gmail.com

SUPPER CLUB - TICKETS ON SALE NOW!!!!

Saturday, 10th August is our inaugural SJB 'Supper Club' From 7.30pm, in the school hall, 'Free to Feed' will provide a delicious Middle Eastern banquet, and share their traditional recipes and experiences as refugees in Australia. Your \$35 ticket lets you:

- Gorge on an amazing Middle Eastern banquet
- Get as involved as you want to helping prepare some of the dishes
- Have access to traditional recipes
- Hear stories from brave refugees, who now call Australia home.

This unique event is BYO, and we expect formalities to conclude by 9.15pm. Tickets are available from the school office, or by calling Ange 0428 415 928 **DON'T MISS OUT!!** - Parents & Friends Committee.

HELP NEEDED We are seeking Children's Liturgy volunteers at the 11am Mass You needn't be a teacher. Nor need you be a mum or dad - grandparents and young adults are also welcome. If you want to, you can work as a pair with a friend. If we can find enough helpers, you may only have to be on the roster once per term. All the literature is provided. At the very least, all you have to do is read the gospel and discuss it in a way the children can understand. If you are more keen, you can dress up, put on plays, write poetry, stage an interview or make things. Please call Kathryn Wallace on 0414 244 890, if you are interested in helping, or have any questions.

CATHOLIC MISSION APPEAL – 27th / 28th JULY

This weekend we welcome Sr Margaret Bentley, a Salesian Sister from the South Pacific region to speak for the Annual Appeal for **Catholic Mission**. The Appeal focusses on the important work within the Diocese of Yendi in Ghana, through programs aimed to address problems faced by abandoned children – particularly those living with disabilities. Please give generously support the work of Catholic Mission.

UPDATE ON FR ALAN'S 25TH ORDINATION CELEBRATION & FAREWELL

All welcome to 7pm Mass of celebration on Tuesday 20th August, followed by supper in the hall. Please bring a plate of finger food to share if able. Envelopes will be available on the seats over the next two weeks 3rd/4th & 10th/11th If you would like to contribute towards a gift for Fr Alan. A signature book to sign or leave a message will be available in the hall on the night and will also be available at the back of the church at the following weekend masses 24th/25th August.

EARN & LEARN STICKERS

Thankyou to everyone in our community who generously handed in their earn and learn stickers. We had a record collection rate this year. It increased so significantly that they questioned why there was such a spike in our collection rate. We explained that it was because we have such an amazingly supportive community! This year we had the families of next years Preps also contributing which was such a great help. With all our tokens we were able to purchase some furniture pieces for our new building and paint and art supplies for each of the classrooms. We are now well stocked thanks to our wonderful community.- Parents & Friends Committee.

MUSICAL: A CHORUS LINE:

Mater Christi and St Joseph's will soon present their 2019 Co-Production of A Chorus Line - High School Edition. Performances run from: 28th – 31st August 2019 Tickets on sale now through Burringinja from 23rd July.

ROSTERS: Mon 5 th Aug to Sun 11 th August	
Flowers	Carole D & Lia U
Linen	Anne J
Welcomers	6pm: Myra N, HELP NEEDED 9am: Peter C, Neil & Lorraine R, Joanna C 11am: Tony & Christine E
Lectors	6pm: Evangeline L 9am: Gordon V 11am: Peter J
Counters	Bryon M & Ruby S
Gardening	Patrick S & Harry R