



ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PARISH

52 Yarra Street

HEIDELBERG

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.*

PARISH OFFICE:

52 Yarra Street Heidelberg 3084
t: 9457 1066
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PARISH PRIEST: Fr Mario Zammit

SACRAMENT COORDINATOR:

Sr Loreto Lynch RSM

PARISH SECRETARY: Mary Peeris

CHILD SAFETY OFFICER:

Michelle Robertson t:0409 533 100

OFFICE: 9:30am-2:30pm, Mo, Tu, Th, Fr

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: Maureen Hegarty

PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOL:

55 Cape St Heidelberg 3084
t: 9459 2963;
e: office@sjheidelberg.catholic.edu.au
PRINCIPAL: Maureen Stella

HALL HIRE: Fran mob: 0417972317
10:00am-5:00pm (Mon-Fri only)

WEEKEND MASS TIMES:

Saturday: 6:00pm

Sunday: 8:30am, 10:30am, 5:00pm

AUSTIN HOSPITAL MASS:

3rd Sunday of the Month at 9:30am.

WEEKDAY MASS: 9:15am

ROSARY: Monday to Saturday after Mass.

LECTIO DIVINA: Every second and fourth Monday of the month at 7:00pm, in the parish house.

LEGION OF MARY: Tuesday night at 7:30pm in the parish house. Info: Sue 9459 8604

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:

Wednesday: 7:30pm - 9:00pm;

Thursday: 9:40am - 11:00am,

Friday: 8:00am - 9:00am

RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION):

Saturday at 9:45am & 5:30pm
or by appointment

BAPTISMS: On Sundays at 11:45am, by appointment.

BAPTISM INFORMATION EVENING:

Last Thursday of each month at 7:30pm in the parish house, except Dec and Jan.

WEDDINGS: By appointment (9457 1066).

PARISH PILGRIM STATUE OF MARY: In order to have the statue of Mary in your home for one week please contact Marj McBroom on 0414 289 304.

9th / 10th December 2017 - Second Sunday of Advent

Dear parishioners, visitors and friends,

Prepare the way for the Lord! Make straight his paths!

On this second Sunday of Advent we meet John the Baptist out in the wilderness, preaching a time of repentance. Mark's description of the Baptist links him to the prophet Elijah and his preaching is described using words from the prophet Isaiah. John is in the company of the great prophets of the Old Testament!

Like Elijah and Isaiah before him, John is speaking about the coming of the messiah. In the past the people of God had often been encouraged to 'prepare the way' for the Lord's coming. In the ancient world conquering empires made sure that they could easily transport their armies to every part of their empire as swiftly as possible. To achieve this they straightened roads and wherever possible flattened hills and filled up valleys. This is the image used by Isaiah and John; the Lord, the messiah is now coming and he needs to be able to advance as quickly as possible.

In order to prepare myself for the coming of the messiah in my own life, I need to make sure nothing stands in the way. I need to repent and change my ways so that they will be open and welcoming. In the time of the Baptist, baptism by water was the accepted way to express a willingness to repent. The person's sins that were standing in the way were washed away.

At my own Baptism I too have been washed (immersed) in the Holy Spirit. The same Spirit of God helps me prepare myself to meet the messiah every day of my life. Prayer and reaching out to Jesus in the poor and those less fortunate are good ways to prepare myself.

As Christmas approaches how can I better prepare myself for the coming Lord? Do I spend time reflecting on the Lord's presence in my life? Do I reach out to Jesus in the poor around me?

Happy Advent!

Fr Mario

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

RECENTLY BAPTISED: Isabella Morford, Jonathan Umina, Oscar Mahady, Frane Petkovic.

THE SICK: Patricia Mulholland, Ruth Mc Guire, Brendan O'Kane, Patricia Wong.

ANNIVERSARIES: Dominic Tan, Paul Liew, Rita Foote, George O'Callaghan, Ronald Berry, Mary Sullivan, Marie Lanigan, Jacinta Pinkerten, Vittorio E Ada Chiara.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Patricia Amos.

Names on the sick list remain for six weeks, unless otherwise advised.

Please submit any items for the newsletter, including sick, recently deceased and anniversaries, by Thursday morning latest. Thank you.

