

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Wisdom

11:22-12:2

In your sight, Lord, the whole world is like a grain of dust that tips the scales, like a drop of morning dew falling on the ground. Yet you are merciful to all, because you can do all things and overlook men's sins so that they can repent. Yes, you love all that exists, you hold nothing of what you have made in abhorrence, for had you hated anything, you would not have formed it. And how, had you not willed it, could a thing persist, how be conserved if not called forth by you? You spare all things because all things are yours, Lord, lover of life, you whose imperishable spirit is in all. Little by little, therefore, you correct those who offend, you admonish and remind them of how they have sinned, so that they may abstain from evil and trust in you, Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/. I will praise your name for ever, my king
and my God*

SECOND READING

*A reading from the second letter of St Paul to
Thessalonians*

1:11-2:2

We pray continually that our God will make you worthy of his call, and by his power fulfil all your desires for goodness and complete all that you have been doing through faith; because in this way the name of our Lord Jesus Christ will be glorified in you and you in him, by the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

To turn now, brothers, to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and how we shall all be gathered round him: please do not get excited too soon or alarmed by any prediction or rumour or any letter claiming to come from us, implying that the Day of the Lord has already arrived.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

*God loved the world so much,
he gave us his only Son,
that all who believe in him
might have eternal life.*

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
19:1-10

Jesus entered Jericho and was going through the town when a man whose name was Zacchaeus made his appearance; he was one of the senior tax collectors and a wealthy man. He was anxious to see what kind of man Jesus was, but he was too short and could not see him for the crowd; so he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to catch a glimpse of Jesus who was to pass that way. When Jesus reached the spot he looked up and spoke to him: 'Zacchaeus, come down. Hurry, because I must stay at your house today.' And he hurried down and welcomed him joyfully. They all complained when they saw what was happening. 'He has gone to stay at a sinner's house' they said. But Zacchaeus stood his ground and said to the Lord, 'Look, sir, I am going to give half my property to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody I will pay him back four times the amount.' And Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man too is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek out and save what was lost.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

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31st Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C

2nd & 3rd November, 2019

*Just and merciful God,
come into our midst today
to speak Your Word and satisfy our hunger.
Enable us to see You clearly,
to welcome You with joy,
and to give justice and mercy
a place in our lives.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



FOCUS ON THE WORD

In Luke 19, Jesus is nearing the end of his long journey from Galilee, which began in Luke 9) to Jerusalem. Jericho is the last major place before the final stage of the walk up to Jerusalem. The story of Zacchaeus acts out the teaching of last Sunday's parable of God's mercy to the sinner, and repeats its message. Jesus comes to Jericho, and of all the people in that village, he singles out the one most in need, the senior tax collector. Jesus gives himself to Zacchaeus, just as he now is. He imposes no conditions and simply says, 'Come down, it is necessary that I stay at your house today.' The necessity is caused by Zacchaeus' neediness. Jesus responds to him and offers to eat with him, the village outcast. You can imagine how others might be feeling. Jesus' words to Zacchaeus are like the free ticket to Heaven I wrote about last week. In response to Jesus' offer Zacchaeus changes. He recognises the utter generosity of God and makes the only appropriate response, humble gratitude and generosity in return. In the gift, its reception and the generous response Jesus recognises Salvation has happened for Zacchaeus. He has that free ticket to heaven. When Jesus says, 'I must stay' – or more literally, 'it is necessary that I stay at your house', this type of passive expression is referred to as 'the divine necessity'. As part of Jesus' mission to seek out the poor and the lost, he must necessarily find a home with the social and religious outcasts. Their state of need calls out to God to come to their aid. In our neediness and poverty may we continue to place our hope in the gracious generosity of God. In the words of the psalms, 'May God support the fallen, and raise up those bowed down.' Throughout this year, Luke has presented us again and again, with a portrait of Jesus bringing the mercy of God to all people, particularly those who might see themselves as living outside such mercy. Jesus' consistent message has been, 'You are welcome; the kingdom is for all, and none of us are worthy.' © Mary Coloe PBVM

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Mon 4th Nov St Charles Borromeo

Sat 9th Nov The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

I have come that you may have life and have it to the full

(John 10:10)

PRIEST ADMINISTRATOR :

Fr Thomas Kuruvila 9758 1029
 Email: Thomas.Kuruvila@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.

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C

2nd & 3rd November, 2019

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently

Georgina McKinnis.

And those who we remember at this time:

Fr Bill Bainbridge, George Edmunds, Eileen Roberts, David Howell, Pius & Florence Silva, Margaret Cecchin, Dephane Mullins, Daisy Sason-Lim, Francis Cassar, Alan Lawson, George Brown, William Ooi Kok Chin, and Edwin Lew Fook.

