

The only thing that counts is faith working through love. (Galatians 5:6)

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time
2nd Aug 2026

JOHN THE BAPTIST: WITNESS BY BLOOD

John's death is not a tragic end with no theological meaning. The Church explicitly reads it as part of salvation history's logic:

- He is "imprisoned and decapitated by Herod for his heroic witness to the truth," and thus becomes the Precursor of the Lord's own violent death.
- Pope Benedict emphasizes that John "witnessed with his blood to faithfulness to God's commandments," without compromise.
- In a striking patristic echo, Bede is quoted: John was not ordered to deny Christ but "to keep silent about the truth," and John "did not keep silent about the truth and thus died for Christ who is the Truth."

In the economy of salvation, martyrdom becomes a final "preparation" by revealing that the prophetic witness of John is not merely about moral reform; it is about fidelity to the Truth embodied in Christ.

From the Church's teaching in these sources, John the Baptist is central to the economy of salvation because he:

- Inaugurates preparation through repentance and conversion.
- Points out Jesus as the decisive agent ("Lamb of God," "Son of God"), shifting attention away from himself.
- Bears witness through martyrdom, becoming the Precursor of Christ's own violent death.
- Integrates the action of the Holy Spirit: John "came to bear witness to the light," and his mission brings prophetic speaking to completion.

John the Baptist is therefore not merely "a saint who lived before Jesus," but a necessary and providential participant in God's saving plan, preparing the world for Christ and then confirming that plan with his blood as witness to Truth.

Parish Priest:
Fr. Joby George VC

Priest-In Residence:
Fr Sebastian
Mappilaparambil VC

Parish secretary:
Caroline Allen

Parish Manager:
Gerard Antony

Principal:
Paul Sharp

Child Safety Officer:
Florida Nugara

Catechist:
Christina D'Couto

Sunday Masses:
Saturday Vigil …. 6.30pm
Sunday…..... 9.15am
…… 11.00am
Healing Mass …. 7.00pm

Spanish Mass:
Saturday 4.00pm

Weekday Masses:
Monday to Saturday 9.15am
Wednesday 7.00pm

Reconciliation:
Tuesday 9.45am - 10.15am
Saturday 9.45am - 10.15am

Novena to Our Lady:
Saturday 9.00am
Wednesday 7.00pm

Baptisms: Second Sunday

Divine Kids Bible Class:
Sunday 10.15am

Parish Prayer Group:
Tuesday 7.00pm-8.00pm

Parish Halls Hire:
Contact Parish Office



Shape the Future: Be Counted as Catholic this Census

Australia's national Census will be held on
11 August 2026.

Catholics are encouraged to mark **"Catholic"** in the question on religion. In a time when some would seek to diminish the importance of faith, it is vital that the Catholic community be represented in our national statistics. Census data supports Church pastoral planning and contributes to government decision-making on health, education, infrastructure, and social services – guiding resource and funding allocations across Australia. By identifying as Catholic, you can help ensure that the contribution and needs of faith communities are properly recognised and considered in future planning and policy decisions.

PRAYER INTENTION FOR THE WEEK

FOR DELIVERANCE FROM THE AFFLICTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

We will be praying for them in every Holy Mass for this week. Please keep them in your personal Rosary and prayers.

CHILD SAFETY

Holy Family Parish is committed to upholding the wellbeing, safety and dignity of each child and young person and ensuring that they are able to grow and develop in a caring and supportive environment in our Church.

READINGS

SUNDAY
Isaiah 55:1-3
Psalm 145:8-9,15-18
Romans 8:35,37-39
Matthew 14:13-21

MONDAY
St. Dominic, Priest
Jeremiah 28:1-17
Psalm 119:29,43,79-80,95,102
Matthew 14:22-36

TUESDAY
St. John Mary Vianney, Priest
Jeremiah 30:1-2,12-15,18-22
Psalm 102:16-21,29,22-23
Matthew 15:1-2,10-14

WEDNESDAY
Jeremiah 31:1-7
Jeremiah 31:10-12,13
Matthew 15:21-28

THURSDAY
The Transfiguration of the Lord
Daniel 7:9-10,13-14
Psalm 97:1-2,5-6,9
Matthew 17:1-9

FRIDAY
Nahum 2:1,3,3:1-3,6-7
Deuteronomy 32:35-36,39,41
Matthew 16:24-28

SATURDAY
St. Mary of the Cross (MacKillop), Virgin
1 Kings 17:8-16
Psalm 63:2-8
Colossians 3:12-17
Matthew 6:25-34



Divine Australia First Friday

7 Aug 2026

6.30 pm – Praise and Worship
7.00 pm – Holy Mass and Adoration

Holy Mass Schedule Changes

from 11 - 14 August

9:15 AM Mass as usual

Tuesday, 11 August
⊘ No Confession and Benediction ⊘

Wednesday, 12 August
⊘ No Novena and Evening Mass ⊘

Clergy Conference of the Archdiocese





Solemnity of Assumption

Vigil Mass: Friday, 14 August, 7pm

Morning Mass: Saturday, 15 August, 9.15am

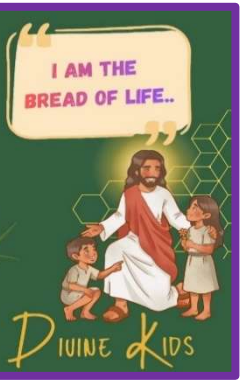
⊘ No Evening Mass on Saturday 15 August ⊘

