

## FIRST READING

*A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus*  
3:17-20, 28-29

My son, be gentle in carrying out your business, and you will be better loved than a lavish giver. The greater you are, the more you should behave humbly, and then you will find favour with the Lord; for great though the power of the Lord is, he accepts the homage of the humble. There is no cure for the proud man's malady, since an evil growth has taken root in him. The heart of a sensible man will reflect on parables, an attentive ear is the sage's dream.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/. God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.*

## SECOND READING

*A reading from the letter to the Hebrews*  
12:18-19, 22-24

What you have come to is nothing known to the senses: not a blazing fire, or a gloom turning to total darkness, or a storm; or trumpeting thunder or the great voice speaking which made everyone that heard it beg that no more should be said to them. But what you have come to is Mount Zion and the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem where the millions of angels have gathered for the festival, with the whole Church in which everyone is a 'first-born son' and a citizen of heaven. You have come to God himself, the supreme Judge, and been placed with spirits of the saints who have been made perfect; and to Jesus, the mediator who brings a new covenant.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!*  
*Take my yoke upon you;*  
*learn from me, for I am gentle*  
*and lowly in heart.*  
*Alleluia!*

## GOSPEL

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke*  
14:1, 7-14

On a sabbath day Jesus had gone for a meal to the house of one of the leading Pharisees; and they watched him closely. He then told the guests a parable, because he had noticed how they picked the places of honour. He said this, 'When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take your seat in the place of honour. A more distinguished person than you may have been invited, and the person who invited you both may come and say, "Give up your place to this man." And then, to your embarrassment, you would have to go and take the lowest place. No; when you are a guest, make your way to the lowest place and sit there, so that, when your host comes, he may say, "My friend, move up higher." In that way, everyone with you at the table will see you honoured. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the man who humbles himself will be exalted.'

Then he said to his host, 'When you give a lunch or a dinner, do not ask your friends, brothers, relations or rich neighbours, for fear they repay your courtesy by inviting you in return. No; when you have a party, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; that they cannot pay you back means that you are fortunate, because repayment will be made to you when the virtuous rise again.'

*The Gospel of the Lord.*



## ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

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**22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C**

**31<sup>st</sup> August & 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2019**

*God our Father,*  
*bless all fathers in the world.*  
*Guide them to be good role models*  
*and loving to all their children.*  
*Help them to be a father like you are.*  
*Give them grace and patience*  
*to handle situations in a loving way.*  
*We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen*



## FOCUS ON THE WORD

One of the most basic human responses to anything new is to ask, 'What's in it for me?' We would like to think our motives are pure and our interests are for others, but there is often a nagging voice reminding us that selfish desires are never far from the surface. That said, we all know heroic individuals who care for sick spouses or children, who go to faraway places to give those in need their time and talent or who stay at home and do the same in their local neighbourhood. That's what makes them heroic. There is nothing in it for them; they are drawn by bonds of love, faith or by a desire to create a better world. There are at least two ways we can hear Jesus' words in today's gospel. The first is as a strong challenge about social justice. National boundaries mean nothing to God. All people are equal in God's sight, so the banquet Jesus refers to has implications for how we share the riches with which we have been blessed with others in the world. The poor, crippled, lame and blind of our world are the majority of God's children who mainly live in the Third World. They are our brothers and sisters. At the banquet of life Christians are called to give priority to the needs of these people, not only because they have a just claim on our resources, but also because they can't do anything for us in return. They purify our motives. When we link our concern, time, talent, career, and money with these children of God, we tame that nagging question, 'What's in it for me?' with a firm reply, 'Very little – except God's justice.' Secondly, many of us, when we come to God at any time, try to dress ourselves up to look better than we are! This gospel reminds us that at Christ's banquet, however, it's not the poised and perfect who are most welcome, but the vulnerable. What does this mean for us who pray and celebrate the Eucharist? That God embraces those parts of us that are in greatest need of his love and healing – where we are poor, crippled, blind and lame. God cares more about what's going on inside us. We can never hide from God, especially at the Eucharist because we have been invited to be here, not as we would like to be, but as we are. © Richard Leonard SJ

## FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept St Gregory the Great

*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: csombekesjb@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.

**22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C**  
**31<sup>st</sup> August & 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2019**

**PRAYING FOR...**

*All who have died recently*



*And those who we remember at this time:*  
Lucy Leathem, Brian Stackpole, Maria Niehof, Lothar Tepass, Ken Collins, Robyn Elliott, Lino Bimbi, Vincenzo Di Battista.

*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 Hutton, 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.

