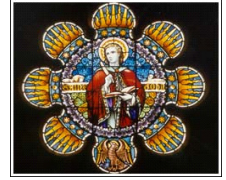


# ECHO

The magazine of

St. John's Catholic Parish  
HEIDELBERG



DECEMBER 2013

*From the editor:*

**A very big "Welcome" to Fr Mario  
and a sincere "Thank You" to Fr Ted.**

Every Parish goes through changes of clergy and Parish Priests over time. St John's has truly been blessed over many years having had extremely dedicated priests.

Fr Ted was truly touched by the number of people who attended his farewell Mass in October and the function in the hall where he was presented with a cheque from the Parishioners on his retirement. He is doing well and his rehabilitation program from heart surgery is almost complete. We wish him a long and happy retirement as he lives amongst us here in Heidelberg.

We warmly welcome Fr Mario as our new Parish Priest. Many have made themselves known to him, now he just has to remember our names!! He already knows that we are an interesting and varied Parish. We look forward to getting to know him better over the coming months. Fr Mario loves to "high 5" the children and they respond beautifully to the "high 5" and his smile.

Fr Mario was at Hoppers Crossing before coming to us. He is really looking forward to the challenge of leading us in our forward journey of faith and Parish family.

**"Help us to treasure and  
maintain our heritage"  
The Church Driveway Gates**



The gates sat idle in the garage of the presbytery for many years after being removed from the driveway of the church.

They have now been beautifully restored and placed at the entry to the "Parish House" (presbytery) garden. Another two are placed at the entrance to the labyrinth. Fr Ted uncovered the plaque at his retirement function in October 2013.

Fr Ted's Retirement Farewell



Above: Nick Marinelli School Principal presenting Fr Ted a framed copy of the Parish Prayer which Fr Ted wrote. Below - Fr Mario thanking Fr Ted



St John's School Principal Nick with Ivan Sheehan the oldest St John's past pupil.



St John's school sing a song for Fr Ted



A packed hall to say happy retirement



Fr Mario meeting parishioners.

## Message from Fr Mario

Dear parishioners, friends and visitors to our parish,

This is my first contribution to our parish magazine as I settle into my ministry as part of St John's. I arrived here unexpectedly on October 14, initially for a short period of fourteen weeks, but it seems God has other plans! I thank you once more all for the nice and warm welcome I received from all of you. I have enjoyed every part of my ministry among you until now, and I am sure we will have many more nice moments together.

Life is a journey. Recently I came across a story talking about one who rides a bicycle. The author reflected that when riding a bicycle, one needs to be pedalling and moving forward, otherwise one would fall off. Life is a bit like that too because life does not stop and we are constantly required to pedal and journey on.

Another image that came to my mind was from my time back in Malta. I often used to take my altar servers and the youth I was working with for walks in the countryside. It is very difficult to keep a group of forty young people walking as one block and inevitably some would walk ahead of the group while others stayed behind. My role as group leader was to be with the entire group and so from time to time I used to stop and wait for the last ones to catch up, have a chat with them, encourage them on and then move forward to catch up with the ones running ahead. In my ministry as a priest I find that often this is my role - to make sure all members of the community are still journeying on. It does not matter which part of the group one belongs to, as long as we are still walking. My job is actually very simple: to love all who are on this journey!

Pope Francis has recently published his first Apostolic Exhortation called 'The Joy of the Gospel'. In it he reminds us that the Gospel is a message of joy and hope. This joyful hope needs to be reflected in our gatherings and in our Eucharistic celebrations. We come together every Sunday to our Father's house to celebrate the Eucharistic meal. In this joyful celebration we take part in Jesus' offering of himself in the bread and wine we share and in his passion death and resurrection. Sharing in the Body and Blood of Christ, we all become the Body of Christ, the People of God.

May God continue to journey with us all as we wait for the birth of His Son in our life.

Thank you

Fr Mario

**CHRISMAS**

**BLESSINGS**



## *quietly doing good works*

In this end of year edition of the ECHO we give a summary from the leaders of each group in the parish. We hope this assists you in learning a little more about the different groups and what they do. It may also encourage you to join in where you feel you can. All groups welcome and are grateful for new helpers.

### **St Vincent De Paul Society (St John's Heidelberg Conference)**

This year this group's work included 402 home visits which consisted of 598 adults and 300 children. Home visits are undertaken by 2 of our members on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday (excluding public holidays and a break over Dec/Jan).

Our winter and Christmas appeals provide us with donations of money and goods which are then distributed by us to people in need in our community. Safeway and IGA are also very generous in their vouchers which greatly assist those in dire need.

Columban Calenders and Christmas Cards are also sold by us at Masses in November & December and are good value.

Our members go about their work diligently and without fuss or fanfare. They work very hard and sometimes in difficult circumstances.

St Vincent de Paul Society has been undertaking good works in our Parish for many years. We would love to see some new members to assist us. If you have some time to assist us in our works we would love to hear from you.

John Griffiths. (Ph 94597093)

### **Children's Liturgy**

St Loreto runs the Children's Liturgy programme where children are assisted to Hear Gods Word. Mary Berglund in Gather the Children states that "Children hear God's word with far greater meaning when it's proclamation and explanation are designed especially for them".

