



ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PARISH

52 Yarra Street
HEIDELBERG

We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which our parish stands, the Wurundjeri-Balluk clan of the Woi wurrung people in the Kulin Nation. We respectfully recognise elders, both past and present, and join in a silent prayer for healing of the pains caused by our ancestors.

St John's parish is a child-friendly community and we gratefully welcome young children and their families; we are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults in our midst.

18TH / 19TH AUGUST — 20TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

PARISH STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMME 2018

Dear Parishioners, Visitors and Friends

THANK YOU to all of you who have already returned your completed pledge commitments, at Mass last week or through our parish website. Welcome and thank you to all the new families who have joined; your support is very much appreciated!

PLEDGE CARDS AND GROUPS AND MINISTRIES FORM

If you have not yet done so, we ask you to please complete a pledge card. It is important that all parishioners fill in a pledge card. If you are currently contributing please renew your pledge so that we can update our parish data base. If you are new to the parish we welcome your support. If you cannot participate in the stewardship programme, we ask you to please put in a pledge card with 'no thanks' written on it. Additional pledge cards will be available at all Masses this weekend. Please place all completed cards in the collection. You can also place the completed Groups & Ministries commitments in the collection. Note that additional forms are available on the table at the rear of the church.

As you are aware our running costs are always rising—as do your home bills; please consider the possibility of increasing your current pledge. Thanks.

THANK YOU

A special thanks to Fr Jude Pirotta, parish priest of St James the apostle, in Hoppers Crossing North, who generously gave his time to be with us at all Masses last weekend. I certainly enjoyed my time at St James as part of the 'swap of parishes'.

NEW ENVELOPES

Please note that your new pledges will take effect on Sunday 16th September and letters of confirmation and where appropriate, new sets of envelopes, will be available at all Masses on the weekend Sunday 9th September. As there is a gap between our old and new Stewardship Programs you will find there are two envelopes missing in your set for 2nd and 9th September. These envelopes are available in the church foyer in alphabetical order. Please take your envelopes this weekend and help to keep our postage costs to a minimum.

PRAYER FOR OUR STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMME

*Lord, we thank you
for calling us to be
your Church.*

*Through our Baptism
we are called to
service and to
witness.*

*In the Eucharist we
sustain and strengthen that call.*

*By serving others we follow your example and
proclaim our beliefs.*

*By our Christian generosity we demonstrate our
love and care.*

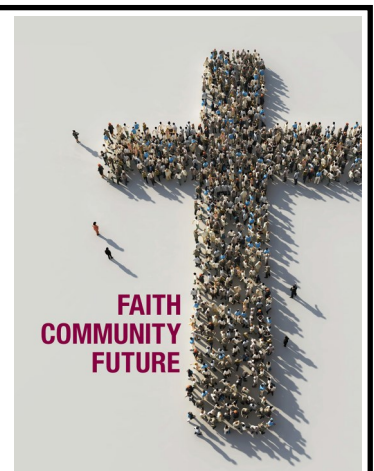
*Lord, help us always to worship you as you
deserve,*

to grow in faith and service

and to give without counting the cost.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen



PARISH PRIEST: Fr Mario Zammit
PARISH SECRETARY: Mary Peeris
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL CHAIR:
Maureen Hegarty
CHILD SAFETY OFFICER:
Michelle Robertson m:0409 533 100
SACRAMENT COORDINATOR:
Sr Loreto Lynch rsm

PARISH OFFICE:
52 Yarra Street Heidelberg 3084
t: 9457 1066
e: heidelberg@cam.org.au
w: cam.org.au/heidelberg
facebook/stjohnheidelberg
OFFICE HOURS:
Mo, Tu, Th, Fr; 9:30am to 2:30pm

MASS TIMES:
WEEKEND: Saturday: 6:00pm
Sunday: 8:30am, 10:30am, 5:00pm
AUSTIN HOSPITAL:
3rd Sunday of the Month at 9:30am
WEEKDAYS: 9:15am

RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION):
Saturdays at 9:45am & 5:30pm
or by appointment
BAPTISMS: 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

ROSARY: Monday to Saturday after
morning Mass
**EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED
SACRAMENT:**
Wednesday: 7:30pm - 9:00pm;
Thursday: 9:40am - 11:00am,
Friday: 8:00am - 9:00am

LECTIO DIVINA: Every second and
fourth Monday of the month at
7:00pm, in the parish house
LEGION OF MARY: Every Tuesday
night at 7:00pm in the parish house;
contact Sue 9459 8604
PARISH PILGRIM STATUE OF MARY:
To have the statue of Mary in your
home for one week contact Marj
McBroom m: 0414 289 304

ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PARISH PRIMARY:
PRINCIPAL: Maureen Stella
ADDRESS:
55 Cape St Heidelberg 3084
t: 9459 2963;
office@sjheidelberg.catholic.edu.au

HALL HIRE:
Fran Gasior: m:0417972317
10:00am-5:00pm; Mon-Fri only

NEW PARISHIONERS WELCOME:
Please contact parish office to
introduce yourself

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.*

FOLLOW-UP MEETING

Parishioners are invited to attend our Follow-Up Meeting on Tuesday 21st August at 7:30pm in the Francis Xavier meeting room. At this meeting we will go through our results to date and commence our follow-up. We need help in making follow-up phone calls, if you can help out with this please come along to this meeting where all will be explained. The more helpers we have the less we will all need to do!

STEWARDSHIP / THANKSGIVING CAMPAIGN A SUCCESS STORY!

On Sunday 2nd September, as we celebrate Father's Day, we gather for a sausage sizzle in the parish hall to hear the final results and to thank and congratulate each other for the faith filled community we share. Once again thank you for your generous response.

Fr Mario

MEDITATION ON JESUS: One day retreat on Saturday 29th September from 9:30am—4:00pm and a five day retreat from Monday 20th August 9:30am to Friday 24th August 4:00pm. Breathing exercises and gentle postures cleanses and heals body, mind and soul. Both retreats are guided by Fr Gilbert Carlo svd and will be held at Janssen Spirituality Centre, 22 Woodvale Road, Boronia. RSVP and for information: gilbertcarlo@gmail.com / enquiries@janssencentre.org / www.janssencentre.org / 9762 6625

END OF FINANCIAL YEAR TAX RECEIPTS: are available upon request from the parish office. Please call or email on Heidelberg@cam.org.au or 94571066. Thank you for your support.

POPE FRANCIS' VISION FOR A LISTENING CHURCH: A conversation on the Plenary Council 2020 by Fr Noel Connolly. On Thursday 30th August from 7:30pm to 9:30pm at St Francis Xavier Hall, 88 Mayona Road, Montmorency. Register online. RSVP by 25th August at www.trybooking.com/WXRZ. Enquiries: Beth 9435 2178 / beth.krolikowski@cam.org.au or Regina 9457 5794 / stpiusvic@bigpond.com

PALMS AUSTRALIA: Teach with Timorese teachers! Take your teaching skills to new heights in the mountains of Timor. Contact Christine on 02 9560 5333. For more opportunities, visit palms.org.au/ volunteer. Can't commit just yet? Check out palms.org.au/encounters

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

RECENTLY BAPTISED: Aston Stevens.

THE SICK: M. Cooke, Aurette Ferriere, Bern Green, Francis Micallef, John Pikines.

ANNIVERSARIES: Saverio & Nancy Valente, Benito Colaiacovo, Marlene Mercieca, Giovanni Giangiulli, Maureen Boyle, Herman Langen, June Plant, Doll Jackson, Gladys Griffiths.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Pat McMillan.

