

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Amos 8:4-7

Listen to this, you who trample on the needy and try to suppress the poor people of the country, you who say, 'When will New Moon be over so that we can sell our corn, and Sabbath, so that we can market our wheat? Then by lowering the bushel, raising the shekel, by swindling and tampering with the scales, we can buy up the poor for money, and the needy for a pair of sandals, and get a price even for the sweepings of the wheat.' The Lord swears it by the pride of Jacob, 'Never will I forget a single thing you have done.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/. Praise the Lord who lifts up the poor.

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to Timothy 2:1-8

My advice is that, first of all, there should be prayers offered for everyone – petitions, intercessions and thanksgiving – and especially for kings and others in authority, so that we may be able to live religious and reverent lives in peace and quiet. To do this is right, and will please God our saviour: he wants everyone to be saved and reach full knowledge of the truth. For there is only one God, and there is only one mediator between God and mankind, himself a man, Christ Jesus, who sacrificed himself as a ransom for them all. He is the evidence of this, sent at the appointed time, and I have been named a herald and apostle of it and – I am telling the truth and no lie – a teacher of the faith and the truth to the pagans. In every place, then, I want the men to lift their hands up reverently in prayer, with no anger or argument.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus Christ was rich but he became poor, to make you rich out of his poverty.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 16:1-13

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There was a rich man and he had a steward who was denounced to him for being wasteful with his property. He called for the man and said, "What is this I hear about you? Draw me up an account of your stewardship because you are not to be my steward any longer." Then the steward said to himself, "Now that my master is taking the stewardship from me, what am I to do? Dig? I am not strong enough. Go begging? I should be too ashamed. Ah, I know what I will do to make sure that when I am dismissed from office there will be some to welcome me into their homes."

'Then he called his master's debtors one by one. To the first he said, "How much do you owe my master?" "One hundred measures of oil," was the reply. The steward said, "Here, take your bond; sit down straight away and write fifty." To another he said, "And you, sir, how much do you owe?" "One hundred measures of wheat," was the reply. The steward said, "Here, take your bond and write eighty."

'The master praised the dishonest steward for his astuteness. For the children of this world are more astute in dealing with their own kind than are the children of light.

'And so I tell you this: use money, tainted as it is, to win you friends, and thus make sure that when it fails you, they will welcome you into the tents of eternity. The man who can be trusted in little things can be trusted in great; the man who is dishonest in little things will be dishonest in great. If then you cannot be trusted with money, that tainted thing, who will trust you with genuine riches? And if you cannot be trusted with what is not yours, who will give you what is your very own?

'No servant can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or treat the first with respect and the second with scorn. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

Knox Deanery

19 Forest Road, Ferntree Gully, 3156

Phone: 9758 1029

Email: office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C

21st & 22nd September, 2019

*Lord and Master of our lives,
May we be faithful in serving you
and wise in using the things
You have generously given us.
Help us to pause and review
our use of earthly resources.
Detach us from anything
that draws us away from You.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen*



FOCUS ON THE WORD

We return again to the Lukan theme of money and how it can get in the way of being a true disciple. This week's gospel passage reminds us that we cannot be a follower of God and chase after riches at the same time. That parable of the steward and his master is one that is rarely quoted and would be unfamiliar to most readers. The actions of the steward upon learning that he is to be dismissed seem to us to be evidence of his dubious dealings and yet the master praises his astuteness. When a steward entered into loans and deals on behalf of his master, he would build into the repayment a profit for himself. This was quite normal and acceptable. So the amount that the steward asks the debtors to reduce their debts to the master is actually the cut that he had built into the deal for himself. His actions are, surprisingly, quite noble and legitimate. What he is doing is ensuring that his master receives all that is owed to him whilst the steward is making himself more popular with the debtors because they don't have to pay back as much. It would be like a modern day salesman saying that he would forego his commission on the sale so that the purchaser didn't have to pay as much. But why does Jesus use this parable? He makes the point that when the crunch comes – when the kingdom of God is imminent – monetary wealth is going to be meaningless. It is best to cut your losses and turn your energy to building relationships rather than riches. Jesus was saying, to share your riches with those in need and not be boastful and greedy of your wealth. He is calling his audience back to the commands of God to take care of the needy and to make sure that no one is left without enough to live. © Greg Sunter

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Mon 23rd Sept: St. Pius of Pietrelcina Thu 26th Sept: Sts. Cosmas & Damian

Fri 27th Sept: St. Vincent de Paul Sat 29th Sept: Sts. Wenceslaus & Lawrence Ruiz and companions

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.

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C
21st & 22nd September, 2019

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently
Eileen Jones (U.K.)



And those who we remember at this time:
Genowefa Haeyen, Leonilda Parrella, George Mah, Girolama Crivellaro.

