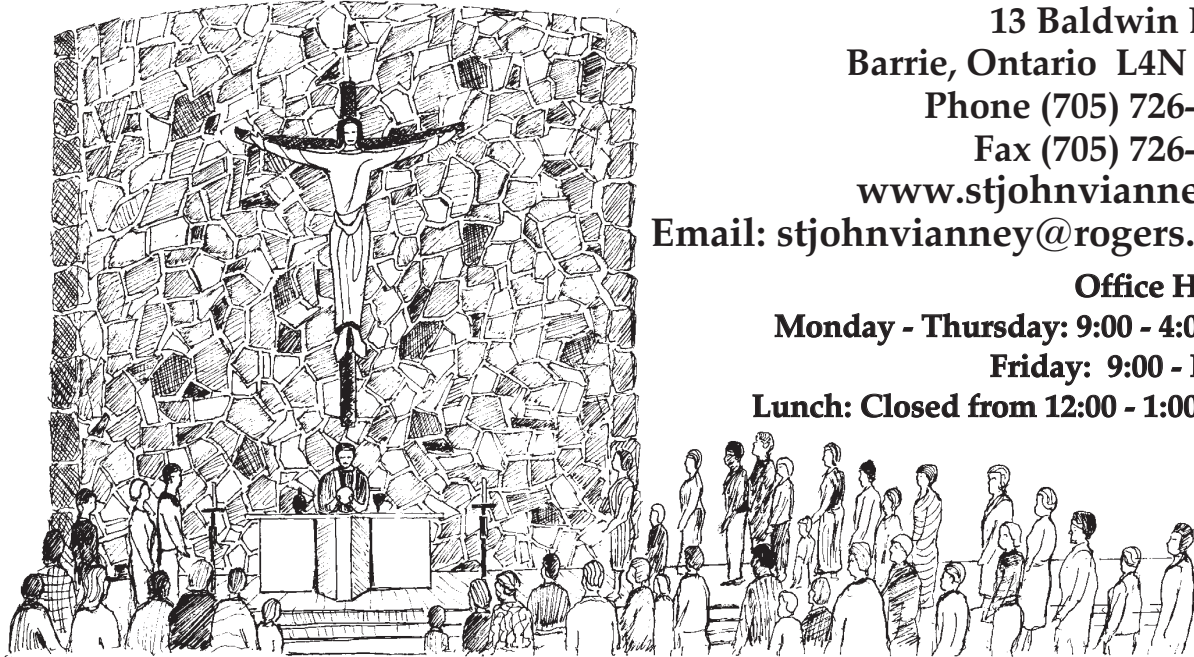


# St. John Vianney Church



13 Baldwin Lane  
Barrie, Ontario L4N 2W1  
Phone (705) 726-8007  
Fax (705) 726-4543  
www.stjohnvianney.ca

Email: [stjohnvianney@rogers.com](mailto:stjohnvianney@rogers.com)

**Office Hours:**

**Monday - Thursday: 9:00 - 4:00 pm**

**Friday: 9:00 - Noon**

**Lunch: Closed from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.**

As followers of Jesus Christ, and as full members of the Roman Catholic Church, we, the Parish Community of St. John Vianney, joyfully proclaim our Saviour risen. Through prayer and sacramental celebration of life in Jesus, we join as co-creators in his mission of justice and peace, through the power of the Holy Spirit for the glory of God.

## **Parish Priests:**

Fr. Biju Kannampuzha, C.M.I., Pastor  
Fr. Saji Thomas, C.M.I., Associate Pastor

## **Celebration of the Eucharist**

### *Sunday Eucharist*

Saturday at 5:00 p.m. (Life Teen Mass)

Sunday at 8:00, 9:30 and 11:30 a.m.

### *Weekday mass times*

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday at 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday Adoration at 6:00 p.m., Mass at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday at 8:30 a.m.

## **Celebration of Reconciliation**

Saturday from 4:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Sunday 11:00 - 11:30 a.m. or any time by appointment.

## **Parish Information**

Mass Times - Press 9

Baptismal Information - Press 7

St. Vincent de Paul - Press 8

*Emergency due to death or serious illness - Press 6*

Fr. Biju Kannampuzha, C.M.I., Pastor - 102

Fr. Saji Thomas, C.M.I., Associate Pastor - 108

Karen Price, Parish Secretary - 101

Bernadette Brock, Youth Minister - 104

Marilyn Reesor, Music Director - 121

## The Beatitudes

Today's gospel, naming the beatitudes, is like a summary of Jesus' teaching. It is the gospel in a condensed form and, therefore, requires a great deal of teasing out to get to the simple point-by-point message that it contains.

We are all familiar with political manifestos. Today's gospel is Jesus' Manifesto. The important thing for us to remember is that, in the words of Jesus, "heaven and earth will pass away before my word passes away." In other words this is a manifesto in which he certainly will keep his side of the bargain.

There is a lot of teaching contained in today's gospel. Let me try to put the beatitudes into simple ordinary words. They are blessed who are detached, and have a humble attitude. Even if they have great riches, the riches do not possess them, nor are they boastful and proud about them. Grief is the price you pay for love, so, if you have any capacity for love, then you will need to carry some tissues with you. If you never want to cry at a funeral, don't ever love anyone. The meek and the gentle are the opposite of the bully, and they are the ones who are really powerful. Mahatma Ghandi and Martin Luther King refused to fight back, so the only way to stop them was to kill them.

They are good people who have a real desire for justice and fair play, and who are prepared to ensure that this is available to others. As you treat others, so you yourself will be treated, so if you want mercy, forgiveness, and compassion, then you must begin by giving this to others. A pure heart is not devious, deceitful, selfish, and cunning. A pure heart reflects an aspect of God. Jesus did not say that they are blessed who have peace. Rather did he commend those who build bridges of peace and reconciliation between others, and between themselves and others?

Jesus warns us that, if we follow him, we will be treated like he was. Following him means taking up the cross. Right from the beginning when Simeon took the child in his arms in the temple, he announced that Jesus

would be a sign of contradiction. Everything he said, everything he did, and everything he stood for, was a contradiction to this world and its values. Those with power, prestige, and control were threatened by him. The religious leaders who ran the show, and who were the final arbiters as to what was right and wrong, were so threatened by him that they planned and succeeded in killing him.

There is a certain sense of cleansing in today's gospel. It is about letting go of things in our lives that are not life giving, and about becoming wholesome and free. It is a programme for living, a blueprint for inner peace and happiness.

To live life more fully, it is necessary to be as free from outside controls as possible. I can have wealth, but it need not control me, and drive me in a compulsive way towards accumulating more and more wealth. When I forgive someone, I am setting myself free. Having a resentment against another is a case of me drinking poison, and I'm expecting the other person to die! When I am authentic, or pure of heart, I become a life-giving person, and I mediate life to others.

When I take Jesus and his message seriously, and decide to follow him and to belong to his kingdom, then I can be sure and certain of meeting opposition. Quite a lot of that opposition will come from within myself. Following Jesus involves dying – to self, to my creature comforts, to my pride, etc. If I let my head take over, rather than responding from the heart, then I risk getting sidetracked into endless cul-de-sacs. Prudence will advise me to hold back, and not get too involved. Procrastination will cause me to do nothing, really, because I will end up not doing anything today that I can put off till tomorrow.

Today's gospel is all about blessings. Let us make ourselves available to receive them. Let us accept the beatitudes as a guide to wholesome living, and a way to the life God intends for us.





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