

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Genesis

2:7-9, 3:1-7

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden. The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

5:12-19

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is

certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

4:1-11

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says: He will put you in his angels' charge, and they will support you on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.' Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.' Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.' Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

Knox Deanery

19 Forest Road, Ferntree Gully, 3156

Phone: 9758 1029

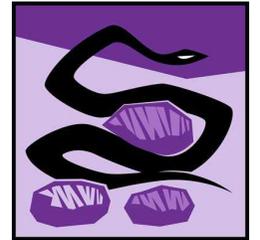
Email: office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au

1st Sunday of Lent – Year A 29th February /1st March, 2020

*Lord God,
Renew us in these Lenten days:
washed clean of sin,
sealed with the Spirit,
and sustained by Your living bread,
may we remain true to our calling
and, with the elect, serve You alone.*

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.



FOCUS ON THE WORD

Sin and temptation are the dominant themes of the readings for this first week of Lent. Indeed, they are regular themes in the season of Lent. However, the scripture passages throughout this season allow us the opportunity to think again about these themes and perhaps reconsider some traditional understandings of them. The testing and temptation of Jesus echoes the plight of the people of Israel as they wandered in the desert for forty years. They relied on God to provide them with food and protection and ultimately lead them into the land that was promised to them. They had to trust that God would deliver these things in God's own time and way. Jesus is tempted to ignore God's time and ways by seizing for himself food, protection and ownership of the land. The temptations of Jesus and the people of Israel are all about trusting God. Lent is a season of invitation. It is an invitation to step into the desert with Jesus; to confront our own purpose and ministry and to renew our trust in God's vision for the world and for us individually. Seen in this light, Lent is so much more than fasting from meat and giving up ice cream for a few weeks. The whole idea of fasting and sacrifice is an attempt to simplify our lives. Through simplifying our life and removing some of the daily distractions, we can share in the desert experience of Jesus and then truly celebrate the hope reborn in the Easter season.

© Greg Sunter

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Fri 6th Mar – Autumn Ember Day A Special Day of Penance and Prayer.

Sat 7th Mar- Sts Perpetua & Felicity

I have come that you may have life and have it to the full

(John 10:10)

PARISH 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 Lent – Year A
 29th February / 1st March, 2020

PRAYING FOR...*All who have died recently**And those who we remember at this time:*

Daniel Lucas Cahill, Therese Edmunds, Tom Donegan
 Maureen Darcy.

The sick: Ruby Samtoy, Fame Pelgrim, Elsie Johnson
 Anne Jayawardena, Wilma Neville, Lea Hartley,
 Cosimo Petracca, Christopher Windebank, Giuseppina
 Zarro, Lesina Maio, Catherine Turner, Patricia Quinn,
 David Merton, Michael Byrne, Mary Edmunds, Bev
 McNamara, Anthony McNamara, Victoria Lewis,
 Nicole Moore, Peter Fairhurst, Hans Whitaker, Edward
 Osborne, Allida Serafin, Barbara Kenny, Clive Geach.

NEW GUIDELINES SICK LIST –names will remain on the sick list for 6weeks, then removed, unless notification to continue is received at 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.

LECTORS' ROSTER The April-June roster is now being prepared. If any existing rostered lector is unavailable during this period, or would like to request a change to the roster, or any readers who would like to be added please contact me before the 23rd March. Thank you. Contact Stephanie 9758 5497 / smhorgen@gmail.com

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

**CORONAVIRUS GUIDANCE FOR PARISHES.**

Due to the rapidly changing situation in respect to the threat posed by the coronavirus (COVID-19) effective from 28th February, Holy Communion will be distributed in one kind only. Also at the Rite of Peace, parishioners with coughs & sneezes are encouraged to smile or bow. See Archbishops letter on the trolleys.



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.** We are expecting representatives from St Thomas' Anglican Church, FTG Uniting Church, The Salvation Army and the Lutheran Church. Please come and join with us to make this a wonderful celebration of prayer, and time for fellowship with supper afterward. ALL WELCOME.

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS: The Stations of the Cross are a 14-step Catholic devotion that commemorates Jesus Christ's last day on Earth as a man. The 14 devotions, or stations, focus on specific events of His last day, beginning with His condemnation. The stations are commonly used as a mini pilgrimage as the individual moves from station to station. At each station, the individual recalls and meditates on a specific event from Christ's last day. Specific prayers are recited, then the individual moves to the next station until all 14 are complete. **We will be having the Stations of the Cross on Friday at 10.30 am during lent followed by mass at 11.00 am. All are invited to join.**



STATIONS of the CROSS

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PRIMARY SCHOOL OPEN DAY will take place on **Wednesday 11th March** from **8.00am-5.00pm.** Please invite any friends, family or neighbours who

have a child eligible to start school in 2021 to come along and see our wonderful school in action. If you have a child who is eligible to start Prep in 2021 please make contact with the school office ph 9758 1013 to complete an enrolment form.



MATER CHRISTI COLLEGE: Bring your family and friends to our next Scheduled Tour on Friday 13th March departing 9.30am or Sunday 22nd March. To book your tour visit: materchristi.edu.au

ANNUAL COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISHES

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 look forward to your support by promoting these wonderful prizes. Also, feel free to take a few books to sell to family and friends. This is our major fundraiser, with great prizes, including 3 cars, + Coles/Myer gift cards worth \$1000 to be won! We thank you in anticipation for your continuing ongoing support in 2020.

BUSHFIRE RECOVERY APPEAL: Thank you for your generous support of this appeal. Total amount raised was **\$2,047.60** to be used by CatholicCare to establish a Community Recovery Service, to support families and communities for 3yrs.

PROJECT COMPASSION 2020 Running through the six weeks of Lent each year. This year's theme: **GO FURTHER TOGETHER.**



Indigenous minorities in the Philippines face regular discrimination and disadvantage. Manide woman, Shirley faced challenges supporting her children and sending them to school. With Caritas Australia's support, Shirley's life has been transformed. Envelopes, Leaflets and donation boxes available in the church foyer.

'**THE SEASONS OF OUR LIFE**' is an opportunity to explore your creative expression in relation to the natural seasons of our life – Autumn, Winter, Spring, Summer. The program includes: a time of quiet and reflection, support and encouragement with the wisdom of others, etc. Facilitated by Marlene McGrath, the program begins on 7th March 2020 10am – 2pm at Heart of Life, 296 Glenferrie Road, Malvern. Cost \$140 for four, or \$40 per session. For more information or application form, contact info@heartoflife.melbourne or phone: 9890 1101.

ROSTERS: Mon 2nd Mar to Sun 8th Mar

Flowers	No Flowers in Lent
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: Tony D 11am: Carolyn S
Counters	Bryon & Ruby
Gardening	Carlos E