St John's Catholic Parish Heidelberg



On Saturday 14th May over 200 people gathered to participate in the formal celebrations of two significant events within our Parish.

Presided over by his Grace Archbishop Hart, our community gathered for a special mass and the much anticipated blessing of the newly refurbished parish house and meeting rooms. Parishioners also recognised the anniversary of 90 years of service of our St Vincent De Paul Conference and Archbishop Hart's 50 years of service to the priesthood. School Captains Grace and Callum presented the Archbishop with a gift in acknowledgement of this milestone. The night incorporated the blessing and official opening of the new spaces, followed by speeches and supper.

The refurbishment project was overseen by parishioner and retired

architect Frank Viola. Frank's time and commitment on this project is most appreciated and valued. The Francis Xavier Room is named after the Jesuit Missionary St Francis Xavier. It also acknowledges the first Catholic chapel in Heidelberg dedicated to him, on the site of our current parish hall.

The Mackillop Room is named after the Mackillop family, whose home in 1848 held the first mass celebrated in our district. Their daughter Mary, St Mary MacKillop, is assumed to have been one of the first students of St Monica's School, the building now integrated into our present St John's Catholic Primary School.

These two meeting rooms will provide our St John's community with new spaces to utilise for community events, meetings and counselling. St John's groups wanting to use the new meeting rooms are encouraged to contact the Parish Office or speak with Fr Mario.





Architect Frank Viola and his wife Grace, with Fr Mario





Maureen Hegarty

President of St John's Parish Council and St John's Primary School parent

Many wonderful things have been happening in our parish community in recent times.

Some of these changes have been to our buildings and others to our human resources. While change can sometimes seem daunting and difficult to embrace, Pope Francis reminds us that our faith is "not a closed system incapable of generating questions, doubts, queries, but it's alive and able to unsettle and animate."

The refurbishment of the parish house is a development which has been a long time in the making. Initially arising from a recommendation from a parish council years ago the first stage is finished and has been blessed by Archbishop Denis Hart. While the 1950's kitchen is still in need of updating, the counselling rooms and back gathering room are now ready to use. As a parish resource many of us have reason to use the parish house for parish council meetings, counselling, sacramental learning groups, and community activities.

One of these I have been involved in, along with my family, has been the annual St Vinnies Christmas hamper drive ably led by Sally Tramontana, where we gather to pack donated goods for those in the Exodus community. Coming together for activities like these are a great reminder of what church and community are about and what can be accomplished when we work together. As Pope Francis reminds us as Catholics we are encouraged to

"not look at life from the balcony, but to commit to social causes." Another addition to our church has been the screen erected to show the scriptures for each mass. Again this was initially a resolution made by parish council members years ago which has come to fruition and enables clear reading for the congregation as we look to the altar to participate in mass. For many of us during a church service it means we can focus on the readings and gospel thereby allowing us to "renew a steadfast and willing spirit within us." (Corinthians)

As we all know our parish school has undergone a leadership change with Maureen Stella being our new principal. Maureen has demonstrated her eagerness to be part of the parish community by attending parish council meetings and keeping us updated with school news. Her energy and keen ability to listen and consult with all stakeholder groups when moving forward has made working with her both enlightening and invigorating.

"...these are a great reminder of what church and community are about and what can be accomplished when we work together."



Another recent development in our parish has been the introduction of our 'Serving the Servers' evenings. A group of active and committed parents and parishioners as well as Fr Mario invite the young servers, including altar servers and young readers to come together for regular movie nights as an opportunity to thank these young people for the contribution they make, in service to our Parish. In counselling our youth, Pope Francis has urged our voung people to not let "anyone despise your youth but learn to be models of speaking and doing". Invited to bring their friends, sharing dinner and enjoying a movie this provides the youth in our Parish an opportunity where they can socialize with likeminded kids and have fun, establishing friendships which can often last well into the future.

...continued on page 5

We would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of this Land, the Wurundjeri people and of Elders past and present, on which our church and school stand. The St John's community joins together in solidarity with our Indigenous brothers and sisters, working for justice and reconciliation.

St John's Vinnies

Established in 1927 the St Johns Vinnies conference this year celebrates 90 years of service within our community and surrounding neighbourhood. Working to shape a more just and compassionate society, St Vincent De Paul society brings together a group of lay Catholics with a shared mission to live the Gospel of Christ through service.

Our Vinnies volunteers support and touch the lives of people and families who at times are in need, vulnerable, lonely, excluded, abandoned and even isolated. Short term assistance is provided by volunteers who visit and offer advocacy, company, friendship, assistance with food, clothing and other materials.

