

## FIRST READING

*A reading from the prophet Jeremiah*  
38:4-6, 8-10

The king's leading men spoke to the king. 'Let Jeremiah be put to death: he is unquestionably disheartening the remaining soldiers in the city, and all the people too, by talking like this. The fellow does not have the welfare of this people at heart so much as its ruin.' 'He is in your hands as you know,' King Zedekiah answered 'for the king is powerless against you.' So they took Jeremiah and threw him into the well of Prince Malchiah in the Court of the Guard, letting him down with ropes. There was no water in the well, only mud, and into the mud Jeremiah sank.

Ebed-melech came out from the palace and spoke to the king. 'My lord king,' he said, 'these men have done a wicked thing by treating the prophet Jeremiah like this: they have thrown him into the well where he will die.' At this the king gave Ebed-melech the Cushite the following order: 'Take three men with you from here and pull the prophet Jeremiah out of the well before he dies.'

*The Word of the Lord.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/. Lord, come to my aid!*

## SECOND READING

*A reading from the letter to the Hebrews*  
12:1-4

With so many witnesses in a great cloud on every side of us, we too, then, should throw off everything that hinders us, especially the sin that clings so easily, and keep running steadily in the race we have started. Let us not lose sight of Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection: for the sake of the joy which was still in the future, he endured the cross, disregarding the shamefulness of it, and from now on has taken his place at the right of God's throne. Think of the way he stood such opposition from sinners and then you will not give up for want of courage. In the fight against sin, you have not yet had to keep fighting to the point of death.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!*  
*My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;*  
*I know them, and they follow me.*  
*Alleluia!*

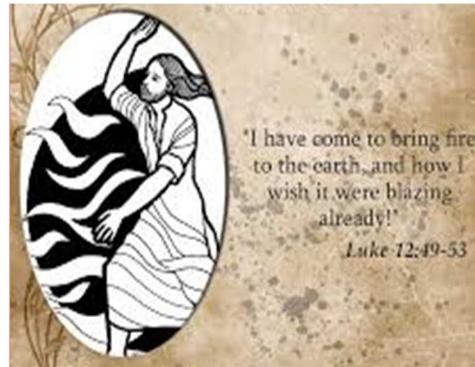
## GOSPEL

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke*  
12:49-53

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already! There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress till it is over!

'Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on a household of five will be divided: three against two and two against three; the father divided against the son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

*The Gospel of the Lord.*



**EMERGENCY FLOOD RELIEF** heavy monsoon rains in the past weeks have caused extensive damage in several countries across Asia. Salesian communities are on the ground, with staff and students reaching out to the victims of the tragedy, working in the flood affected areas. Funds are urgently required to provide support and emergency relief for locals. Your much needed help would be appreciated. If you can help with a donation, please call 9377 6014 or give via the website: [www.salesianmissionsaustralia.org.au](http://www.salesianmissionsaustralia.org.au)  
Thank-you. – Salesian Missions Australia.



## ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

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## 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C

17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2019

*To set the earth ablaze, O God,  
Your Son endured a baptism unto death,  
and from His cup of suffering  
You call the Church to drink.  
Keep our eyes fixed on Jesus  
and give us strength in time of trial  
to run the race that lies before us.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



## FOCUS ON THE WORD

As we've seen over the last few weeks, chapter 12 of the gospel of Luke presents a collection of sayings by Jesus exhorting his followers to take up his message fearlessly and assuring them that if they do so then God will protect them – even in the hardest of times. The chapter captures what must have been a period of frustration for Jesus in his ministry: he has been preaching and performing miracles, yet his followers don't seem to understand his purpose. The chapter has an urgency and a sharpness of tone that reflect the frustration of Jesus at this mid-point in the gospel. Today's gospel reminds us that the message of Christianity is not always a popular one. Sometimes we are called upon to speak a hard message; a challenging message; a confronting message. The message of the gospel frequently confronts our popular culture and accepted social practice. There is a responsibility on us to speak the hard message of the gospel even at the risk of unpopularity and even in the face of threat. The Christian heroes of our time are those who call leaders to measure up to the demands of the gospel. For Jesus to say that his message would tear families apart was to say that all of society would be transformed by the message. The kingdom of God turns expectations and society on their head, breathing new life into tired, restrictive structures. Jesus reminds us that if we take on his message of compassion, hospitality and table fellowship then it can set us apart from those who have not accepted the message – even family members. It's a challenging message that even love and loyalty within a family can be disrupted by seeking to authentically live the model of Jesus. If we place the needs of the lowly and the outcast ahead of our own and ahead of our family, then this can be very confronting and very disrupting. What are the consequences for family gatherings? Jesus says that the normal obligations to family have to take second place to acting on his message and bringing about the kingdom of God.

## FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Tues 20<sup>th</sup> Aug St Bernard, abbot, doctor

Wed 21<sup>st</sup> Aug St Pius X, pope.

