

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Malachi 3:1-4

The Lord God says this: Look, I am going to send my messenger to prepare a way before me. And the Lord you are seeking will suddenly enter his temple; and the angel of the covenant whom you are longing for, yes, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. Who will be able to resist the day of his coming? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he is like the refiner's fire and the fuller's alkali. He will take his seat as refiner and purifier; he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and then they will make the offering to the Lord as it should be made. The offering of Judah and Jerusalem will then be welcomed by the Lord as in former days, as in the years of old.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/. Who is the king of Glory?
It is the Lord!*

SECOND READING

*A reading from the letter of The Hebrews
2:14-18*

Since all the children share the same blood and flesh, Jesus too shared equally in it, so that by his death he could take away all the power of the devil, who had power over death, and set free all those who had been held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. For it was not the angels that he took to himself; he took to himself descent from Abraham. It was essential that he should in this way become completely like his brothers so that he could be a compassionate and trustworthy high priest of God's religion, able to atone for human sins. That is, because he has himself been through temptation he is able to help others who are tempted.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!
This is the light of revelation to the nations,
and the glory of your people Israel.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Luke 2:22-40*

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.' There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH
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The Presentation of the Lord – Year A

1st / 2nd February, 2020

*O God,
You have shown such love for us.
You sent your only Son,
Jesus, to save us.
You have given a messenger of
peace and Light to all the nations.
We thank you for sending this great gift.
Amen.*



FOCUS ON THE WORD

The gospel writer has merged two different ritual events into one in this passage: a ritual of purification following childbirth and an act of redeeming a first-born son through tribute to the Temple. The ritual of purification referred to would take place forty days after childbirth and today's feast is the fortieth day from Christmas and the celebration of the birth of Jesus. It was a ritual for the mother, not the child. Mary and Joseph took the opportunity of attending the Temple to bring Jesus into the presence of God who, according to tradition, dwelt in the Temple. The tradition associated with this purification of women after childbirth dictated that a lamb and a turtledove or pigeon be sacrificed. However, for the poor, an extra turtledove or pigeon could be substituted for the lamb. The gospel tells us that Mary and Joseph were sacrificing a pair of birds. This fact gives us an indication of the status of Mary and Joseph – they were sufficiently poor that they could not afford to sacrifice a lamb. The other ritual alluded to in the passage relates to the tradition from Exodus 13:2 and Numbers 18:15 that every first-born son belonged to the Lord and had to be 'bought back' or 'redeemed' by payment to the Temple. The original command of the first-born belonging to the Lord meant that the child was destined to serve in the Temple. However, the child could be 'redeemed' from this service by payment to the Temple. It is not Jesus himself who proclaims his greatness but those who have observed him and recognised the revelation of God's presence amongst the people. It is a role that continues today. Those of us who believe and recognise the presence and influence of God in the world are challenged to proclaim it in both our actions and our words. © Greg Sunter.

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

3rd Feb – St Blaise & St Ansgar

5th Feb – St Agatha

6th Feb – St Paul Miki & Companions

8th Feb – St Jerome Emiliani & St Josephine Bakhita

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.

The Presentation of the Lord – Year A

1st / 2nd February, 2020

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently

Fr John Edmond Barry OSA, Brian Maguire & Margherita Lizza.

And those who we remember at this time:

John Dunlop, Ron Prince, Jim Dale.

The sick: Fame Pelgrim, Lea Hartley, Tom Clynes, Cosimo Petracca, Christopher Windebank, Giuseppina Zarro, Lesina Maio, Peter Dunlop, Catherine Turner, Peter Commons, Wilma Neville, Mary Brimelow, Patricia Quinn, Charlie Kelly, Kathleen Hatton, Edward Kitani, 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 will be resuming **Tuesday 4th February at 10.15 am** in the Parish Hall. We wish to welcome everyone back, and invite anyone who may be new and would like to join us for prayer, praise and worship, and shared lunch.

FRIENDSHIP GATHERING: is held 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: resumes on **Tuesday 4th February 2020.** 9am–10am We meet each Tuesday (during school terms) in the Parish Centre, to pray. Enquiries, contact the Parish office on 9758 1029.