The sick: Tom Clynnnes, 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, 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.

WEEKDAY ROSARY on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, Rosary will be recited 25 minutes prior to the Weekday Mass. All are welcome to join in the recitation.

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 as this Tuesday is the Melbourne Cup day holiday, there will be **no prayer group this week**. We will resume on Tuesday 11th. Enquiries: Tineke 97631096, or: Judy 9752 2986.

MOTHERS' PRAYERS No meeting on Cup day. We will resume on Tuesday 11th November. .

**ST JOSEPHS COLLEGE ANNUAL MEMORIAL MASS** for Deceased Past Pupils and Staff, will be held

on Thursday 7th November, at 7.00pm in the College Chapel. Mass will be followed by a light Supper. Enquiries, please contact Stefanie Mazzeo on 9758 2000 or Email: smazzeo@stjosephs.com.au

ST VINCENT DE PAUL ASSIST A STUDENT

PROGRAMME Dear Parishioners, Thank you for your past and current support of the St Vincent de Paul Society and its "Good Works". However, we would like to draw your attention to, and provide information of our Assist A Student program, with a mini display in the church foyer. The AAS program assists students in very poor circumstances in countries to our north to get to school. We all appreciate that education is the key in helping people to get out of the poverty cycle. It costs \$70 to assist one student for one year. Some parishioners are already supporting the program, these pamphlets and poster provided are for your information and support if you are able. A Donor container is also available below the display for any immediate smaller contributions, the Parish Community may then sponsor a student as a result of this. Thank you for your interest, SVDP Conference, Ferntree Gully.

CAN YOU HELP? A Marcellin College Past Student from the 1950's wishes to make contact with descendants of Peter Brindisi and Bob Browne, two fellow former students who travelled by train from Ferntree Gully to the original College in Camberwell. If you can assist please contact Leon Magree of the Marcellin College Heritage Committee on 5988 0925.

NATIONAL PRAYER CAMPAIGN FOR THE GIFT OF RAIN. The Catholic Church in Australia is dedicating the month of November as a time to pray for those affected by crippling drought conditions and to pray for the gift of rain. Parishes, schools, families and other Catholic communities across the country are being encouraged to participate in the National Prayer Campaign for Drought, which also invites people to provide assistance to those most in need. Bishop Columbia Macbeth-Green OSPPE from Wilcannia-Forbes, oversees a diocese that covers about half of NSW, says "That people living where there is plentiful or at least enough water, don't seem aware of how much suffering the drought is causing.... And ... The Church across Australia – lay people, religious, the priest and bishops alike need to stand in solidarity with those suffering most acutely, offering prayers and practical support to those most in need." You can find out more about this initiative by accessing the National Prayer Campaign website at www.catholic.org.au/drought.

BAPTISMS – We offer our congratulations to *Grace Beverley Shaw, daughter of Nicholas and Karly*, who is to be baptised this weekend: The Church of God welcomes you with great joy



NOVEMBER CROSS November is the month of the Holy Souls where we pray for parishioners, friends and members of our families who have died. We pray that they will live forever with the Lord. As is our custom at St John's, from 1st November you'll have the opportunity to write the names of those you would like remembered on our Memorial Cross. For those who would like to have a Mass offered for their deceased relatives and friends, November offering envelopes will be available on the trolleys.

GARDENING WORKING BEE NEXT WEEKEND, on Saturday 9th November, from 9am onwards, there will be a working bee, to Prune bushes and tidy up the garden beds around the church. We would be most grateful for any assistance. Please join us! Many hands make light work! BYO tools, morning tea will be provided.



WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH? Soon we will be starting a small informal group to chat and learn more about the Catholic Faith. If you or anyone you know would like to join us then please email me csombekkesjb@gmail.com or leave your name with the parish office 97581029 and I will get back to you. Carolyn Sombekke (Parish Faith Development Coordinator)

ANNUAL CATHOLIC DEAF APPEAL 9th/10th NOV Next weekend is the annual collection for the Catholic Deaf Appeal. Please bring a little extra to support this collection which will be taken up to help support the work of the John Pierce Centre for the Deaf.

ROSTERS: Mon 4th to Sun 10th November

Flowers	Marg H & Judy G
Linen	Sue N
Welcomers	6pm: Myra N & Help Needed please 9am: Marg & Adrian D, Anastasia A 11am: Patrick S & Help Needed please
Lectors	6pm: Ignatius L 9am: Adrian S 11am: Sarah M
Counters	Peter & Dawn G, George & Genevieve
Gardening	Carlos E + WORKING BEE 9/11