*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.*

18 Aug/19 Aug	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Adrian Daly	Pietro Sciotto	Joanne Martinez	Mary Kotefski
2 nd Reader	Barbara Barnes	Elizabeth Williamson	Robyn Laurie	TBA
Communion	Jeanette O'Sullivan	Pauline Griffiths	Tim Boyle	Mark Aiello
	Emma Chang	Alice Wong	Yannick Jonas	Margaret Hansen
	Domenica Ashworth	Val Wallis	Jan Mc Caffery	Jenny Hollaway
	Bill Barnes	Stanly Devasia	Doris Schembri	Grace Nesbitt
25 Aug/26 Aug	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Anita Metcalf	Jack Naden	Jan McCaffery	Matthew Sanders
2 nd Reader	Zen Zebrowski	Marguerite Ryan	Grace Lew-Kee	Catie Nesbitt
Communion	Marco Di Cesare	Fiona Curry	Geraldine Manuel	Melania Mugamu
	Noel Micallef	Chris Ratnayake	Erin Manuel	Charito Cosio
	Maria Basilone	Teresa Lincoln	Leonore Giliberto	Leo Cosio
	Lorraine Mascarenhas	Leo Hernandez	Sue Lew-Kee	Sally Tramontana
Counters	19 Aug: Tim Booth, Nigel Mant, Shane Byrnes & 26 Aug: Vincent Chung, Bill Barnes, Peter O'Donoghue.			
Collection Weekly Average for July			Heidelcare Co-Ordinator	
Parish		Presbytery		August: Cath 9459 9420
Stewardship	\$3290.62	Stewardship	\$586.78	September: Merilyn 9459 1950
Loose	\$635.47	Loose	\$317.52	
Thank you for supporting St John's financially. Please advise if your credit card is lost/stolen or the expiry date has changed.				

AUSTIN MASS: this Sunday 19th August. Volunteers please meet at 8:30am for 9:30am Mass. Parishioners are invited to participate in this Mass to minister to the sick by their presence. Thank you.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR: To assist in raising money for the parish school library, the school has organised a Book Fair and is inviting parishioners to visit. The Book Fair is in St Monica's and gives you the opportunity to purchase books for children or grandchildren before or after 10:30am Mass this Sunday 19th August. Thanks for your support. Judy Doupé and Elizabeth Williamson.

St John's GEMS (50+): Tuesday 21st August from 10:00am to 12noon, in Francis Xavier meeting room at the parish house. Converse, play, create. New members always welcome. Information: Elizabeth 0447195553.

GEMS upcoming outing: Morning Melodies on Tuesday 28th August at 10:30am at the Lower Plenty Hotel. Abbasession Duo. Abba Tribute. \$15.00 includes entertainment, Devonshire Tea, Lunch (including wine, beer or soft drink). Transport available. Information: Elizabeth 0447195553.

Discovering Prayer through the Labyrinth: The labyrinth becomes a spiritual journey on many levels, leading the person inward to their own centre, and then back out into the world. Come join us at Heart of Life Spirituality Centre in Box Hill on Saturday, 15th September from 10:00am to 4:00pm. Cost \$60.00 (BYO Lunch). Enquiries and bookings can be made by reply email to holsc@bigpond.com or to 9890 1101 or on www.heartoflife.melbourne.

Reminder—Stewardship Envelopes: Please pick up the envelopes for the 2nd and 9th September, as you leave the church today. Thank you!

CATHOLICARE COLLECTION: Next weekend, 25th and 26th August we have our CatholicCare Special Collection. This collection helps support youth in our communities build a brighter future. As CatholicCare turns its focus to the youth in our lives, we see that more and more young people who are struggling with the challenges and changes of life. They can easily find themselves on the margins of society, feeling isolated and excluded with no idea where to turn. It is times like this, where CatholicCare programs and interventions are needed most. Relationships are at the heart of why CatholicCare exists and all our programs and services focus on helping people build positive relationships and repair connections with society and those closest to them. Strong families are the building blocks of a healthy community, but there are times when people need a little help. With the support of the Catholic community, CatholicCare will continue to provide these services to the most disadvantaged in our communities. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

