

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 2:1-5

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills. All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say:

‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.’ He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war. O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Romans 13:11-14

You know ‘the time’ has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under the cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 24:37-44

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘As it was in Noah’s day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

‘So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.’

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

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**1st Sunday Advent – Year A - Hope
30th November/ 1st December, 2019**

*Loving God,
We thank you for the hope you give us.
Help us prepare our hearts for the Lord’s coming.
We ask this in the name
of the one born in Bethlehem,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*



FOCUS ON THE WORD

The first Sunday of Advent sees the commencement of the new liturgical year. This new liturgical cycle is referred to as Year A and features the gospel of Matthew. (Year B features the gospel of Mark and Year C, that we have just completed, features the gospel of Luke.) Advent comes from the Latin word Adventus which literally means ‘coming’; it is also reflected in the Greek word Parousia, which is used to describe the second coming of Jesus. So Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation of the coming of Christ into the world that is celebrated in the Nativity at Christmas. The gospel passage chosen for today’s reading richly expresses that anticipation and need for preparation.

The two great feasts of Christianity – the Nativity and Easter – are each preceded by a period of preparation: Advent and Lent. The emphasis of these seasons is on the mental and spiritual preparation to fully enter into one of the great mysteries of faith. In the Nativity, we celebrate God become human; God present in the world in a physical way. Advent is a time to remember the many and varied ways that God continues to be present in the world. Jesus draws a parallel between the people in Noah’s time and the people of his own time. What it reflects is a complacency that periodically overtook the Jewish people. When the people bound themselves to God in covenant their lives gradually became better. Inevitably, their lives improved to such a state that they forgot God was responsible for their blessings. They ignored their relationship with God and became complacent about their good fortune. Ultimately, their comfort was brought to an end and they recognised once again their need for God. Jesus calls the people to get ready because the pattern is repeating itself.

Prepare an Advent wreath that can be used in your home to mark the journey through Advent. Identify ways in which you can enter into the season of Advent.

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Tues 2nd Dec St Francis Xavier

Wed 4th Dec St John Damascene

Fri 6th Dec St Nicholas

Sat 7th Dec St Ambrose

***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 9.45am – 3.45pm
Tuesday to Friday 9.00am -3.00pm
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.

1st Sunday of Advent– Year A
30th November / 1st December, 2019

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently

Alberto Porcaro.

And those who we remember at this time:

Pasquale Parente, Placentino & Laura Fabrizio, Kathleen Sage.

The sick: Tom Clynnes, Cosimo Petracca, 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.

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.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP meet at 10am each Tuesday, for a 10.15am start, in the Parish Hall. Come and join us as we unwrap “The Gift”. Enquiries: Tineke 9763 1096, or: Judy 9752 2986

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.

MOTHERS' PRAYERS: 9am–10am Meet each Tuesday (during school terms) in the Parish Centre, to pray. Enquiries, contact the Parish office on 9758 1029.

HELP NEEDED Singers / Musicians are invited to join in the Choir for the up-coming Christmas Masses. Please contact Maree Wilson on BH 9758 1029 Wednesday – Friday or AH 9758 6585 we would love extra singers to join us



FIRST FRIDAY ANOINTING MASS Friday 6th December at 11am. Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament from 10am. Mass includes the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. Please stay for a cup of tea/coffee after Mass.

TRANSPORTATION HELP NEEDED The annual St. Vincent de Paul and Parish Senior's

Christmas lunch will be held on **Saturday 7th December 2019** from approx. 11:30 – 2:30 pm in the school hall. If you are able to help with transporting invitees kindly please contact Terry Stephens on 9758 4249. If you are able to help serving the meal and drinks kindly please contact Connie Bala on 9753 5000. Thanks all.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS

2019 ANGEL TREE Each year we provide needy families we have visited throughout the year with a Christmas Food Hamper and Gift cards for each of their children. We invite you to contribute to either of these:

- Under the Angel Tree we will provide basket/ bags for your **Christmas food items** or those who might like to donate a complete hamper. Please feel free to supply your own bags if you wish.
- The **gift cards** we will provide allows the parents to purchase a suitable gift themselves according to the age and needs of their child/ ren.
- There will be separate SVDP envelopes to make any:

Credit Card donations; cash donations

You may like to take an “Angel” off the tree and purchase a gift card to the amount of either: \$10, \$20, or \$30. Please place your donation in the box near the tree. The cards can be purchased from: Kmart, Target, Coles, Myer; or any other store of your choice



On behalf of our SVDP local conference, we would like to thank you, most sincerely, for your ongoing generosity this year in supporting our work with the disadvantaged. We would like to thank Fr Thomas for his encouragement on behalf of our parish. The Society would appreciate all gift cards to be in by the close of masses on Sunday 15th December, as deliveries of these hampers will be during the week of Monday 16th December. - SVDP- Femtree Gully Conference.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT with Friar Alessandro, with the Artes Christi Choir and orchestra, and Vivian Choi – internationally acclaimed Australian Pianist. On Sat 7th December, 7.30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne. Entry free. See flyer in the foyer for details, or go to www.voicefromassisi.org.au

WOULD YOU LIKE 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 (Faith Development Coordinator)



MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSION APPEAL will take place next weekend. Please bring a little extra, to donate to this appeal. Be generous in your financial support and in your prayers so that communities in some of the world's most remote countries may receive the basics for human living. Donations of \$2.00 and over are tax deductible.

FOOTHILLS COMMUNITY CHURCH CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH

You are invited to a free lunch from 12 noon on Wednesday, 25th December. Food, drinks, entertainment, presents from the Christmas Angel. Transport can be arranged. To be held in our Parish Hall. Please contact the Parish Office on 9758 1029 to register if you would like to attend.



LECTORS' ROSTER a new lectors' roster for the period January - March 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 8th December (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 21st/22nd December.

Stephanie (97585497 /smhorgen@gmail.com)

ROSTERS: Mon 2nd Nov to Sun 8th December

Flowers	Carole D & Lia U
Linen	Carole D
Welcomers	6pm: Myra Noth , HELP NEEDED 9am: Marg & Adrian D, Anastasia A 11am: Kath & Andrew W
Lectors	6pm: Rebecca L 9am: Peter F 11am: Carolyn S
Counters	Bryon M & Ruby S
Gardening	Patrick S & Harry R