The Vinnies sentiment of providing "a hand up" rather than "a hand out" to those in need, empowers and assists individuals to overcome hardship and move forward. Many of the people who request help include:

- Families in significant financial crisis
- Refugees who may not have a family support base
- * Victims of domestic violence Families and individuals requiring
- People who have been the victims of financial deception.



that blesses the cup.
The hand of love that
gives the cup. The
hand of suffering
that receives the cup"

Being part of the Vinnies conference provides an opportunity to visit those who are under-privileged and offer them some support. Many are homeless and are in temporary housing. As one young 9 year old boy answered when asked what he would like: "a house... I just want a house; a real house just like everyone else, where we don't have to leave".

Being able to assist someone in need can be very rewarding. That appreciation is conveyed not with a word but usually through an expression; sometimes though a watery eye.

assistance from St Vinnies can contact 1800 305 330.

Heidelberg neighbourhood of Vinnies boundaries:

Rosanna Road, Bell Street, Oriel Road, Southern Road, Liberty Parade, Lower Plenty Road

The volunteers currently number 16, and range in age from 25 to 80.

Vinnies visited 100 families, this included 76 children.

Financial outgoings in the year 2016/2017 was approximately \$40, 000. This was spent on:

- * Food vouchers and hampers
- * Christmas presents
- * Assistance with bills
- * Furniture & bedding
- * White goods

Annual events include the Winter and Christmas Appeals, along with the recruitment drive for new volunteers. The Christmas Appeal brings together parishioners young and old, along with local scout groups to pack and distribute hampers.

Interested in learning more, joining the work of Vinnies or making a donation?

Contact Sally Tramontana on: 9457 1066.

Website: <u>www.vinnies.org.au</u>

COMMITMENT - COMPASSION - RESPECT - INTEGRITY - EMPATHY - ADVOCACY - COURAGE

Ministry

Trish and Francis Seymon

St John's Parish in Heidelberg was one of the main reasons we came to live in the area nearly fifteen years ago.

Prior to moving to Heidelberg we would attend weekday Masses at St John's and were always impressed by the number of people who attended and by the reverence and participation shown by the parishioners. We wanted to be part of it.

We feel a real sense of belonging here and have become actively involved in various parish activities. The people who make up the parish all share the same faith so there is no barrier between us. Being part of the hospital and music ministry has enriched our lives and we are grateful for the opportunity to be part of the Readers and Eucharistic Ministry too.

Morning tea after Mass on the first Sunday of the month is a great chance for us to meet new people and help them to feel welcome.

For the past 35 years we have also been involved in the apostolate of Our Lady of Mount Carmel of Garabandal, a National organization. It began in 1982 to spread the messages given by Our Lady at San Sebastian de Garadandal in Spain between 1961 and 1965. With Archbishop Hart's approval, we have visited many Parishes conducting film and information presentations and are always looking for more opportunities to inform people. We have had three film presentations at St John's over the years. The presentations aim to inspire a greater awareness in improving our personal relationship with Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

There is a Garadandal information pack available containing 2 DVDs(4 films), a book, Rosary beads and a brown scapular with appropriate leaflets – everything you need to find out about Our Lady's messages and predictions for the World. It also inspires a greater awareness in improving our personal relationship with Our Lord and Saviour Jesus



Christ. There is a small donation of \$10 covering the cost of the materials only. Over the past two years we have distributed more than 1500 of these packs and on a number of occasions the question has been raised, "How can such an amazing deal be offered from a Scotsman?!" If you are interested, please contact us on 9459 7157.







Miriam and Libnan Taouk

It's not easy getting four children ready to attend the 8:30am Sunday morning mass at St John's, but that is how the Taouk family like to start their week.

Thornbury was home for both Miriam and Libnan where they spent their childhood years, attending Sacred Heart and St Mary's Primary Schools. With Sadie and James, their two eldest children, they moved from nearby Thornbury to Eaglemont in 2012. Since then, Daniel and David have been born, making them a family of six. As the eldest, Sadie started in Prep at St John's Primary School in 2016, which has further enhanced their relationship with our parish.

Sunday is one of two critical days in the usual weekly schedule for the Taouk family. They are often seen at the first Sunday morning mass, as it is important for Miriam and Libnan that their children learn the routine and

have an understanding of the faith of their family. After mass, the Taouk's join with extended family at Libnan's parents home, and a meal is shared.