EUCHARIST

RETREAT FOR CHILDREN & TEENS
AGES 5 TO 15

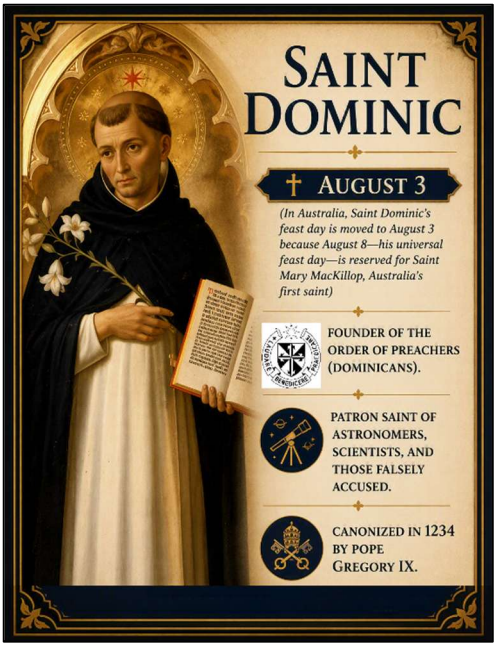
AUGUST 22 and 23
9 AM TO 3:30 PM
Holy Family Church
Doveton

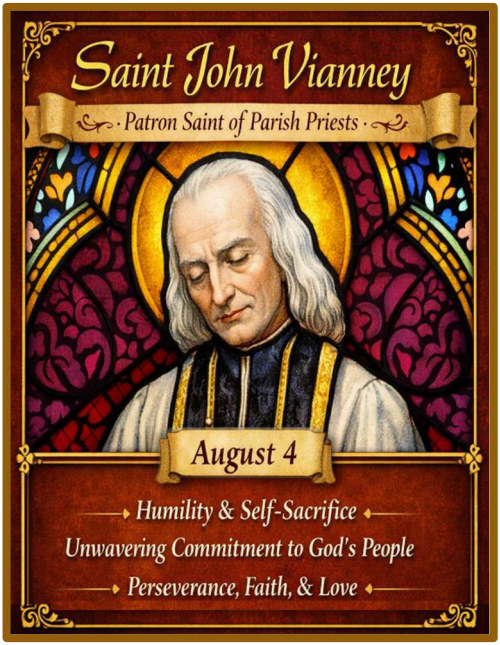


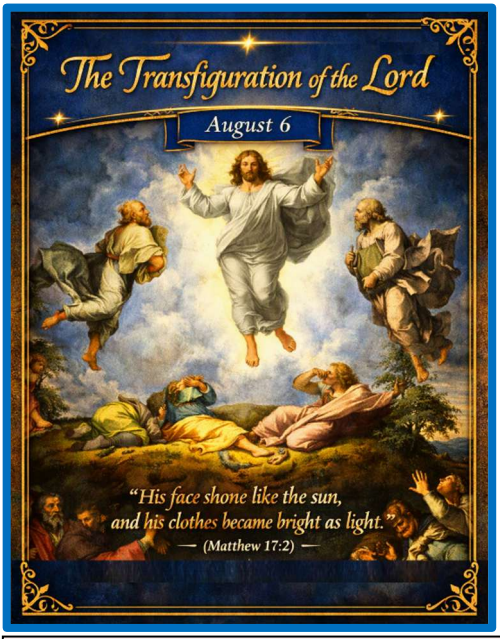


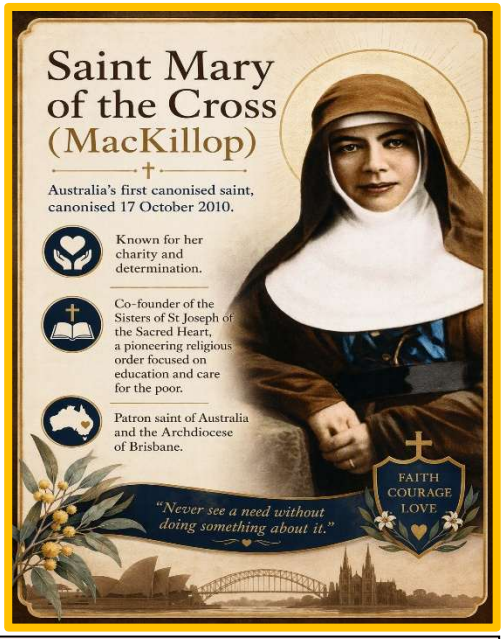
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Parish Office Opening Hours Tuesday to Friday 9.30am to 1.30pm	Presbytery T: (03) 97924317 | School T: (03) 97911853 Parish W: holyfamilydoveton.org.au Parish E: doveton@cam.org.au Parish Manager E: hfparishmanager@gmail.com Child Safety E: holyfamilycso@cam.org.au