Liturgy is held each Sunday during the 10.30 Mass (not during school holidays). After the Opening Prayer the children go out of the church over to the front room of the Parish House. Their lesson focuses on the Prayers of the Faithful and the message of the Gospel. They then return to the mass during the collection time so they are then ready for the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Our thanks go to Marguerite Ryan, Lisa Miocomonarco, Janine Andrighetto, Avril Bastianz and Michelle Ball the Children's Liturgy team. If you would like more information about the Children's Liturgy please contact the Parish House. (94571066). Sr Loreto.

### **Altar Society**

The altar society has 14 dedicated ladies who generously give their time on a Friday after 9.15am Mass. There is a roster with 3 sharing flower arranging, 4 washing and ironing of the altar linen and 7 assist in cleaning the church and altar area.

We would love to hear from anyone who is available to assist us on Fridays on a monthly basis.

Pauline Griffiths. (Ph 94597093)

## **Fundraising Committee**

Carlene McDermott has been the backbone of this Committee. The monies raised go directly to the missionary charities the Parish assists.

This year we sent monies to Wewak Mission in PNG, Dr Mark Ellis (for-Sumba) and Dr Peter Nesbit (for-Timor Leste) monies are used to undertake much needed eye surgery which assists local people's sight.

The mid year Parish Luncheon was a lovely relaxed atmosphere with caterers suppling roasts, salads and sweets. Held in the hall it was a good opportunity to socialise as a parish family as well as raising \$1,000 for the above charities.

The Basket supper held in October was a fun night and Carlene (with tireless energy) put together a wide selection of items to bid for. MC for the night was Bill Barnes who did a great job keeping the evening moving with games, quizzes and enjoyment. Together with the raffle tickets sold after Sunday Masses this night and the raffle raised \$1,824.35.

The monies raised from the monthly gold coin collection (on the fourth Sunday of each month) goes directly to the above charities. Thank you to all who have helped with fundraising and those that give so generously.

## **Liturgy Committee**

The Parish Liturgy committee meets twice a year, early on to prepare and arrange the Lenten and Easter liturgies, then later in the year to do the same for our Thanksgiving and Bereavement Masses, for Advent and for Christmas. Parishioners will notice additional sung responses and acclamations, plus the

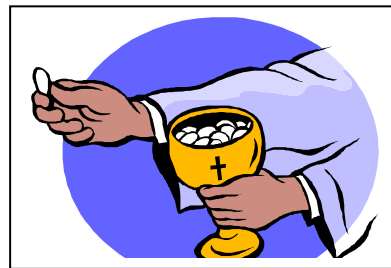
beautiful and inspiring decorations which Carlene puts before us.

The Liturgy committee works closely with the choir in the choice of appropriate hymns. The choir sings at the 10.30 am each Sunday and also at special parish celebrations like First Eucharist.

New members of both the choir and the liturgy committee are most welcome. Pat Heywood, Chairperson.

## **Pastoral Visitation - Clevedon Terrace**

As part of my Pastoral work each Wednesday morning I take the Eucharist to the residents at Clevedon Terrace Aged Care Home.



There are about 13 people who receive the Eucharist and I also take them a copy of St John's parish

bulletin and an article on a spiritual topic. During Lent and Advent the Sacrament of Anointing is also given to those who wish to receive it. Another highlight is towards the end of the year a group of our children from St John's Primary School come up to visit residents at Clevedon terrace. This adds much to the lives of residents. Sr Loreto.

## **Counters**

We have 8 teams (28 parishioners) who are rostered on to assist us in the counting. Many parishioners have taken advantage of the direct debit option for their contribution to the Thanksgiving weekly

offerings. There are still many who like the weekly envelope.

Our thanks to the counters who give up their precious weekend time to assist.

John Griffiths.

### **Parish Council**

Currently there are 10 members including the Parish Priest on the Parish Council.

We meet in our role to give guidance, support and leadership. Together we assist the Parish Priest in ensuring that our church, grounds and church buildings are maintained.

We are there to assist and support Parish activities and support all groups undertaking good works for the parish and wider community. We are a sounding board for new ideas that grow us in faith and unite us as a parish family.

Each year we have a combined meeting with the Parish Finance Committee to set work priorities for the coming year.

Michelle Penson (on behalf of the Parish Council).

### **Baptism**

We see many children being dedicated to Jesus in Baptism. Baptisms are held by appointment on All but the first Sunday of the month after 10.30am Mass.

Meetings are held on the last Thursday of each month from February to November.

The meeting is held at 7.30pm in the Parish House.



At the meeting in preparation for Baptism a DVD is also shown that focuses on the meaning of everything in the Baptismal ceremony. The parents (or the person to be Baptised) are presented with a prayer sheet, rosary beads and a miraculous medal. In 2012 there were 122 Baptisms at St Johns.

Our thanks to Mary Harty and Sue Kalotas who have been assisting Sr Loreto with this program.

### **Religious Education classes**

These classes are held in the Parish House from 4pm - 5pm each Tuesday afternoon (not during school holidays).

During 2013 15 children were prepared for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and 14 received the Eucharist for the first time on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Our thanks to Maureen Clifford who has given wonderful help with the First Eucharist Mass. 15 Children were also prepared for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

**Thank You**

Our thanks to the guests speakers at these sessions include Rosemary Vecchies who spoke about the work of Heidelberg, John Griffiths who spoke about St Vincent de Paul and Francis Seymon who spoke about the Soup Van and the challenges of our society. Sr Loreto.