



St. John's Catholic Parish
HEIDELBERG

MARCH 2013

Easter Message from Fr Ted

Dear Friends,

"HABEMUS PAPAM!"

"We have a pope!" This is the traditional shout of joyful acclamation uttered in Latin as the Cardinals come to a decision about the successor of the previous pope. The Catholic faithful do not like a long vacancy at the helm of the Church. It is extraordinary how lovingly they welcome the new pope and take him to heart, whatever country he comes from.

After 450 years of Italian popes we embraced Pope John Paul 11, the first Polish pope in history. Then we lovingly accepted Pope Benedict XVI, only the second German pope in history. There was one English pope a long, long time ago, the only one so far.

As I write this article on Saturday 9 March, I have no idea who the successor of Benedict XVI will be. I heard today that the Cardinals eligible to vote will begin their deliberations this Tuesday, as they enter the conclave. The conclave is like a lock in. They are expected to continue their work until they decide who the next pope will be.

The best story I have heard about a conclave happened many centuries ago. The Cardinals had been deliberating for some weeks, and had not come to a conclusion. So the lay people of Rome issued them an ultimatum: they would be

given only bread and water until they decided. They made up their minds very quickly!

When the Chair of Peter is vacant, priests are supposed to omit the name of the previous pope in the Eucharistic Prayer. But, being a creature of habit, I found myself sometimes saying "Benedict our Pope", and trying to cover it up by saying "Benedict our Pope Emeritus". I hope I won't get into trouble for praying for our previous pope.

I wish all of you and your families a peaceful and joyful Easter!

May the Lord hold you gently in the palm of his hand and, until we meet again, may you fare well.

Your Priest and Friend,

Fr Ted Teal

HOLY WEEK CEREMONIES

Tuesday 26 March. 7.30pm Penitential Service – readings, prayers and opportunity for personal confession.

Wednesday 27 March. 11.00am Mass including the Sacrament of Anointing, followed by light lunch in the presbytery.

Holy Thursday 28 March. 7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper, followed by silent prayer at the Altar of Repose concluding with the Night Prayer of the Church at 10.00pm

Good Friday 29 March. 11.00am Stations of the Cross in the church. 3.00pm Commemoration of the Lord's Passion.

Holy Saturday 30 March. 6.00pm Easter Vigil. Masses on Easter Sunday will be at 8.30am, 10.30am and 6.00pm

Giving words of encouragement to her and learning to do many things that he has not had to do before.

From the editor:

Easter Blessings... In our Parish of St. Johns we are very blessed with many who are in a **caring and giving role** ... and we often pray for these in our prayers of the faithful. I would like to take this opportunity to reflect a little further on the people who day in day out are caring for a loved one or caring as part of their working life.

There are people in our parish who struggle every day to keep on with their caring role, it may be their wife, their husband or their child or parent, or perhaps a neighbour or friend.

I can think of many parishioners over the time I have been in the parish that have shown enormous courage and giving of self in the love and care that they have given to their spouse.

We can learn much from those around us the person who cares for a wife living with Alzheimer's but is still filled with joy and the giving of love and laughter to make this persons day bright.



The person who's wife is housebound and almost bed bound, but he himself, in his 90's, gets up early to make his wife's breakfast and keep the house functioning.

The husband who assists in his wife's rehabilitation and recovery after a stroke.
The Echo March 2013

The parent of a Down Syndrome adult child who is so patient and understanding and so giving in their love and self to that child in all they do and have done over so many years.

The dedicated daughter who brings their elderly mother to mass and spends much of their time during the week caring for her.

The community workers and personal carers who are not highly paid but make such a difference to peoples lives by assisting them to shop, clean, shower and with transport. The nurse in our hospitals and nursing homes who by being bright and cheerful in what they do make such a difference to peoples lives.

The giving of oneself to care for another is a gift. Many in our parish have been given this gift. I have learnt much from the giving of these people, the personal strength they show and the faith and love that shines through their giving of that care and love.

We lead busy lives and we can often take life for granted. It is important to stop, listen and look around us and pray for those who are in the caring and giving role as they maybe finding that giving tough at times.

Poem - Carers

**Caring can be a mammoth task
Carers often put on a happy mask.**

**Their daily struggle is not fully known
To others, managing is all that is shown.**

**Help us to know and understand
The work they do guided by God's hand.**

Special Ministers - Hands



The role of Special Minister of the Eucharist brings with it many blessings some of which I would like to share with you.

The joy on peoples faces as they come to receive Jesus in the Eucharist, the knowing that they are to receive a gift that enriches their lives. The reverence that is shown to this sacrament and the way young and old take part.