New ministries in our parish: How do we continue to reach out and create a more warm, caring and welcoming community in our parish. We are looking at creating three new ministries: bereavement groups, sacristans and welcomers. **Welcomers** are asked to stand in the church porch before and after Mass, welcoming parishioners as they come in and leave our celebrations. **Sacristans** help prepare for Mass and ensure all the ministries required are covered. Members of **bereavement** groups are invited to reach out to families who have lost loved ones, offering them prayer and support. Please consider taking part in one of these ministries, or any other ministries on our time and talent sheet. Contact parish office for more information.

FIRST READING*Prv 9:1-6*

Wisdom has built herself a house, she has erected her seven pillars, she has slaughtered her beasts, prepared her wine, she has laid her table. She has despatched her maidservants and proclaimed from the city's heights: 'Who is ignorant? Let him step this way.' To the fool she says, 'Come and eat my bread, drink the wine I have prepared! Leave your folly and you will live, walk in the ways of perception.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM*Psalm 33:2-3, 10-15*

R./ Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad.

R./

Revere the Lord, you his saints.
They lack nothing, those who revere him.
Strong lions suffer want and go hungry
but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.

R./

Come children, and hear me
that I may teach you the fear of the Lord.
Who is he who longs for life
and many days, to enjoy his prosperity?

R./

Then keep your tongue from evil
and your lips from speaking deceit.
Turn aside from evil and do good;
seek and strive after peace.

*R./***SECOND READING***Ephesians 5: 15 - 20*

Be very careful about the sort of lives you lead, like intelligent and not like senseless people. This may be a wicked age, but your lives should redeem it. And do not be thoughtless but recognise what is the will of the Lord. Do not drug yourselves with wine, this is simply dissipation; be filled with the Spirit. Sing the words and tunes of the psalms and hymns when you are together, and go on singing and chanting to the Lord in your hearts, so that always and everywhere you are giving thanks to God who is our Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
All who eat my flesh and drink my blood
live in me and I in them, says the Lord. Alleluia!

GOSPEL*John 6:51-58*

Jesus said to the crowd: 'I am the living bread which has come down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world.' Then the Jews started arguing with one another: 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' they said. Jesus replied: 'I tell you most solemnly, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you will not have life in you. Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood has eternal life, and I shall raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in him. As I, who am sent by the living Father, myself draw life from the Father, so whoever eats me will draw life from me. This is the bread come down from heaven; not like the bread our ancestors ate: they are dead, but anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.'

WORD AND SACRAMENT

Today's Gospel begins by repeating from last week Jesus' claim that the 'Bread' that he will give for the life of the world is his own 'flesh.' The reference is to the revelation of God's love that will occur when he lays down his life upon the cross. However, his audience (still named here 'the Jews') take the reference literally. Understandably, they balk at what sounds like cannibalism.

In reply, Jesus adds to the notion of eating his flesh the even more repugnant idea (especially to Jews) of drinking his blood. He is attempting to draw his audience away from a purely physical understanding to a symbolic interpretation stemming from the Wisdom tradition of Israel. This tradition interpreted the Manna the Israelites ate in the wilderness in terms of divine revelation. To 'eat' in this sense refers to accepting revelation.

Jesus' flesh and his blood will be separated in his death on the cross. Within the same Wisdom tradition to 'eat' Jesus' flesh and 'drink' his blood means to accept his death as the life-giving revelation that God is love (1 John 4:8).

The text is also open, of course, to a sacramental interpretation. To eat Jesus' flesh and drink his blood in the Eucharist is to be brought sacramentally before his cross on Calvary. Our Eucharistic participation draws us into the rhythm of his self-sacrificing love poured out for the life of the world.

Jesus is, then, our 'Bread from Heaven' in two senses: as life-giving *Word* of revelation and as 'real' food and drink in the *Sacrament* of his Body and Blood.

Fr Brendan Byrne sj