



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.

23rd / 24th December 2017 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

A Very Blessed Christmas

Dear parishioners, visitors and friends,

'God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.' (John 3:16)

This is the good news that we celebrate tomorrow. God himself looks at our humanity and decides that our life and culture is good enough for him to share with us. God came and pitched his tent among us (Jn 1:14); God lives our own life, he is Emmanuel, God-with-us.

The great significance of this event is that God actually knows what it feels like to be human; with us and like us he laughed and suffered. Like us Jesus was fully human and participated fully in everything that makes us human, thus consecrating our life so that when we live our life we ourselves share in the very life of God. In the words of Bishop St Athanasius (c. 296-373), one of the Church Fathers, 'God became human so that we humans might become God.'

Our whole life, the culture we have created and live in, has been deified, it is in the image and likeness of God himself. I therefore have to walk this life gently and carefully as I walk always in the presence of the divine. I do have a duty to respect the environment I live in as it holds within it the presence of God. I need to constantly remind myself that God is alive in each of my sisters and brothers and in everything that is around me. This is how I experience the face of God every day.

As I celebrate Christmas this year, as I stop to meditate in front of the cute image of the weak and fragile child sitting in the manger, I remind myself that whenever I touch anything that is around me, I touch the very face of God. Christmas once again reminds me that God is with me at every stage of my life.

When we wish each other a Happy Christmas this year, let us wish each other that we see God's face every day of our life.

Fr Mario



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

RECENTLY MARRIED: Stephen Basile & Sofia Pace, Paul Zotov & Stephanie Montalto.

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

ANNIVERSARIES: Elizabeth Dickinson.

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.

23 Dec/ 24 Dec	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Domenica Ashworth	Leela Cherubim	Bob Dowling	Christmas Eve No Vigil Mass
2 nd Reader	Zen Zebrowski	Elizabeth Williamson	Michael Leonard	
Communion	Noel Micallef	Alice Wong	Geraldine Manuel	
	Donna Richardson	Fiona Curry	Erin Manuel	
	Maria Basilone	Stanly Devasia	Doris Schembri	
	Michelle Penson	Pauline Griffiths	TBA	
30 Dec/ 31 Dec	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Sue Lew-Kee	Garry Sproules	Joanne Martinez	Guiseppe Amoroso
2 nd Reader	Maddy Lew-Kee	Claire Newsome	Karen Frost	Matthew Sanders
Communion	Donna Richardson	Val Wallis	Tim Boyle	Leo Cosio
	Domenica Ashworth	Teresa Lincoln	Leo Hernandez	Charito Cosio
	Michelle Penson	Peter O'Donoghue	Yannick Jonas	Sally Tramontana
	TBA	Ngoc Thi Minh Tran	Doris Schembri	Leela Cherubim
Counters	24 Dec: Vincent Chung, Bill Barnes, Peter O'Donoghue & 31 Dec: Stephen Devenish, Nicole Pelizzaro, Thomas Bechelli.			
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	N.B. No morning tea in January
Thank you for supporting St John's financially. Please advise if your credit card is lost/stolen or the expiry date has changed.				

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR MASS TIMES TODAY, SUNDAY

CHRISTMAS EVE:

7:00pm @ OLMC Nalleijerring Centre

TOMORROW, MONDAY

MIDNIGHT MASS: starting at 11:30pm with Carols

CHRISTMAS DAY: Masses at 8:30am & 10:30am

AUSTIN HOSPITAL MASS: at 9:30am

SUNDAY 31TH DECEMBER

NEW YEAR'S EVE: 5:00pm last Mass of the year

MONDAY 1ST JANUARY

NEW YEAR'S DAY: 10:30am

PLEASE NOTE:

*No 5:00pm Sunday Mass on Christmas Eve
No evening Mass on Christmas Day.*

CHRISTMAS MASS AT THE AUSTIN HOSPITAL: The December Mass at the Austin Hospital will be held tomorrow at 9:30am. Volunteers are kindly asked to be at the chapel at 8:30am to help with the patients. Parishioners are invited to support the patients by their presence.

STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES: The next instalment of Stewardship Envelopes is ready to be picked up from the porch of the church. Envelopes are in alphabetical order. Thank all of you for your generosity as we continue to invest in the future of our parish community. Your continued financial contributions to stewardship help the parish meet all its financial commitments and ensures that the resources we inherited can be passed on to future generations.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES: are available in the pews. Money contributed to the Christmas Offering supports our parish priest, sick and retired priests, priests in poorer parishes and the ministry of the Archbishop. Thank you for your generosity.



St Vincent de Paul Society
VICTORIA
good works

THANK YOU: for all the groceries and other non-perishable items donated to Vinnies for the Christmas hampers to be given to families in need of assistance.

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 Robertson, our Child Safety officer, on 0409 533 100.

MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSION APPEAL: Thank you for your generous donations which amounted to \$895.55.

WELCOME TO NEW PARISHIONERS: Please make yourself known by introducing yourself to Fr Mario and to the parish office. Thank you.

Wishing all parishioners, visitors and friends a Very Holy and Happy Christmas. May we be able to see the presence of God among us in the face of the child Jesus.

Fr Mario