The hands that receive are beautiful. They may be old, young, knarled and arthritic, small or large. Hands reaching out can be hands of builders, office workers, plumbers, electricians, mothers and fathers. The hands are from different nations, some are dark and some light, some fine and some strong. Some hands shake; others are wrinkled and tell stories of a life journey.

**All are out-stretched to receive
the Bread of Life.**



Do you remember your Baptism?... - Miles does and tells us of his journey to light.....

The Door of Holy Baptism:

A Conversion StoryYou may not remember your Baptism if you were baptised as an infant. I remember my Baptism clearly because I converted to Catholicism after being an atheist most of my life.

The Catechism refers to Holy Baptism as a 'door' and I certainly see my Baptism as a door.

For much of my life I wandered lost in Error. Error is a dark place filled with grungy streets that go nowhere and are laid with the snares and traps of pride, greed, envy, sloth, gluttony, lust, and wrath.

The word 'baptism' comes from the Greek 'baptizein,' which means to 'immerse.' The water poured onto the head of the person being Baptised symbolises that person's immersion into Jesus the Christ's death and then the person arising with Christ into a new life, just as Christ himself was resurrected. This new life is the way of Jesus the Christ.

For me, the door of Holy Baptism opened into a beautiful garden filled with colour and light. This garden is filled with beauty, a place with open spaces, where I can be what God intended me to be when he created me.

God and all the Saints live in this place with me. Here I serve God, grow in my relationship with Jesus Christ, and work on practicing more perfectly faith, hope, charity, prudence, justice, temperance, and fortitude. The 7 Deadly Sins still lurk in the shadows, but their power is diminished. Here, the light is strong.

by Miles Blackford

Reference:Catechism of the Catholic Church 1213-1214

60 Years joined as one in the sacrament of marriage

Many of St. John's parishioners will know Bob and Alice Hyland who have recently celebrated 60 years of marriage as well as Bob's 90th Birthday. We take this opportunity to congratulate them and share a little of their life journey with you.

Bob joined the Christian Brothers straight from school at age 15 and went to Strathfield in Sydney. He spent over 10 years with the Brothers but left before his final vows. He was a teacher and came from South Melbourne the parish of St. Peter and Paul. Alice lived in Essendon and went to school at St. Therese's in Essendon and then St. Aloysius in Flemington before becoming a stenographer.

The two met at a Saturday night dance at Manreza Hall. Bob says it was a progressive barn dance but he couldn't wait for the others to progress but wanted the dance to go on forever when his turn to dance with Alice came along. The friendship blossomed and they were married at St. Therese's on 24th Jan 1953. They had a fortnights honeymoon in the Blue Mountains as Bob was a keen bushwalker.

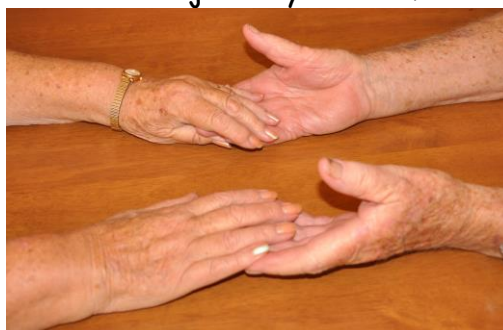
They made their home in Sandringham but later moved to Heidelberg to be close to Kodak Coburg where Bob worked. They have lived in and been part of our parish for 55 years, it has been and is still a vital part of their life together. Their faith is based on a combination of learnt beliefs, the only sensible solution to how the world came and life after death, as well as one of awe, wonder and love of the Lord.

Their four children went to St. Johns and then on to Our Lady of Mercy College and Parade College. Theirs is a story similar to many of our parish past and present.

For this article they were asked what has kept them busy and active and what do they love. The answers came from both in unison one not wanting to interrupt the other but rather adding to the others comments to paint the full picture. Their four Children and fifteen grandchildren are the main focus of their lives and their love of family and for each other is evident.

A family holiday house at Rosebud was the scene for many extended family holidays and get togethers. Overseas Travel was really enjoyed once the children had left home and the house mortgage was paid off. Travelling in a group - the group being - just the two of them they have many happy memories of countries they have visited and the people of those countries. They delight in St. Johns Sunday evening mass where so many different nationalities join as one to pray and give thanks.

Alice has overcome two strokes the first at age 39 when they had young children so rehabilitation was a mammoth task, but not according to Bob. He said he delighted in assisting Alice his best friend and neither focused on disability. Still now they say "Alice has the legs and Bob has the arms" - together they make a whole which means they are still able to live in their own home. Joined in their journey Alice & Bobs hands.



They see the sacrament of marriage as a union where two become as one with the Lord and they thank him daily for their life's journey and that blessing of 60 years ago.

