

## FIRST READING

*A reading from the book of Exodus 17:3-7*

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

*The Word of the Lord.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R./ If today you hear his voice,  
harden not your hearts.*

## SECOND READING

*A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans 5:1-2, 5-8*

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at His appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Glory to you, Word of God,  
Lord Jesus Christ!  
Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world;  
give me living water,  
that I may never thirst again.  
Glory to you, Word of God,  
Lord Jesus Christ!*

## GOSPEL

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 4:5-16.19-26.39-42*

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to Him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied: 'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and He would have given you living water. "You have no bucket, sir," she answered 'and the well is deep: how could You get this living water? Are You a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied: 'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life. "Sir," said the woman 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water.' 'I see You are a prophet, sir' said the woman. 'Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while You say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said: 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews.

*(Gospel continued overleaf)*



**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 of Lent – Year A**

**14th /15th March, 2020**

*Merciful God,  
so often we feel dry in Spirit!  
Come, Lord Jesus, quench our thirst  
for life in Your living love.  
Be fresh water to our dry-ness,  
Unseal the living water  
of Your Spirit; to become within us  
an everlasting spring.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



## FOCUS ON THE WORD

When he asks the woman for a drink, Jesus breaks two cultural taboos: firstly, for a man to speak directly to an unchaperoned woman was somewhat scandalous; secondly, as the woman points out, Jesus is a Jew and directly addresses a Samaritan – another scandal. Samaritans descended from one of the tribes of Israel. They held faithful to Mt Gerazim as the first place for the worship of God even when the prophet Elijah declared a new place for worship. In the 7th and 8th Centuries BCE, the Assyrians descended on the Northern and Southern Kingdoms of Israel. The Samaritans in the north assimilated with the Assyrians, whilst the Jews were taken into exile in Babylon. When the Jews returned from exile, the Samaritans offered to assist in the reconstruction of the Temple. This infuriated the Jews and led to centuries of distrust and animosity. The Samaritan woman's personal encounter with Jesus compels her to start spreading the good news about the amazing man she has met. She meets Jesus face to face and feels compelled to act on what she has felt. Lent is a time for each of us to again – or for the first time – seek out a face to face encounter with Jesus. Through prayer, contemplation on scripture or reflection on encountering Jesus in the face of others, we build a one to one relationship with Jesus. When we acknowledge this relationship, like the Samaritan woman, we are compelled to act on it. © Greg Sunter

## FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

*Tue 17th Mar St Patrick  
Thurs 19th Mar St Joseph*

*Wed 18th Mar St Cyril of Jerusalem*

*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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Lent – Year A****14th / 15th March, 2020****PRAYING FOR...****All who have died recently**

Audrey Homan, Pauline Bowden.

**And those who we remember at this time:**

Peter Trevena, Michael Atkinson, Ayden Tellis, Basil Lorimer, Peter Kelly.

**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 6 weeks, 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.

**CHARISMATIC PRAYER** meets on *Tuesdays at 10.15 am* in the Parish Hall. 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.

**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

**HALL OF FAME - FR JOHN PETRULIS** is being honoured by being inducted into the Salesian College Hall of Fame. The ceremony will be held at Salesian College 10 Bosco Street, Chadstone on Friday, 20th March 2020. Tickets: \$50.00 includes 3 course meal & drink. [www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=561134&](http://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=561134&)



**THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS** is on Fridays at 10.30 am during lent followed by Mass at 11.00 am. All are invited to join.

**ANNUAL COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISHES**

**RAFFLE** tickets are now on sale until 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY FR THOMAS** best wishes for the 13th March, from all of us at St Johns.

**The ST JOSEPHS COMMUNITY FUN DAY**

**Sunday 15th March, 10am-3pm** at St Joseph's. **We regrettably advise that we have postponed our Community Fun Day** scheduled for this Sunday 15th March. We apologise for any inconvenience caused. For information about tours and enrolments, please visit the college website at: [www.stjosephs.com.au](http://www.stjosephs.com.au)



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

**FURTHER TOGETHER. WEEK 3** As an unmarried woman with a disability, Sakun was isolated and unable to earn a living until Caritas Australia helped her set up a thriving kiosk. Now involved in village decision-making, Sakun's income is growing, along with her confidence. Envelopes, Leaflets and donation boxes available in the church foyer. *Please donate generously.*



**RETREAT AT DON BOSCO Lysterfield** Join Fr Frank Moloney SDB as we explore the gospel readings of Holy Week and Easter. This retreat will combine presentations, discussion, reflection, communal liturgy and private prayer to offer the opportunity for participants to enrich their spiritual lives by dealing deeply and prayerfully into the scriptures. Each participant should bring a personal copy of the New Testament, preferably the NRSV translation. Cost: \$430 (all-inclusive of retreat, meals and accommodation) Further details and registrations: Don Bosco Retreat Centre – (03) 9752 2432, Email: [dbrclysterfield@gmail.com](mailto:dbrclysterfield@gmail.com)

**GOSPEL – (Continued from the back page)**

But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshiper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth. 'The woman said to Him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when He comes He will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am He.' Many Samaritans of that town had believed in Him on the strength of the woman's testimony when she said, 'He told me all I have ever done,' so, when the Samaritans came up to Him, they begged Him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when He spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard Him ourselves and we know that He really is the saviour of the world.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**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](mailto:smhorgen@gmail.com)

**MATER CHRISTI COLLEGE:** Bring your family and friends to our next Scheduled Tour on **Sunday 22nd March.** To book your tour visit: [materchristi.edu.au](http://materchristi.edu.au)



**EMMAUS COLLEGE OPEN DAY** will be held on **EMMAUS Thursday 26th March, 2020** between **COLLEGE** 1.30pm – 6.30pm. For tour bookings or more information ph 9845 3211 or visit the website at: [www.emmaus.vic.edu.au](http://www.emmaus.vic.edu.au).

EMMAUS is also hosting a Youth Festival RISE! Home Awaits –featuring Fr Rob Galea on 21st March 2020, 10am-6pm. <http://www.trybooking.com/BHLGB>

**ROSTERS: Mon16th Mar to Sun 22ndMar**

<b>Flowers</b>	No Flowers in Lent
<b>Linen</b>	Alvi M
<b>Welcomers</b>	6pm: Louise D, Peter G 9am: Sue & David W, Thelma B 11am Kath & Andrew W
<b>Lectors</b>	6pm: Ignatius L 9am: Pamela E 11am: Sarah M
<b>Counters</b>	Peter & Dawn, George & Genevieve
<b>Gardening</b>	Carlos E