Thur 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Aug St Bartholomew, apostle

*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.

**20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C**  
**17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2019**

**PRAYING FOR...**

*All who have died recently*  
John Ballek.



*And those who we remember at this time:*  
Michael Solanga, Rachael Neale, Mary Gottwald, Conrad McKeeverne, Wanda Furno, Rosemary Cameron, Yvonne Petrova.

*The sick:* Noel McNamara, 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 welcome. Enquiries: Tineke 97631096, or: Judy 9752 2986.

**MOTHERS' PRAYERS** 9am–10am Meet each Tuesday (during school terms) in the Parish Centre. For enquiries, contact the Parish office on 9758 1029.

**AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS MAGAZINE** (Spring Edition) is available- Free- on the trolleys.

**PERMANENT DIACONATE** Next weekend Deacon Peter Stringfellow will speak about the role of the Permanent Deacon, a God-given calling to ordained ministry, open to married and single men, in the service of the liturgy, the Word, and charity.

**FR ALAN'S 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION CELEBRATION & FAREWELL** – You are invited to attend a **Mass of Thanksgiving at 7pm this Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> August**, to celebrate Fr Alan's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood. Following Mass you are invited over to our School Hall for supper, where we'll also have the opportunity to both thank and farewell Fr Alan, prior to the commencement of his annual leave on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, and his subsequent new appointment at Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Cheltenham, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October. There will be some words of appreciation and a presentation made.



**What might you be able to do to contribute or assist?**

- Please consider bringing along a plate of finger food to share. The hall will be open between 5.45pm - 6.45pm for any food to be dropped in.
- Envelopes are available on the trolleys this weekend, should you still wish to contribute towards Fr Alan's farewell gift. Simply drop your envelope in the collection basket at Mass, or alternatively, drop it into the Sacristy, or the Parish Office.
- A 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 before and after all Masses on the following weekend of 24<sup>th</sup> / 25<sup>th</sup> August.
- Any assistance with the set up and clean up, and help during the gathering in the hall, would also be greatly appreciated.

For further information, or to assist with planning, please contact Sue Nicholls on: 9762 8640, or the Parish Office on: 9758 1029.



**KEEN TO PLAY TENNIS?** The Thursday Morning Ladies Tennis Team would welcome new members. All enquires please call Beth on 0423 759 850

**ST JOHN'S SCHOOL P&F SUPPER CLUB**  
Thanks to everyone who came along on Saturday night, to the first Supper Club. 'Free to Feed' provided a DELICIOUS Middle Eastern banquet for 40 parents,

friends and parishioners, and it was great hearing about how they are helping Sangeeta get on her feet, to start her own business.

**WHAT IS A FAMILY GROUP?** The Passionist Family Group Movement aims to build the Christian community through the development of extended families. With loneliness and isolation so prevalent in our society, there is a genuine need for people to know and support each other. Family Groups create an extended family atmosphere within the community and are open to everyone. Our focus is on people caring for, loving and accepting each other. 'Love one another as I have loved you'. Family Groups provide an extended family for all who wish to belong – married, single or divorced, young, old or in-between. All members of the group give to, and receive from, one another. Everyone is welcome to join. The Passionist Family Group Movement was established in our Parish 31 years ago. If you are new to the Parish and would like to join up with an existing Family Group in your street or area please contact John and Sue on 9758 2902.



**105<sup>th</sup> WORLD DAY OF MIGRANT AND REFUGEE SUNDAY** will be commemorated in Australia next weekend on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> of August. Pope Francis reminds us that "...the presence of migrants and refugees – and of vulnerable people in general – is an invitation to recover some of those essential dimensions of our Christian existence and our humanity that risk being overlooked in a prosperous society. That is why it is not just about migrants. When we show concern for them, we also show concern for ourselves, for everyone; in taking care of them, we all grow; in listening to them, we also give voice to a part of ourselves that we may keep hidden because it is not well-regarded nowadays."

- Pope Francis, from *Vatican City* - 27<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

**ANNUAL MASS OF ALL NATIONS** at St Patrick's Cathedral, East Melbourne, on Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> August 2019. Rosary at 2pm, Mass at 3pm Main celebrant: Archbishop Peter A Comensoli. All are most welcome.

<b>ROSTERS: Mon 19<sup>th</sup> Aug to Sun 25<sup>th</sup> August</b>	
<b>Flowers</b>	Ann P & Connie B
<b>Linen</b>	Alvi M
<b>Welcomers</b>	6pm: Sue N, Anna M 9am: Rosa L, Terry & Laurel S 11am: Gina M & Pat O
<b>Lectors</b>	6pm: Louise D 9am: Toni D 11am: Trish M
<b>Counters</b>	Peter & Dawn, George & Genevieve
<b>Gardening</b>	Patrick S & Harry R