**THIS FATHER'S DAY** you might like to consider arranging a Mass for your dad (living or deceased) and support a poor priest overseas who will receive your donation and offer Mass for your intentions. Ten percent of priests worldwide are supported by Mass offerings through *Aid to the Church in Need*. You can arrange a Mass anytime at: [www.aidtochurch.org/mass-offerings](http://www.aidtochurch.org/mass-offerings)

**PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FOUNDATION**  
Father's Day this Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> September, is the traditional day for the annual collection for the Priests' Retirement Foundation. This appeal creates one of the four main income streams for the Foundation to support retired priests, who have served actively in the Archdiocese of Melbourne but who are now retired or sick. 89 Melbourne priests are currently retired. Most have served over 50 years in parish ministry before retiring. They are grateful for your support now and in the future. There will be an average of 6 retirements per year for the next six years. Please donate generously. Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

**FIRST FRIDAY MASS – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September at 11am.** with Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament from 10 am. Please stay for a cup of tea/coffee after Mass.

**A PATH TO MODERN SAINTHOOD RETREAT**  
Join us for a 6 week small-group retreat based on the popular book by Fr. Michael Gaitley MIC. This is one path to being a modern day saint. We say a prayer a day, focusing on the life of 4 saints: Louis de Montfort, Maximilian Kolbe, Mother Teresa, and John Paul II. This can be done in the comfort of your home. We meet once a week to watch a 30 minute video by Fr Gaitley and have a discussion. The first meeting will be on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September, at 9am Meet at the Parish Centre. The 33 days will end on 7<sup>th</sup> October. Information about the retreat can be found on the website at: [www.allheartsafire.org/leaders/33-days-to-morning-glory-resources.html](http://www.allheartsafire.org/leaders/33-days-to-morning-glory-resources.html) If you are interested please contact Phuong T: 9758 1031.

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

**ST JOHN'S P&F FUNDRAISING SAUSAGE SIZZLE** the St John the Baptist Primary School Parents and Friends committee have secured a Bunnings BBQ stall on next Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September. Be sure to show your support by buying a sausage or two.

**MATER CHRISTI COLLEGE:** Bring your family and friends to our next Scheduled Tour on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September departing 9.30am. Mater Christi girls consistently achieve region leading VCE and vocational results. A visit will enable your family to witness our vibrant, inclusive and warm community. Visit [materchristi.edu.au](http://materchristi.edu.au) to book your tour.

**WEEKDAY MASS TIMES** Please note there will be **no weekday mass on Tuesday night or Thursday Morning** during Fr Alan's leave. We are most grateful to the visiting Salesian Priests who will celebrate Mass on Wednesday's at 9.15am and Friday's at 11am.

**PLATES FROM FR ALAN'S ANNIVERSARY SUPPER:** A big thank you to all who brought a plate of food to share, just a note to say that some plates left in the hall are awaiting your collection from the back of the church.

**FATHER'S DAY CUPPA** All are welcome to stay for a chat and a cup of Tea/coffee after all Masses this weekend, as we say our farewell to Fr Alan. We wish Fr Alan a relaxing holiday, and every best wish as he takes up his new PP appointment at Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, in Cheltenham.

**LECTORS' ROSTER** A new lectors' roster for the period October - December is currently being prepared. If any existing rostered lector is unavailable during this period, or would like to request a change to the roster, please contact me before the 20<sup>th</sup> September (details below). If anyone else would like to read at Mass or would like to share the role by just reading one of the readings, please do get in touch. Students in Yr. 11 and 12 might like to consider being a part of this ministry. Rosters and guidelines will be available on the weekend 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> September. All enquires please contact Stephanie email: [smhorgen@gmail.com](mailto:smhorgen@gmail.com) T: 9758 5497

**CONTINUING THE JOURNEY TO PLENARY COUNCIL** we move into a period of Listening and Discernment. During this phase we continue to seek the wisdom of the Holy Spirit as we discern how we can best respond to how God is calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia. There are two key reports available to parishes and individuals who wish to learn more about each of the 6 themes. Reports can be accessed via: [plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/reports/](http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/reports/)

ROSTERS: Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> to Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> September	
<b>Flowers</b>	Sue N & Lynne K
<b>Linen</b>	Sue O'H
<b>Welcomers</b>	6pm Louise D, Peter G 9am: Sue & David W, Thelma B 11am: Kath & Andrew W & Maria L
<b>Lectors</b>	6pm: Evangeline L 9am: Adrian S 11am: Sarah M
<b>Counters</b>	Tony B & Steph H
<b>Gardening</b>	Tom N & Chris M