Sadie's favourite day of her week is Wednesdays. Most children look forward to the weekend, but Wednesday evening is when Miriam's side come together. Miriam's mother can't be contacted on Monday through to Wednesday afternoon, as she spends this time preparing the food that fills the table for a family feast. Many stories, laughter, food and love is shared at these meals.

Such regular features of their week are vital, especially during a time of change and transition for the Taouk's. Currently living in Libnan's parents' home while Libnan, a builder, renovates the family's own home. Miriam has taken time away from her profession as a psychologist to prioritise caring for their children



while they are young. She plans to get back to work when the children are more independent.

Miriam describes St John's as a friendly, small community that is comfortable for her family. The parish and school are places that will help the next generation of their family to know and understand the Catholic faith and its importance to their

Our community is enriched by the Taouk's participation in parish and school life.

Editorial continued from page 2..

Of course while we at St John's undergo renewal in our faith, we continue to hold dear those things that have sustained our community through generations. One of these is our annual Parish Family Lunch. Held each June and including a delicious spread, it is an opportunity for young and old alike to gather and "break bread". Many parishioners have been attending for years and families new to the parish are always warmly welcomed.

Another long-standing tradition which unsettled us. These changes have will also feature in this edition is our annual St John's School Ball where our new preps are formally introduced to the community. The night involves dancing and catching up and is always a great opportunity to welcome our newest students and farewell our grade 6's.

The changes and renewal which have taken place within our parish and school in recent times have invigorated and perhaps sometimes helped us to respond to our faith journey and our community needs more fully. While we embrace the opportunity to grow in our faith we also hold close our long-standing parish traditions of gathering together, making new friendships and importantly helping others within our community.

Maureen Hegarty President of St John's Parish Council and St John's Primary School parent.

Your local finance specialist

Contact Pietro Sciotto on 0427 700 750 or pietrosciotto@avenuefinancial.com.au













5

Term 2 Report

Mrs Maureen Stella

Term Two was a most successful and very busy term for our school community. Our students were engaged in a wide variety of learning opportunities and experiences.

One of the highlights of Term Two was our Grandparents/Special Persons Day, which showcased the students many well-rehearsed performances. The Prep students stole the show, as they took to the stage for their very first live performance, in front of a large crowd of family and friends. Our Year Three students celebrated Reconciliation as part of their sacramental learning journey. Our Christian Meditation, which is held three times a week, gave parents the opportunity to

join their children in their classrooms, to meditate together. The Year 5/6 students attended School Camp at Phillip Island Adventure Park. Many stories and memories were created as the students participated in activities that took them out of their comfort zone, such as the giant swing and the adventure ropes course. The highly anticipated School Ball for our Prep students was a great opportunity for the students to be formally presented to the school community. The Preps were able to "show off" their newly acquired dance moves as they dazzled their

At our last school assembly for Term Two, the students presented Fr Mario with gifts and special

way around the dance floor at The

Centre Ivanhoe.



sayings, including high five hands, to congratulate him on his 25th Anniversary of Priesthood. This term we will undergo our formal School Review. Reviewer Mr Ian Coffey will focus on meeting with key stakeholders, staff, parents and students to review the past four years and assist us with setting directions for the next four year phase of our school improvement plan. We are looking forward to this next important and exciting stage for our school.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the school and parish community for your support in my first semester as Principal at St John's. I have enjoyed getting to know many students and their families over the past two terms.

Grandparents Day



















Introducing... Jessie Wright

Why did you choose to be a teacher?

I can't exactly remember the point in my life where I decided that I wanted to become a teacher. For as long as I can remember, I wanted to teach and have never entertained the idea of a different career. I've just always known that teaching is for me.

What is the funniest thing that a student has asked you or done?

The funniest thing that a student has ever done is translate and sing Gangnam Style to me in English with the actions and all.

Which one of your own teachers most inspired you and why?

My Year Four teacher inspired me the most as I was new to the school and she welcomed me with open arms. She also made learning fun for me, which at that point in my schooling life, I needed. I can always remember dancing around the classroom singing Times Tables songs - a passion that I am now trying to ignite in my own students.

What is one thing your students have taught you?

My students have shown me how important it is to be resilient. Even when they are having difficulties with something in or outside of the classroom, their ability to bounce back and carry on with a task as if nothing was wrong, is amazing. This has inspired me not to let any difficulties in life get me down.

What is one piece of advice you can share with graduates starting out?

On that first week of school, when you are fully responsible for a class of students - soak it up! This is where everything will start to feel real. It did not really sink in that I was going to



be responsible *on my own* with students until I actually had them in my classroom on the first day of school with no one watching over me to see what I was doing.

