

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

58:7-10

Thus says the Lord: Share your bread with the hungry, and shelter the homeless poor, clothe the man you see to be naked and do not turn from your own kin. Then will your light shine like the dawn and your wound be quickly healed over. Your integrity will go before you and the glory of the Lord behind you. Cry, and the Lord will answer; call, and he will say, 'I am here.'

If you do away with the yoke, the clenched fist, the wicked word, if you give your bread to the hungry, and relief to the oppressed, your light will rise in the darkness, and your shadows become like noon.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/. A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

SECOND READING

A reading from the First Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

2:1-5

When I came to you, brothers, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you what God had guaranteed. During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him as the crucified Christ. Far from relying on any power of my own, I came among you in great 'fear and trembling' and in my speeches and the sermons that I gave, there were none of the arguments that belong to philosophy; only a demonstration of the power of the Spirit. And I did this so that your faith should not depend on human philosophy but on the power of God.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

*I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
the man who follows Me
will have the light of life.*

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

5:13-16

Jesus said to his disciples, 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

Knox Deanery

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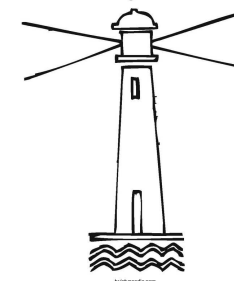
Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

8th & 9th February, 2020

***Heavenly Father,
You have called Your Church
to be the salt of the earth
and the light of the world.
Give us vigorous faith
and a love that is genuine,
so that all may see our works
and give You the glory.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.***

You are the light of the world



FOCUS ON THE WORD

What a challenging Gospel! *You* are the salt of the earth. *You* are the light of the world. Not somebody else! *You!* You are the one who can give our world its flavour, its ambience, its character. You are the one to offer a vision of life and hope in a world troubled by fear and dark powers. If only we Christians would really hear and heed these words. Jesus places an enormous responsibility on us, to be salt and be light. I fear too often we come across as insipid and the Gospel loses its power to transform our world into God's reign of compassion and peace and justice. When we have a wound and bathe it in salt water, it stings. The society we live in should 'sting' from time to time by the strength of Christian values that challenge society's values – that is if we Christians are salt.

Light has many functions. It can offer comfort and solace. Light can drive out the shadows of fear. And light can also reveal what is hidden. The prophets of Israel were those who shone a light on Israel's failures to live up to their values as God's people. At other times they offered words of hope and guidance when Israel was plunged into despair.

During this week, each time you reach for the salt, or turn on a light let this action remind you of your Christian vocation. Let it be a moment of prayer for strength and courage to be salt and light in the world. © Mary Coloe - Dr Mary Coloe PBVM is a Presentation sister and teaches in the field of New Testament studies at the Yarra Theological Union

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

10th Feb – St Scholastica

11th Feb – Our Lady of Lourdes

14th Feb – Sts Cyril & Methodius

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.

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

8th /9th February, 2020

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently



And those who we remember at this time:

Nora Sealey (40days) ,Keith Scutt, Kathleen Joyce, Aniceto C. Judit, Kane Halliday, Jennifer Trevena, Pellegrino Migliore, Emma Prenter , Jack McCann, Benito Discenza, Terry McCormack.

The sick: Fame Pelgrim, Lea Hartley, Tom Clynnos, 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 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 Tuesdays at 10.15 am in the Parish Hall. All are welcome to join us for prayer, praise and worship, and shared lunch. Enquiries: Tineke 97631096, or: Judy 9752 2986

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: Meets each **Tuesday** (during school terms) **from. 9am–10am** in the Parish Centre, to pray. Enquiries, contact the Parish office on 9758 1029.

2020 STRENGTH IN WEAKNESS CONFERENCE
Sat 15th February 2020,. Information at the rear of the church.
For free registration visit www.strengthinweakness.com.au

BAPTISMS – We offer our congratulations to **Indianna Linke, Ava Chan, Akira Silva & Izayah-George Mascurine** who are to be baptised this weekend: The Church of God welcomes you with great joy



SEEKING CHILDREN'S LITURGY VOLUNTEERS

at the 11am mass. Children's Liturgy can help our children experience mass and the Gospel messages when the readings are presented in a fun way. You don't need to be a teacher. You don't need to be a mum or dad - grandparents and young adults are also welcome. If you want to, you can work as a pair with a friend. If we can find enough helpers, you may only have to be on the roster once per term. All the literature is provided. At the very least, all you have to do is read the gospel and discuss it in a way the children can understand. If you are "more keen" you can dress up, put on plays, write poetry, stage an interview or make things. Please give Kathryn Wallace a call on 0414244890 if you are interested in helping.



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, **on Friday 6th March, at 7pm.** Please save the date and join with us to make this a wonderful celebration of prayer.

THE 2020 COMBINED CATHOLIC CHURCHES

PARISH RAFFLE tickets will go on sale on 29th February – 10th May 2020. 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 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**



PRACTICAL PARENTING STRATEGIES EVENT

On Tuesday 18th February at Mater Christi College, Dr Judith Locke, clinical psychologist, researcher and author will be presenting to parents of early teens - 7 Practical parenting strategies to help your child in 2020. The session will run from 7.00pm - 8.30pm. The presentation will provide strategies to parents/carers to encourage children's confidence, resilience and self-regulation in their schooling in an era where many parents/carers overdo assistance and care for their children. Please RSVP to Jacinta Crocker at crocker_j@materchristi.edu.au by Friday 14th February, if you wish to attend. Please note, this is a parent only event.

UPCOMING INTER-PARISH WALK – on Saturday 29th Feb, meet at 1.40pm. Location details to follow. Join us for a leisurely one hour walk in nature to connect with others from surrounding Catholic parishes, have a coffee, chat and cake after. Contact Nimmi 0413135889 or Mic 0412 260 406 for queries, or if you need a ride.

CALLING ALL SINGERS/MUSICIANS if you like to sing, or play the piano/organ, come and join the 9am choir! We are looking for more people to join us. All ages welcome. Ph 9758 1029.



ROSTERS: Mon 10th Feb to Sun 16th Feb	
Flowers	Marg H & Ange C
Linen	Jean B
Welcomers	6pm: Myra N & HELP NEEDED 9am Peter C, Neil & Lorraine, Joanna 11am Maria L & HELP NEEDED
Lectors	6pm: Ignatius L 9am: Caroline Q 11am: Peter J
Counters	Tony B & Steph H
Gardening	Barry Blake