BUSHFIRE RELIEF APPEAL a big thank you for your generous support of this worthy cause. The amount raised to date is \$1979.70



BAPTISMS – We offer our congratulations to **Harry Gardiner** who is to be baptised this weekend: The Church of God welcomes you with great joy



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST BEGINNING OF SCHOOL YEAR MASS & COMMISSIONING OF STAFF will be celebrated on Friday 7th February, at 11am. All are most welcome!

FIRST FRIDAY MASS – Friday 7th Feb at 11am. Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament from 10am.

DANDENONG ASYLUM SEEKER CENTRE. This weekend we welcome Mr David Spittler –who is coming to speak about the Asylum Seekers Centre, at all masses. There is a basket at the back of the church, if you would like to donate cooking oil(veg), tea-towels, feminine hygiene products, washing powder, dishwashing liquid.



World Day of Prayer AUSTRALIA World Day of Prayer is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first

Friday in March. The movement aims to bring together people of various races, cultures and traditions in a yearly common Day of Prayer, as well as in closer fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year. This year it will be hosted by St John the Baptist Parish this year, on Friday 6th March. In anticipation of this event there will be a **preparation meeting on Tuesday 4th February at 10.30am**, in the Parish Office. All are most welcome to attend, to help us plan.

THE 2020 COMBINED CATHOLIC CHURCHES PARISH RAFFLE tickets will go on sale on 29th February – 10th May2020. This year all proceeds from the sale of these tickets will be for the Parish. We thank all parishioners for your continued support. Volunteers are needed to help cover the sale of tickets at different masses. If you are able to help at any of the masses, kindly please email Connie Bala on c.silva2@bigpond.com your date/s and mass time that you are able to help so that a roster can be drawn up. Your help can be just or one weekend or more.

ST JOHN'S SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP TRIVIA NIGHT Come and join the fun. ☺☺ Don't need to be an expert. ☺



Date: Saturday 29th February.
Venue: School Hall starting at 7.00pm for 7.30pm
Make up a table or come and join one. Tickets on sale after all w/e masses from the 8th & 9th February or contact Patrick 0434 072 831 (call or text). Proceeds in aid of "Opening the Doors Foundation" (Aboriginal students support), Thornbury and the Alfajiri Street Kids Art, Kenya

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM-CONFIRMATION

This year the Sacrament of Confirmation is offered to Year 5 and 6 children who have already been baptised, and who reside within the boundaries of our Parish. Confirmation Mass will be celebrated on Thursday 14th May 2020 at 6.30pm. **Parent Information Evening is on Thursday 12th March 2020 at 7pm in the School Hall...** If your child attends a school other than St John's, **please contact the Parish Office on 9758 1029 to register your interest.** Dates for the preparation classes will be advised at this meeting. Information for children attending at St John's will be distributed via Year 5 & 6 teachers. **You will be required to present a copy of your child's Baptismal certificate**



SIGN UP FOR THE LENTEN PROGRAMME

Lenten Groups will meet weekly to pray, discuss and reflect on the gospel readings during lent. All those interested in joining a Lenten prayer group this year please contact the parish office as soon as possible, **by the end of this week**, or add your name to the sign-up sheet on the glass wall in the church so that we can order the correct number of booklets (\$8ea). You may join a small neighbourhood group that meets in members' homes or join the group led by our Faith Development Coordinator, Carolyn that will meet in the parish office. This could be during the day or evening depending on expression of interest. (ph: 97581029).

2020 STRENGTH IN WEAKNESS CONFERENCE

Sat 15th February 2020, 9:00am – 6:30pm, at 400 City Road, Southbank (Planetshakers Centre). A day of prayer and renewal for all Christians to come together and be strengthened and encouraged in their faith, to rely solely on God's grace and strength – especially in times when your faith could be questioned and challenged. Guest speakers will include Archbishop Peter A Comensoli, Archbishop Christopher Prowse, Fr Augustine Vallooran V.C, Lenyce Willason, We invite everyone to this free event. For free registration visit **www.strengthinweakness.com.au**

ROSTERS: Mon 3rd Feb to Sun 9th Feb	
Flowers	Ann P, Connie B
Linen	Alvi M
Welcomers	6pm: Sue N, Anna M 9am Rosa L, Terri & Laurel S 11am Gina M & Pat O'B
Lectors	6pm: Rebecca L 9am: Pamela E 11am: Trish M
Counters	Peter & Dawn G, George & Genevieve
Gardening	Barry Blake