9 Dec/ 10 Dec	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Sharon D'Souza	Marguerite Ryan	Michelle Robertson	Des O'Brien
2 nd Reader	John James	Pietro Sciotto	Sue Lew-Kee	Margaret Andrews
Communion	Jeanette O'Sullivan	Val Wallis	Maureen Howard	Margaret Hansen
	Maria Basilone	Alice Wong	Doris Schembri	Jenny Hollaway
	Donna Richardson	Stanly Devasia	Leonore Giliberto	Philip Johnson
	Michelle Penson	Peter O'Donoghue	Leo Hernandez	Jack Naden
16 Dec/ 17 Dec	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Anita Metcalf	Bernadette Nzenza	Adrian Daly	Peter Penson
2 nd Reader	Moira Di Cesare	Ronnie Maloney	TBA	Mary Kotefski
Communion	Marco Di Cesare	Teresa Lincoln	Kate Mathai	Des O'Brien
	Domenica Ashworth	Ngoc Thi Minh Tran	Tim Boyle	Tony Rowlands
	Emma Chang	Elizabeth Williamson	Yannick Jonas	Sally Tramontana
	TBA	Margaret Bradley	Sue Lew-Kee	Michelle Penson
Counters	10 Dec: Graeme Foote, Michael Tilley, James Watson & 17 Dec: Shane Byrnes, Tim Booth, Nigel Mant.			
Collection Weekly Average for November				Heidelcare Co-Ordinator
Parish		Presbytery		December 2017: Elaine 9459 6721
Stewardship	\$2982.25	Stewardship	\$616.20	January 2018: Elaine 9459 6721
Loose	\$845.72	Loose	\$432.50	
Thank you for supporting St John's financially. Please advise if your credit card is lost/stolen or the expiry date has changed.				

MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSION APPEAL: will be held this weekend. Since 1969 Melbourne parishioners have supported Melbourne's own mission fund to help developing nations. Archbishop Denis Hart commends the fund to your continuing support.

CHRISTMAS MASS AT THE AUSTIN HOSPITAL: The December Mass at the Austin Hospital will be held at 9:30am on Christmas Day. No Mass will be held on the third Sunday of December.

ST JOHN'S CHRISTMAS CAROLS: hosted by the parish primary school on Wednesday 13th December at the school oval. 6:00pm BYO picnic dinner and drinks. Carols 7:00pm.

BLESSING OF NATIVITIES: at all Masses on the weekend of 16th and 17th December. As we prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus, we are invited to bring our nativities or statues of baby Jesus for a special blessing.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION): the Second Rite of Reconciliation will be celebrated at our parish on Friday 22nd December at 7:30pm. We gather to pray and prepare ourselves as a community and then have time for individual reconciliation.

CHRISTMAS SINGING GROUPS: We need more people to join us at the Sunday 10:30am and the 5pm masses. If you would like to help us prepare for Christmas by joining one of these groups you are most welcome.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES: Christmas Eve 7:00pm Vigil Mass at the new OLMC Nalleijerring Centre. Midnight Mass starting at 11:30pm with Carols. Christmas Day Masses at 8:30am and 10:30am. No 5:00pm Mass on Christmas Eve, no evening Mass on Christmas Day.

THANK YOU: Pauline Griffiths and family sincerely thank you for your kind expressions of sympathy, thoughtfulness and incredible support at the loss of our wonderful husband, father and Pa. Thank you for enriching John and Pauline's lives with so much joy.



St Vincent de Paul Society
VICTORIA
good works

VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL: As Christmas approaches St John's Vinnies group will be preparing to assist those less fortunate in our area. It is customary to give hampers to these families. Over the coming weeks we will be collecting non-perishable food items for the hampers. Please see notice board for list of names of items required. Kindly donate the items requested so that we can organise balanced hampers. Please bring your donations by Monday 11th December, latest. A collection will also held on the weekend of 16/17 December. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS CARDS AND CALENDARS: Members of our Vinnies Conference will be selling Christmas Cards and 2018 calendars. Proceeds support the work of the conference. The Christmas cards feature two stained glass windows in our parish church.

FESTIVAL OF PRAYERS, READINGS AND CAROLS: organ concert by Thomas Heywood in St Patrick's Cathedral on Friday 22nd December at 6:30pm. in St Patrick's Cathedral. Admission: \$20 at the door; no concessions. Children under 15 free. Bookings/tickets not required. Information: 9926 5753 / paul.taylor@cam.org.au.

ROYAL COMMISSION INTO INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE: with the delivery of the final report we move as a Church to the next stage of the painful process of atoning for the sins of the past. We continue to hold in our thoughts and prayers all those who have suffered abuse at the hands of clergy, religious, teachers and volunteers in our Catholic schools and homes. It is for these children, women and men that we offer our humble prayers for their healing and health as they, too, move to this next stage in their journey of their story. If you would like time to reflect and speak about this, you are welcome to meet Fr Mario or to contact Michelle, our Child Safety officer, on 0409 533 100