

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked.

Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea. That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/. Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 15:4-9

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ

treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 3:1-12

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

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2nd Sunday Advent – Year A - Peace

7th / 8th December, 2019

***O God of justice and peace;
Your kingdom is at hand.
You made John the Baptist its herald
to announce the coming of Your Christ,
who baptises with the Holy Spirit and with fire.
Give us a spirit of repentance
to make us worthy of Your kingdom.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.***



**2nd Sunday
Advent - Peace**

FOCUS ON THE WORD

When John the Baptist performed baptism it was for the forgiveness of sin. The baptism he gave was a mark of the desire to enter into a new life of right action. It was not a baptism of initiation into community that is the case today. John had two key words that he is recorded as preaching: repent and prepare. His call for repentance was a call to turn away from sin; a call to have a change of heart; a call to turn one's life around and make a fresh start. His call for preparation is in the long line of prophets that includes the great prophet Isaiah from whom we take today's first reading. All of the prophets urged the people towards hope in the future. Isaiah and others spoke specifically of a person – a Messiah – who would bring that hope to reality. But the tradition demanded a readiness for the Messiah and that was the call to preparation that John the Baptist echoed at the beginning of the public life of Jesus. John's taunting of the Pharisees and Sadducees is an indication of this need for preparation and readiness. He accuses them of being too confident of their own rightness. He demands proof from them of their honest repentance. John the Baptist's call to 'Prepare the way of the Lord' is a summary of the purpose of the season of Advent. Every year, as we celebrate the Nativity, we celebrate once again the presence of God in our world. God became incarnate in the world through Jesus but also always was and continues to be incarnate in the world through each person. If we are to accept this reality and live it out, we need to remind ourselves this Advent to prepare the way for the Lord to be present in and through us every day of our lives. © Greg Sunter

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Mon 9th Dec *The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

Wed 11th Dec *St Damasus I*

Thurs 12th Dec *Our Lady of Guadalupe*

Fri 13th Dec *St Lucy*

Sat 14th Dec *St John of the Cross*

***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
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FAITH DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR

Carolyn Sombekke 9758 1029
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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
7th /8th December, 2019 - Peace

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently



And those who we remember at this time:

Noel Frances Ryan, John Dillon, Raffaele Prasel, John Masterson, Neil Brewster, Jacques Walter.

The sick: Tom Clynnnes, 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 will be having their Christmas Break-up, with a country drive to Trafalgar. For more information, please contact: Tineke 97631096, or: Judy 9752 2986. Wishing all a Merry Christmas and hope to see you in the New Year.

FRIENDSHIP GATHERING: will take a break from December 12th till January 9th. We wish everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year.

MOTHERS' PRAYERS: will take a break from Tuesday 3rd December until Tuesday 4th February 2020. We wish you a wonderful Christmas and look forward to meeting again next year.

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 13th December End of Year Whole School Thanksgiving Mass 11.00am. All Welcome
Tuesday 17th December, Year 6 Graduation Mass & celebration 7.00pm

Wednesday 18th December, 7.00pm Extended Penitential Rite within Mass, Sacrament of Reconciliation (Individual) following Mass.

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.

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)



BAPTISMS We offer our congratulations to: **William Henderson, Zaiden Maio, Carter Rhodes & Sarah Sanchez**, who are to be baptised this weekend: The Church of God welcomes you with great joy.

MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSION APPEAL will take place this weekend. Thank you for your generous financial support and 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.

WELCOMERS' ROSTER for any newcomers who do not receive their roster via email, your updated roster will be available for collection in the foyer of the church.

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.

LOURDES DAY MASS will be celebrated at St Patrick's Cathedral, on Saturday 7 December, 10.30am. A blessing of the sick will follow the celebration of the Liturgy with water brought from the spring at the Shrine of Lourdes. On this occasion we celebrate Our Lady's appearance to a young girl, Bernadette, in 1858 in Lourdes, France. Through a set of private revelations, Mary revealed herself as 'the Immaculate Conception'. This is an occasion to come together in prayer with those who are sick, infirm or elderly and their carers. Each Mass participant will receive a gift pack containing a small bottle of Lourdes water (sourced from the Grotto), rosary beads and prayer materials. Individual blessings are available after Mass.

STRENGTH IN WEAKNESS 2020 This event is on Saturday 15th February 2020 between 9am -6.30pm at 400 City Rd Southbank. Join us for a day of Prayer and Renewal, Inspiring talks, Healing Adoration, Holy Mass. For more Information www.strengthinweakness.com.au

ROSTERS: Mon 9th to Sun 15th December	
Flowers	Sue N
Linen	Laurel S
Welcomers	6pm: Sue N, Anna M 9am: Rosa L & Terry & Laurel S 11am: Gina M & Pat O'B
Lectors	6pm: Rebecca L 9am: Peter F 11am: Carolyn S
Counters	Bryon M & Ruby S
Gardening	Patrick S & Harry R

