THE NATIVITY OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST—YEAR B
10th June 2012

First Reading: Isaiah 49:1-6
Responsorial Psalm: I praise you for I am wonderfully made.
Second Reading: Acts 13:22-26
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!
You, child will be called the prophet of the Most High;
You will go before the Lord to prepare his ways.
Alleluia!

YEAR OF GRACE—PRAYER
Gracious God,
You have blessed this ancient land with many gifts, especially its people.
We thank you for the Year of Grace, a time to start afresh from Christ.
You invite us to contemplate the face of Jesus your Son, that we may experience a
new wave of grace, and that the light of Christ may burn more brightly in our lives.
Attune our hearts and minds to the presence of your Holy Spirit, that our Church
may be transformed, our relationship be healed, and our nation grow in
compassion and justice.
We make our prayer through the intercession of St Mary MacKillop, who showed us
new ways of living the Gospel.
Mary, Help of Christians, pray for us.
www.yearofgrace.catholic.org.au/

MASS TIMES & SERVICES THIS WEEK

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Baptisms: Are arranged by appointment and are held on the first Sunday of the month at 11.00am.
Marriages: (6 months notice) Arranged by appointment. [Enquiries and information brochure available from Parish Office]
Reconciliation: Celebrated at 5.30pm on Saturday or by appointment with the Priest.
COMMUNION TO THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

This service is available to sick, elderly and housebound members of our parish community and there are many special ministers of the Eucharist who would deem it an honour to provide this service to such people. If you know of any parishioners who would like someone to call for this purpose contact the office on 5427 2690 and we will make the necessary arrangements.

WE PRAY FOR...

Please keep in your prayers all the members of this community who are sick, especially Sr May Austin and Vincent Kelly and all the sick of the Parish. God bring them peace of mind and a recovery to good health and guide those who care for them. We pray today for all those who have died recently, and for all whose anniversaries are at this time, and for all those who have gone before us from this world to the fullness of life with God. May God have mercy on them all and help us to be faithful to their memory.

PRIVACY LEGISLATION

In 2001, the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments introduced legislation that deals with the manner in which public and private sector organisations may record, use, store and disclose information, including health information, collected from individuals. The Parish of St. Ambrose is committed to upholding and implementing the Privacy Principles set out in the legislation. A copy of the Parish’s Privacy Policy is available to any Parishioner by contacting Bernadette at the Parish Office.

CHURCH ROSTERS

| Readers       | June 9th  | Trish Cairns     |
|              | June 10th | Ruth Delong     |
|              | June 16th | Joe & Jill Caruana |
|              | June 17th | Ann-Marie Elliot & Mary Welch |
| Special Ministers | June 9th  | Pat McHenry or Angela Grinton |
|              | June 10th | Mary Welch, Mary Lamach Jones, Bruna Bombig |
|              | June 16th | Pat McHenry or Angela Grinton |
|              | June 17th | Vicky Carrick, Bruna Bombig, Rhonda Loret |
| Church Cleaning  | June 11th | Bernadette Petruccelli |
|              | June 18th | Marg Flett       |
| Church Flowers   | June 15th | Rhonda Scanlon   |
|              | June 22nd | School           |

GOSPEL REFLECTION

All three readings today speak of God’s call. The servant is called from the mother’s womb, David is selected from all the sons of Jesses, and in the strange happenings around John’s Birth the people recognise that God is acting in this child’s life.

COLLECTIONS

Presbytery Collection (1st collection)  
This collection covers running costs of Presbytery and Priest’s stipend.] $291

Church (envelopes) collection  
This collection covers the Church capital costs, and on going maintenance.] $639

ST MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP QUOTES

These quotes explore the spirituality and personality of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. She had much wisdom and insight and her words will help us to live the Gospel in TODAY’S world.

God’s love is too deep for words to express. 1870  
The Little brown book by Sue & Leo Kane

VOCATION VIEW

“What then will this child be? For the hand of the Lord was with him.” Pray that the hand of the Lord will be with many of our young people, that they have the courage to choose a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life.

MONDAY AT THE MANOR

No Manor this Monday.  
Back next week.