If you had the chance to meet one person who would it be and why?

Nelson Mandela, he has been such an influential person in this world who has seen and done so much. He had some great wisdom on many issues .

The School Ball

When Benjamin grows up he wants to be Robin from Batman because he helps people.

When Jacob grows up he wants to be a paleontologist so he can get rich and famous.

When Evelyn grows up she wants to be a ballerina because she likes dancing.

When Noah grows up he wants to be a scientist so he can make potions.



When Toby grows up he wants to be a police officer so he can catch robbers and drive a car with sirens.

When Maddie grows up she wants to be a teacher because she wants to have a ukulele like Miss Pope.

When Amelia grows up she wants to be a dolphin trainer so she can swim with them and talk dolphin language.

When Claire grows up she wants to be a police officer because she likes to boss people around.

When Emma grows up she wants to be a mum and a tooth fairy because she wants to collect the teeth and look after babies.

22nd, June, 2017

Pauline Griffiths' Jelly Cakes

Ingredients:

2 cups of self raising flour Pinch of salt

3 oz. of butter/margarine (85g)

1 cup caster sugar

3 eggs

4 tablespoons milk

Lemon or vanilla essence

2 sachets raspberry jelly

2 cups dessicated coconut



For those old enough to remember, Pauline's 'Jelly Cakes' were well known by many who bought them at St John's Fetes, Fundraising Cake Stalls or enjoyed them at morning teas. The Jelly Cakes were always the first thing to go at parish functions and were loved by adults and children alike.

Method:

Sift flour and salt. Cream butter and sugar, then beat in the eggs one at a time. Fold in half of the sifted ingredients and half of the milk mixture. Repeat with remaining sifted ingredients and milk mixture. Spoon into well greased patty tins or patty liners. Bake in moderate oven 15-20 minutes.

Dip cakes in jelly (see note below). Roll in coconut. When finished cut off top third of each cake, layer with whipped cream and replace top to finish.



Jelly – prepare as per pack instructions. Refrigerate until jelly is just starting to set.

*Cakes can be made up to two days ahead. Add fresh cream before serving.



Australiana to Zeitgeist: An A - Z of Contemporary Australian Art

by Melissa Loughnan

One only needs to visit the lan Potter Centre in Federation Square or any of the independent galleries dotted around Melbourne to know that the city has lots of talented and thought provoking artists. In Loughnan's book, there are no bounds to the scope of art from a wide reaching number of multidisciplinary artists neatly wrapped into a single book. Of course they are not organized simply in A-Z, where's the excitement in that! With everything from A for Australiana to K for Kitsch and everything in between and after, it's an exciting collection that has you wondering how such an isolated country can produce such interconnected works.

The format of the compendium helped the reader maintain interest in the vast list of artists discussed as it gave an overarching theme for the works or key features of the artist. Each double page spread was dedicated to a new artist and featured both explanatory and introductory text as well as plenty of photographs of the included pieces.

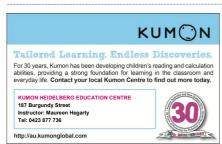
What I also appreciated about Australiana to Zeitgeist was how Loughnan didn't assume an academic level of artistic knowledge nor was the content too simplistic for a passionate reader. This was done through the the inclusion of almost glossary type footnotes on each page which directed the reader through any jargon as well as help connect the artist to other international artists or movements which helped to place the Australian works in the global art context. Included beside each work was also the location of the piece in galleries around Australia which allows

readers to scope out the art for themselves!

Loughnan succeeded in capturing and developing my interest in Australian contemporary art. It's easy to think of Australian art as simply paintings from the Heidelberg School, Ned Kelly by Sidney Nolan or Aboriginal artworks. Without a doubt all of these styles encompass many different experiences and expressions and have great significance in Australian culture, but it is truly eye opening to see the scope and extensive breadth of work that Australian art has to offer.

I would recommend this book for anyone with an interest in Australia, art or a combination of the two! As well as readers wanting to explore the ways that the arts can reflect, commentate and critique a changing nation over time.

This review has been kindly contributed by Jeanne Cheong, Andrew's Bookshop, Ivanhoe.







St John's Church, Heidelberg

Stained Glass Windows



The first - The

Annunciation — The

Joyful Mysteries

Notice the humble attitude of Mary as the Archangel Gabriel announces that she is to be the mother of God our Saviour. At her "fiat" (Thy Will be done), the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, overshadows her. The angel is holding flowers - a delicate touch. Notice the details of the room - the curtains and the Prie Dieu and Her mantle edged with ermine, a sign of royalty!