The sick: Cosimo Petracca, 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, Eillian 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 will take a break in order to participate in the **Path to modern sainthood** small-group retreat. The 33 day retreat will end on 7th October. Information about the retreat can be found on the website at: www.allheartsafire.org/leaders/33-days-to-morning-glory-resources.html If you are interested please contact Phuong T: 9758 1031.

IMPORTANT ROAD WORKS we have been advised by the Knox City Council that they will be carrying out road works to apply High Friction Overlay Treatment along Forest Rd near Railway Road between 24th September and 4th October. This may have an impact on some visiting our church and school. Access to properties may be restricted temporarily while the overlay is applied. Thank you for your understanding.

SVDP EMERITUS AWARDS. The SVDP (Ferntree Gully) conference will be presenting three members with: Emeritus Vincentian Awards during the 11.00a.m mass. This is in recognition of significant service to the conference and the community. The names of the recipients are: Elsie Johnson; Bev Mc Namara; Anne Jackson. Patrick Coyne received his award earlier.

WELCOMER'S ROSTER A new welcomer's roster is being prepared, and we are looking for more people to assist in this vital role A welcomer's primary duty is to warmly greet people as they arrive, to hand out a bulletin, to be friendly and offer a smile! If you feel that you would like to be part of this ministry, please contact the Parish Office now to register your interest.

CAR BOOT SALE The St John the Baptist Primary School P&F have joined in with garagesaletrail.com.au to put secondhand first on Saturday 19th October, by hosting another car boot sale. Get your Marie Kondo (again!) have a spring clean, and make yourself some extra \$\$\$ Early-bird stalls (booked / paid by 30th September) \$20; drive in on the day \$25 Book at the school office, or email parentsandfriends@sjferntreegully.catholic.edu.au or call Ange on 0428 415 928

MATER CHRISTI COLLEGE will be running a School tour on Sunday 13th October at 10.00am. Apply now for enrolments in 2021 and 2022. Visit materchristi.edu.au for tour and scholarship information.

"FLEETWOOD MAX" - AMAZING TRIBUTE TO THE MUSIC OF FLEETWOOD MAC! You can provide much needed support to the life-saving work of the **"Lifeboat Foundation"** (for survivors of church-related sexual abuse) by attending (with many friends and family!) this fantastic performance. You won't pick the difference between this amazing band and the "original" "Fleetwood Mac" (who performed recently at Rod Laver Arena this week). Where? **Wheeler Auditorium, Nazareth College, Manning Drive, Noble Park North. Tickets: \$50. On Saturday, October 19th at 7.30pm. Tickets available online at: www.trybooking.com/begut, or by email request to: office@stsimonsparish.com.au**

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 Wednesdays at 9.15am and Fridays at 11.00am.

HELP WITH TRANSPORTATION TO MASS We have received a request for assistance to transport an elderly lady living in the vicinity of Parkview Dr Ferntree Gully, to 9am Mass on Sundays. If you live in this area, and would be willing to assist with transportation to and from 9am Mass, please contact the Parish Office, or see Sue in the Sacristy. Thank you

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE please note that the Parish Office will be closed on Tuesday 24th September, re-opening on Wednesday 25th September at 9.00am.

SAVE THE DATE: TRIVIA NIGHT St John the Baptist Social Justice Group will be hosting a Trivia Night on the 26th October, 2019, to raise funds for their work with: "Opening the Doors Foundation" who assist in helping Aboriginal children stay at school and The Columban Brothers Partnership Scheme, in the Philippines More information to follow in coming weeks.

PARISHES COOPERATING TO PROVIDE WINTER SHELTER FORUM is planned to learn from those parishes and groups of churches that are providing shelter for people sleeping rough during winter. The aim is to resource more parishes to participate during the 2020 winter. This will take place on Tuesday 24th September, 6pm for 6.30pm –8.30pm in the Cathedral Room of the Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert Street, East Melbourne. The Cost: \$20 Enquiries: adrian.foley@css.org.au

ST PETER CLAVER'S MISSION FAIR The Annual Mission Fair is on Saturday 12th October from 9.00am to 3.00 pm at the Convent Grounds, 154 Cotham Road, Kew. All proceeds raised are for the Ikombo Epileptic Centre for the poor in the Mahenge Diocese of Tanzania.

ROSTERS: Mon 23 rd to Sun 29 th September	
Flowers	Marg H & Judy G
Linen	Laurel S
Welcomers	6pm Myra N & Help Needed 9am: Peter C, Neil & Lorraine, Joanna C 11am: Tony & Christine E, Help Needed
Lectors	6pm: Louise D 9am: Peter F 11am: Peter Joiner
Counters	Peter & Dawn G
Gardening	Tom N & Chris M