MEDITATION

Please remember if you are cleaning or arranging flowers on Saturday morning that the Christian Meditation Group will be in the Church from 11am until 12 noon.
St Ambrose Parish Woodend

WYD BRAZIL
“One Year to Go” Celebration
Friday 27 July, 6:30pm
All are invited to 2013 World Youth Day “One Year to Go” celebration. Fr Robert Galea will lead a special praise and worship session at St Mary Star of the Sea Church in West Melbourne followed at 7:30pm by Mass celebrated by Archbishop Denis Hart. After Mass, at 8:30pm, the celebrations will continue with a huge Brazilian Carnivale, giving everyone the chance to experience the amazing culture of Brazil.
This event is open to all those from around Victoria who want to start getting ready for World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro, whether they will be able to attend World Youth Day or not.
Stay tuned for further details.
Contact: AOV Office 9412 3300 OR aoy@cam.org.au

PALMS AUSTRALIA
Palms Australia is a Catholic organisation that has been preparing, placing and supporting Australia volunteers to exchange skills to assist the sustainable development of communities across Africa, Asia and the Pacific. Join Palms on a 12 day Encounter journey across Timor-Leste to experience Timorese culture, learn about its history and learn about social justice and development from our Australian volunteers in the field. Travel with a small group of 8-10 participants, a member of Palms staff and a local guide. Spaces are available for 24 Sept – 6 Oct 2012 Encounter, with more Encounters to be held in 2013. For more info contact Sarah on 02-95189551 or sarah@palms.org.au or visit www.palms.org.au

MARY MACKILLOP TRAIL
A 4 day pilgrimage to Hamilton, Portland and Penola will be conducted (numbers permitting) from 19th October to 22nd October with pick-up points at Bacchus Marsh and Ballarat. Cost will range from $500-$600 twin share (all included except 3 lunches) with $120 extra for a single.
All sites connected with St Mary Mackillop and her family will be visited with Mass on Sunday at Penola.
Contact: Sr Mary Fermio rsj PO Box 37, Bacchus Marsh 3340 or Ph 5367 2078 or email: mary.fermio@soj.org.au before end of June.
The more who travel the cheaper it will be!! Itinerary available on request.

HEART OF ST KILDA CONCERT—Wednesday 18 July, 7pm
The fifth annual Heart of St Kilda Concert to raise money for Sacred Heart Mission will have the biggest line-up to date with some of the most exciting artists in Australian entertainment. Featuring unforgettable performances and fantastic comedy, this year’s show is going to be an absolute showstopper with Tim Rogers, Greg Champion, Stonefield, Nick Barker, Brian Nankervis, Rebecca Barnard and Billy Miller, Lanie Lane, Michael Paynter, Normie Rowe Cal Wilson, Fiona O’Loughlin, Greg Champion, Ian Bland, Lawrence Mooney, and Raymond Crowe.
Where: The Palais Theatre, Lower Esplanade, St. Kilda
Cost: $99 A-reserve and $79 B-reserve
All proceeds go to Sacred Heart Mission.
Contact: Rachel Petchesky
9536 8427 OR 0423962141 rpetchesky@sacredheartmission.org
More Info: www.sacredheartmission.org

PIANO RECITAL BY MELODY QUAH
6 July 2012, 7:30 pm
Melody Quah, an international young pianist, has dazzled audiences worldwide.
She has been described as a “poet with titanium fingers” (Vancouver Sun). A graduate of The Juilliard School, she now studies at Yale’s School of Music.
Melody will be performing masterpieces by Brahms, Liszt, Rachmaninoff, Bartok and Prokofiev in a concert not to be missed!
Where: Mahon Theatre, Aquinas College 46 Great Ryrie St, Ringwood
Cost: $15 All proceeds will benefit the North Ringwood Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society.
Contact: Holy Spirit Parish House 9876 3717

THE CARMELITE CENTRE
Retreat Weekend
Friday 13 July to Sunday 15 July
A time for prayer, reflection and the companionship of like-minded people at a beautiful setting by the beach.
Program to be advised.
Where: Santa Casa, Queenscliff
Contact: The Carmelite Centre
Phone 9690 5430
First Reading  Is 49:1-6
A reading from the prophet Isaiah
Behold I will make you a light to the nations.
Islands, listen to me, pay attention, remotest peoples.
The Lord called me before I was born, from my mother’s womb he pronounced my name.
He made my mouth a sharp sword, and hid me in the shadow of his hand.
He made me into a sharpened arrow, and concealed me in his quiver.
He said to me, ‘You are my servant Israel, in whom I shall be glorified’;
while I was thinking, ‘I have toiled in vain, I have exhausted myself for nothing’;
and all the while my cause was with the Lord, my reward with my God.
I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord, my God was my strength.
And now the Lord has spoken, he who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, to gather Israel to him:
I have attained to righteousness; I will go before the Lord to prepare his way.
You mark when I walk or lie down, you discern my purpose from afar.
You mark when I walk or lie down, you know me, all my ways lie open to you.
The Lord searches me and knows my resting and my rising. (R.)
You know my dwelling and my coming.
‘My brothers, sons of Abraham’s race, and all you who fear God, this message of salvation is meant for you.’
The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm
(R.) I praise you for I am wonderfully made.
1. O Lord, you search me and you know me, you know my resting and my rising, you discern my purpose from afar.
You mark when I walk or lie down, all my ways lie open to you. (R.)
2. For it was you who created my being, knit me together in my mother’s womb.
I thank you for the wonder of my being, for the wonders of all your creation. (R.)
3. Already you knew my soul, my body held no secret from you when I was being fashioned in secret and moulded in the depths of the earth. (R.)