The Second – The
Baptism of Jesus in the
River Jordan by John the
Baptist – The Luminous
Mysteries

The artist must have had clear foresight when the second window was crafted as this Mystery was only added to the Rosary in the Pontificate of Pope St John Paul II! This important event heralds the start of Jesus' ministry. Jesus' humble pose is evident and once again Heaven opens and the Holy Spirit descends like a dove. The voice of God was heard: "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." The waters of the River Jordan can be



<u>The Third – The</u> <u>Crucifixion – the</u> <u>Sorrowful Mysteries</u>

The crucified Jesus is shown on the Cross with His Mother Mary, St John His beloved disciple, and Mary Magdalene. They are dignified in their grief. The notice Pilate wrote out is affixed to the Cross reading: "Jesus the Nazarene, King of the Jews".



The Fourth – The Ascension of Our Lord into Heaven – the Glorious Mysteries

Jesus blesses his faithful apostles and ascends to the Father. The Apostles appear startled and afraid but Jesus had told them He would send His Holy Spirit to comfort and strengthen them.

Overview

The windows were crafted by William Montgomery who arrived in Melbourne in 1887 after training in London and Germany. He brought with him the latest European style and design and achieved instant success with his church designs. St Ignatius in Richmond is another of his masterpieces.

The shape of the window frame follows the contours

of the decorated Gothic style of the Church. The head of Christ is higher in each frame, culminating in the Ascension.

Each frame is linked by a blue background.

Beautiful subtle colours are used with the occasional red highlight.

Fr Mario's 25th Anniversary of Ordination

July 2nd, 2017 marked the 25th Anniversary of Fr Mario's Ordination. 200 plus parishioners attended mass and celebrations followed. Mass was concelebrated by Fr Mario Zammit, Fr Ted Teal, and Fr Jude Pirotta.

























From our Parish Priest

"I thank God for allowing me to minister in the priesthood for these twenty-five years."

Dear parishioners and friends

This year I have the gift of celebrating twenty-five years of priesthood, a most important milestone.

Priesthood has always been something I looked up to. I grew up in a parish looked after by Carmelite priests (White Friars) and I remember that as a young boy I was very impressed by what I saw these priests doing and I wanted to be part of it. Obviously I did not understand what being a priest really meant, I thought saying Mass and doing processions was what it was all about! At home I remember setting up my own small church where I would play and imitate being a priest, holding my own processions just like what I saw the priests doing in our local church.

I remember that the thought of one day becoming a priest stayed with me most of my teenage years. I attended college at a school run by another congregation of priests, the Paulist Missionaries (MSSP). As I grew up I was attracted more to the ministry and mission I saw these priest carry out. These Paulist Missionaries told us stories about their work in Peru, Pakistan and Australia; this was something I wanted to be part of.

I started my studies for the priesthood in 1982, studying first philosophy and social sciences and then theology. Going deeper into the scriptures and the teachings of the church was very inspiring. During my training I had the opportunity to work among young people and join the missionaries in Pakistan.

Scripture has always been a favourite subject, especially the gospel according to John. Over the past twenty-five years I have had to constantly read and reread the gospels and reflect on them and I have to

admit that studying and reflecting on scripture has become a very important part of who I am.

In September 1998 I came to Australia. One of the tasks I was assigned was to minister to the Maltese migrant community in Australia, but this quickly changed; there is no limit to the work a priest does. Ministry in a parish involves reaching out to families, children, youth and the elderly; I have been invited to work in primary schools, colleges and hospitals. In each case there are people willing to invite and include me on their journey.

I look back on twenty-five years of ministry first in Malta, then in Sydney and now here at St John's. One text from the scripture that I find very inspiring in my ministry is the passage of Moses in front of the burning bush. Moses is told to remove his shoes because he was standing on holy ground. Each time I meet someone I feel the need to take off my shoes too, as I am aware that I am on holy ground, in the presence of the divine.

My twenty-five years in the priesthood incorporate an intricate mosaic of people who have invited me in and trusted me to share their lives. My role as a priest is not to judge, but to live with and among people; one thing that continues to attract me in this ministry is the willingness of so many people to share their lives with me. My hope is that in a very small way, I can be an image and a presence of God in their lives.

As I thank God for allowing me to minister in the priesthood for these twenty-five years, I thank you all for being part of this journey.

Fr Mario