St John's School News

BLESSING OF SCHOOL STAFF

The 2013 school staff attended 10.30 Mass at St John's on Sunday February 3rd to receive a blessing from Father Ted as we undertook our commitment to the community of St John's. I would like to highlight a part of the pledge:

*We, the members of St John's Primary School
seek to create
environments that enhance learning,
nurture young people and empower them
to live their Catholic faith
in the spirit of Jesus Christ by
walking together in a spirit of
reconciliation and forgiveness*

My thanks also to Father Ted for his wonderful comments and insights he shared regarding teachers during his homily. His words were inspirational and very much appreciated by staff and the general congregation.

Nick Marinelli- Principal



Prep Family Mass

On Tuesday February 5th the Preps and their families attended mass as part of their welcoming to life at St. John's school. This is the first time we have included this at the beginning of the Prep year and it is our hope that it will become a tradition. At the end of mass the Preps were presented with a book, 'Making the Sign of the Cross'. Following mass the families shared a picnic in the church garden.

Elizabeth Williamson- Religious Education Leader

St John's School Students Thoughts on Easter

Lent is a time to love.

Everyone should try to be a good person.

Now we pray more to Jesus.

Today we remember Jesus.

David Mercuri, Grade Two

Lent is a time to be more like Jesus.

Everyone tries to be like Jesus.

Now is a time to improve.

Today we think about almsgiving and Jesus.

Thomas Gazzola, Grade One

Why we celebrate Easter

In term one holiday we celebrate a time with our family's, we either spend time eating dinner or eating lunch or just spending time with each other. This time is called Easter.

In the morning when all the children wake up we all go inside or outside to search for chocolate Easter eggs, Easter eggs taste delicious and scrumptious but most of all yum.

But this is not the true reason why we celebrate Easter, no we celebrate the rise of the dead of Jesus. After being crucified and placed in a tomb.

In some countries Easter is in spring all the trees and new all the animals are born with new life, so you could say Easter is the beginning of new life.

Gianni Iannantuono

Why we celebrate Easter

Easter is a time of celebration to remember what Jesus did for us.

Easter is celebrated because we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Jesus died for us so we could have Eternal Life.

Heaven is the place Jesus chose for us to go to have Eternal Life.

Easter is also the start of spring which means new life. When Jesus rose from the dead it was a symbol of new life for him but also for mankind, as they start a life free from sin.

Easter is a time when we get together with our friends and family to celebrate Jesus' new life.

Nina Andrighetto 5/6E

Why we celebrate Easter

We celebrate Easter because we are a part of Jesus' family.

Celebrating Easter is a good time to get together as a family and have fun. We also get-together as a family and to celebrate what Jesus did for us.

We celebrate because Jesus died on the cross and then rose from the dead for us.

We celebrate Easter to spend time with our family and Easter is supposed to be a happy time not a sad time.

By Sarah Van Oirschot

The Echo March 2013

Why we celebrate Easter

There are many reasons we celebrate Easter, it is a special time.

One of the reasons we celebrate Easter is because it is the start of a new life.

Another reason for celebrating Easter is because Jesus rose from the tomb. Easter is a time to celebrate and spend time with family.

By Myfanwy Halse

Project Compassion 2013

Each year St. John's School Heidelberg supports Caritas Australia through Project Compassion in Lent. We usually have two major fundraisers. Our first is on Pancake Tuesday when PIC (Parents in Community) cook pancakes for the students and staff. This year we raised \$609. Our next fundraiser is 'Rice Lunch Day' which will be held on Thursday March 21st. This in itself will be a 'fasting' experience for the students as well as an act of solidarity with those who have less in our world. We are hoping with this fundraiser to bring our total donation to Project Compassion to about \$1,000.



How does the Easter Bunny keep his fur neat?

..... *With a hare brush*

What's the best way to send a letter to the Easter Bunny?

..... *Hare mail*

ST JOHN'S FRIENDSHIP GROUP - 1995 - 2012. (Initially St. John's 60+ Group).

At a meeting proposed by Sr. Joy Hanrahan PVBM, twelve parishioners attended and formed the above group. The first Committee was: Kath Kavanagh - President and Treasurer, Nancye Bolger - Secretary, Marie Walsh and Dot Butler. Kath Kavanagh held this position for many years. Those who followed were Pat Anderson and Terry Minahan. Treasurers were Bernadette Shepherdson, Pat Nicholls, Amy Planck, Gwen Radic and Pat Anderson. Colin Bolger was our Auditor.