Second Reading  Acts 13:22-26
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
Christ’s coming was announced beforehand by the preaching of John.
Paul said: ‘God made David the king of our ancestors, of whom he approved in these words, “I have elected David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will carry out my whole purpose.” To keep his promise, God has raised up for Israel one of David’s descendants, Jesus, as Saviour, whose coming was heralded by John when he proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the whole people of Israel. Before John ended his career he said, “I am not the one you imagine me to be; that one is coming after me and I am not fit to undo his sandal.”
‘My brothers, sons of Abraham’s race, and all you who fear God, this message of salvation is meant for you.’
The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation  See Lk 1:76
Alleluia, alleluia!
You, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways.
Alleluia!

Gospel  Lk 1:57-66, 80
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
John is his name.
The time came for Elizabeth to have her child, and she gave birth to a son; and when her neighbours and relations heard that the Lord had shown her so great a kindness, they shared her joy.
Now on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; they were going to call him after his father, but his mother spoke up. ‘No,’ she said ‘he is to be called John.’ They said to her, ‘But no one in your family has that name’, and made signs to his father to find out what he wanted him called. The father asked for a writing tablet and wrote, ‘His name is John.’ And they were all astonished.
John is his name. The time came for Elizabeth to have her child, and she gave birth to a son; and when her neighbours and relations heard that the Lord had shown her so great a kindness, they shared her joy.
Now the Lord was with him. The child grew up and his spirit matured. And he lived out in the wilderness until the day he appeared openly to Israel.
The Gospel of the Lord.

Reflection
by Greg Sunter
Some scholars today suggest that before his own public ministry Jesus was a follower of John the Baptist and that it was John who nurtured the call to ministry within Jesus and encouraged him to respond to that call. Regardless of whether or not this was the case, John and Jesus were cousins and the image that we have from the infancy narratives of Luke is that their mothers – Mary and Elizabeth – were very close and we can assume that Jesus and John were equally close and spent a lot of time together growing up. John’s decision to go out into the wilderness to live an ascetic lifestyle must have made a big impact on his cousin.
John’s ministry was a ministry to the Jewish people only. It was a call to them to repent and return to God’s ways. The baptism that he encouraged people to undertake was a baptism of repentance – different from our Christian understanding of Baptism. For John the baptism was a call to acknowledge one’s wrongdoing and, through the baptism in the river Jordan, to be cleansed ready to recommit to living in right relationship with God.

When John announced Jesus as the one coming after him, he recognised that Jesus would take John’s own ministry to a new level. Whereas John’s message was for the Jews alone, the message of Jesus was for all people – Jew and Gentile alike. John’s simple existence – apparently surviving on locusts and wild honey – is in stark contrast to the feast of the reign of God that Jesus heralds. Rather than John’s call to prepare the way of the Lord, Jesus called all people to live the way of the Lord.

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The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist

Try to find these words:

angel
children
Elizabeth
incense
John
old
parents
pray
priest
servant
son
Zechariah

GET TOLD IN THE GOSPEL OF LUKE, BEGINS WITH THE ANGEL GABRIEL APPEARING TO JOHN’S FATHER IN THE TEMPLE. GABRIEL TOLD ZACHARIAH THAT HIS ELDERLY WIFE ELIZABETH WAS TO HAVE A SON NAMED JOHN. WHEN ZACHARIAH LEFT THE TEMPLE HE WAS UNABLE TO SPEAK, FOR GABRIEL HAD TOLD ZACHARIAH THAT HE WOULD BE LEFT MUTE UNTIL HIS SON WAS BORN. AFTER ELIZABETH GAVE BIRTH THERE WAS DISAGREEMENT AMONG THE FAMILY’S RELATIVES OVER THE NAMING OF THE BABY. WHEN THEY APPROACHED ZACHARIAH HE WROTE, “HIS NAME IS JOHN”. FROM THAT MOMENT, ZACHARIAH WAS ABLE TO SPEAK AGAIN AND HE PRAISED GOD AND MADE A PROPHESY ABOUT JOHN, SAYING: “YOU WILL BE CALLED THE PROPHET OF THE MOST HIGH.”