

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 35:1-6,10

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees
and say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.
'Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.
They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/. Lord, come and save us.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St James 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming.
Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the
precious fruit of the ground until it has had the
autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have
to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's
coming will be soon. Do not make complaints
against one another, brothers, so as not to be
brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is
already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your
example, brothers, in submitting with patience,
take the prophets who spoke in the name of the
Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew 11:2-11*

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing
and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one
who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone
else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what
you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame
walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the
dead are raised to life and the Good News is
proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who
does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk
to the people about John: 'What did you go out into
the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze?
No? Then what did you go out to see? A man
wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine
clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you
go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and
much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom
scripture says: Look, I am going to send my
messenger before you; he will prepare your way
before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children
born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has
never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of
heaven is greater than he is.'

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

3rd Sunday Advent – Year A - Joy

14th / 15th December, 2019

Lord Jesus, You are the light of the world.

To all who long for Your return,

may we, like John the Baptist,

hear the call to repent,

and prepare for you to come.

Enter into our hearts,

and help us to welcome you with Joy.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Rejoice

FOCUS ON THE WORD

The third Sunday of Advent was traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday. The word, gaudete, (pronounced gow-day-tay) is from Latin and means *Rejoice!* The name was given to this Sunday because the entrance antiphon for the day is: 'Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near.' When Advent was observed as a more penitential season, this third Sunday was a break from the sombre mood and was more celebratory. The rose-coloured candle in the Advent wreath and rose-coloured vestments convey a mood of joy and celebration. Why would John the Baptist send messengers to question Jesus? We recall from last week's gospel passage that John had a somewhat 'fire and brimstone' perception of what Jesus would be like. Perhaps as he sat in his prison cell John began to wonder whether Jesus was indeed the Messiah that John believed him to be. Perhaps the question was not for himself but rather for his disciples that he sent to Jesus. Given the answer that Jesus provided them, perhaps John's intention was for the disciples to recognise that Jesus was in fact the one that John had proclaimed and that the disciples should switch their allegiance to Jesus. The picture Jesus describes of the blind seeing, the lame walking, lepers cleansed, and the deaf hearing would have been very familiar to those who were listening and the first audience of this gospel. These were signs of the coming of the Messiah that had been foretold by the prophets. In his answer, Jesus effectively says, 'Well, all the things that are supposed to happen when the Messiah comes are happening now with me. There's your answer!' Today's readings emphasise the joy that lies in the anticipation and expectation of what is coming.

© Greg Sunter

***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.

3rd Sunday of Advent– Year A
14th / 15th December, 2019 - Joy

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently



And those who we remember at this time:

Wally Johnson, Kevin Leddin, Peter Windebank, Giuseppe Rizio, Max Cartledge, Alyda Donegan, Patrick O'Reilly, & Terence McDermott.

The sick: Tom Clynnos, 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 Gach.

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 is taking a break over the Christmas period Our first meeting for 2020 will be **Tuesday 4th February at 10.15 am** in the Parish Hall. We wish everyone a happy and holy Christmas and every blessing for 2020.

FRIENDSHIP GATHERING: will take a break from December 12th till January 9th 2020. We wish everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year.

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

IMPORTANT DATES

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.

Thursday 19th December, 9.15am Mass, Sacrament of Reconciliation (individual) following Mass.

Please note Christmas timetable on green A5 insert.

MASS AT VILLA MARIA –WILLOWBROOKE 9a Willow Road Upper FTG Mass will be celebrated at 2.00pm on Thursday 19th December, 2019. All are welcome. Please join us there for afternoon tea after the Mass.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY and the Parish,

would like to thank all volunteers who helped at the Annual Seniors' Christmas lunch on Saturday 7th December. There are just too many to thank individually, kindly please accept this as our gracious thank-you to all. Special thanks to Father Thomas for his support, Knox Council for the funding of this project; the Mayor Councillor Nicole Seymour, FTG State Member for Liberal Party Mr. Nick Wakeling, SJB Primary School Principal Catherine Mason, her team of young children, Choir teacher Mrs Lorraine Costa, and other members of staff, Terry Stephens and his team of transport volunteers, Parish choir members, volunteers from the parish and members of the Society. Your contribution made this Christmas lunch another very successful event filled with lots of joy and appreciation by all. The Society thanks you all for your continued support to our work and we take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very Blessed and Merry Christmas. May 2020 bring you all peace, joy and good health.
- *The Society of St Vincent de Paul FTG.*

FAITH SEEKING UNDERSTANDING a Reflection entitled "Advent" is available for collection. Please feel free to take home a copy available on the trolleys.

THANK YOU a very heartfelt thank you to all the Staff, Parents and children at SJB Primary school for their very kind donation to the Society of St Vincent de Paul for our Christmas Hampers. **Total Collected \$1,277.70.** Your help will bring lots of joy to many families in need. God bless you all.

MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSION Thank you for your generous financial support and your prayers. The amount raised was \$1,270.50.

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS Once again the "Nativity play" will be part of our 7:30pm Christmas Eve Family Mass. All children (especially the little ones) are invited to come dressed as Angels or Shepherds. Costume, need not be elaborate – a white dress or fairy skirt & wings for angels and tea towel headwear for shepherds will do. We are also looking for children (Grade 3 and above) to play the parts of Mary, Joseph, 3 Kings and Caesar. All costumes for these main characters will be provided. The children will be asked to sit in the area surrounding the altar. If you are interested, or if you have any questions, please contact the Parish Office on 9758 1029.



CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE 2020 Study Options Now Available! The Parish and Pastoral Ministry in a New Environment.



Parish life today is facing many new opportunities and challenges. The parish of the future will be built on the missionary creativity of people and priests working together in a changed social and ecclesial environment. Fr Brendan Reed, author of Engaging with the Hopes of Parishes, will be teaching this new unit in 2020. This intensive will be beneficial for anyone involved in parish life, parish councils, parish teams and parish ministry. It will be particularly of use to those wishing to engage in parish life in light of the 2020 Plenary Council. 12, 14, 19 March; 30 April; 2, 23 May + online learning (12 hours equivalent) **Church History** : Discover more about the Church's story and the journey of faith across the centuries. Units include; The Spirit of Trent and the Mystery of Vatican II, Lecturer: Rev. Dr Max Vodola – Semester 1, Wednesday 6-9pm. Two Centuries of Catholic Experience in Australia, Lecturer: Rev. Dr Christopher Dowd OP – Winter Intensive, 29/6, 1/7, 3/7, 6/7, 8/7, 10/7 9.30-4.30pm. **The Reformation in the British Isles**, Lecturer: Rev. Prof. Austin Cooper OMI AM – Saturday Intensive, Semester 1: 7/3, 14/3 18/4, 2/5. Semester 2: 1/8, 29/8, 12/9, 10/10 10-3.00pm. Contact the Academic Records Office for all study options and further information, on Ph: 9412 3309 – AssistantDean@ctc.edu.au – 278 Vitoria Parade, East Melbourne or via email: ctc@ctc.edu.au

ROSTERS: Mon 16th to Sun 22nd December

Flowers	Marg H & Judy G
Linen	Sue N
Welcomers	6pm: Myra N 9am Peter C, Neil & Lorraine R, Joanna C 11am Maria L
Lectors	6pm: Ignatius L 9am: Pamela E 11am: Sarah M
Counters	Peter & Dawn G, George & Genevieve
Gardening	Patrick S & Harry R