Meetings were monthly, followed by a guest speaker- Fr. Ted, Sisters of Mercy, Banyule Council, Fire Brigade, Transit Police, Neighbourhood Watch, Women's Groups and St. John's Ambulance with whom we did a first aid course. As well as the monthly meeting, we would have an outing - lunch, concerts, movies, bus trips, Christmas in July and our annual Christmas Lunch in early December. Seniors week activities with Banyule Council, concerts at the Simpson Army Barracks.

Our largest membership was 44, so we were able to hire and fill a bus for some of our outings. We had contact with other Parishes and joined with them sometimes in their activities. We met in the Parish Meeting Room initially but when the new Tennis Club Rooms were built, we were offered use of this venue, which we gladly accepted.

We were involved with the school and provided lunch for children being Confirmed each year. Some members were active in a reading program with the children and various other activities on a needs basis. Some of us typed the weekly newsletter, helped at morning tea after Mass and worked on the Piety Stall.

The Echo March 2013

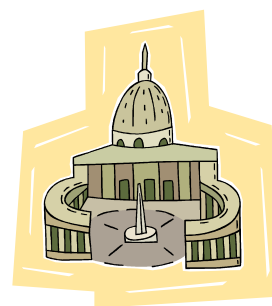
We received a grant from Banyule Council to enable us to buy some equipment which included a microphone to be used at our meetings and first aid back pack to be taken on outings.

Like so many other groups, our membership has gradually dwindled, and it is now time to "close the books". We have achieved our aim of meeting and making new friends, caring for each other in sickness and need and welcoming anyone who cared to join our activities, hence our change of name to "The Friendship Group".

Nancye Bolger.



*The first blessings from
our new Pope Francis
Walk, Build and Confess*



ST JOHN'S PARISH DIRECTORY

PRESBYTERY:

Ph: 9457.1066 Fax: 9459.7874

Email: stjohnheidelberg@iprimus.com.au

Web: www.stjohnsheidelberg.catholicau.com

Parish Priest: - Fr. Mario Zammit

Pastoral Associate: - Sr. Loreto Lynch

Parish Secretaries: - Lyn Ardley/Marilyn McCann

(Parish Office is open Tues-Fri between 9am & 2.00pm)

Parish, Primary School

55 Cape St, Heidelberg. 3084

School Principal: Mr. Nick Marinelli

Ph: 9459.2963 Fax: 9459.0133

School Secretaries:

Raffaella Dowse/Anne Marie Smith

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Sat.: 6.00pm,

Sun.: 8.30am, 10.30am, 6.00pm

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Mon. – Sat.: 9.15am.

RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 9.40am & 5.30pm.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.

Wednesday: 7.30pm – 9.00pm

Thursday: 9.40am – 11.00am

Friday: 8.00am – 9.00am

BAPTISMS

Sundays at 11.30am. (Not the first Sunday)

By arrangement with the Parish Office. *Baptism preparation is in the Presbytery on the last Thursday of each month at 7.30pm.*

WEDDINGS

By arrangement with the Parish Office

PARISH PRAYER

Heavenly Father - We, the Parishioners of St. John's, are grateful for all we have received from the men, women and children of our past. Help us to cherish and maintain our Parish heritage.

Most of all, enable us to be people who welcome the stranger, the needy, the sick and the lonely.

Like St. John, our Patron Saint, may we be people who love others, as Your Son, Jesus, asked us to do.

We make this prayer, through Christ our Lord. Amen

After Care - Stacey - 9457.6573

Altar Servers - Fr. Mario – 9457.1066

Altar Society - Pauline Griffiths – 9459.7093

Children's Liturgy of the Word Sr Loreto 9457.1066

Choir & Music - Sr. Loreto – 9457.1066

Cycling Group - Peter Symes – 9458.2332

Echo Magazine - Fr. Mario/Michelle Penson - 94572351

Hall Hire - Fran Gasior 0417 972 317

Heidelcare (Ecumenical)

Rosemary Vecchies – 9459.0729

Legion of Mary

Meets in Presbytery Tues. 7.30pm.

New members welcome.

Liturgy Committee - Pat Heywood – 9459.1798

Parish After School Religion classes

Sr. Loreto 9457.1066

Partners in Community

Heather Carroll – 9457 1873

Playgroup - Vanessa Javier 0418 382 915

Readers Roster

Rosemary Vecchies – 9459.0729

St. Vincent de Paul - John Griffiths – 9459.7093

School Education Board

Maria Picciani - 9459 9773

School Maintenance Committee

Nick Marinelli – 9459.2963

Sunday Counters - John Griffiths – 9459.7093

Sunday Morning Coffee

Barbara Dabal – 9459.3990

Tennis Club - Des O'Brien – 9499.9056

Thanksgiving Committee

Xavier Csar – 9455.1706