



ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PARISH
& PRIMARY SCHOOL

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.

8TH / 9TH SEPTEMBER - 23RD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

CHILD SAFETY TRAINING IN OUR PARISH:

The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne holds the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as central and fundamental responsibilities of the Church. This commitment is drawn from and is inherent to the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, with love, justice and the sanctity of each human person at the heart of the Gospel.

WE WANT OUR CHILDREN TO BE SAFE, HAPPY AND EMPOWERED.

The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne has a universal expectation for the protection of children. It is resolutely committed to ensuring that all those engaged in the Church promote the inherent dignity of children and young people and their fundamental right to be respected and nurtured in a safe environment. This is particularly so for the most vulnerable children, including aboriginal children, those from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds and children with a disability.

The Catholic Church has a moral, legal and mission-driven responsibility to create nurturing environments where children and young people are respected, their voices are heard and where they are safe and feel safe.

Creating child-safe environments is a dynamic process that involves active participation and responsibility by parishes, schools, families and communities. It is marked by collaboration, vigilance and proactive approaches across policies, procedures and practices.

(Reference: CECV Commitment Statement to Child Safety.)

PARISH GROUP TRAINING SESSIONS: In our parish we have already started having Child safety training sessions for parish volunteers. It is now necessary to meet with all groups active in our parish. Two training nights are being organised for Monday, 15th October and Monday, 29th October, from 7:30pm to 9:00pm. These training nights are designed to meet the Child Safety Standards for groups / organisations working within St John's Parish. Both sessions need to be attended by all members. All parish groups need to RSVP on mrobertson@siena.vic.edu.au by Monday, 8th October with the names of the group members attending. For further information contact Michelle Robertson (0409533100). Victorian state legislation requires that all groups comply with this requirement. Thank you to Michelle Robertson, Moira Di Cesare and Silvana Micallef of the parish Child Safety Committee for organising these workshops.

Central to the mission of St John's Parish is an unequivocal commitment to fostering the dignity, self-esteem and integrity of children and young people and providing them with a safe, supportive and enriching environment to develop spiritually, physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially.

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.*

2018 PARISH STEWARDSHIP / THANKSGIVING CAMPAIGN

BEFORE CAMPAIGN:

Weekly Income	\$2,950
Pledged Givers	262 (247 active)

AFTER CAMPAIGN:

New Pledged Weekly Amount	\$3,647
Total Number of Pledges	252
New Givers	21
Average amount given	\$14.47
Percentage Increase	24%

METHOD OF CONTRIBUTION

Envelopes	125 (50%)
Credit Card	91 (36%)
Direct Debit	36 (14%)

21 Parish School Families out of 221 (10%)
 participate in the Stewardship Programme.

SOME COMMENTS BY PARISHIONERS:

'I always feel included and welcome. I feel too old now to take an active role, but our parish is always in my prayers.'

(in the parish for 50 years)

'St John's is very special to me. I was a lapsed Catholic but St John's was welcoming to me; so I continue to come to Mass on Sundays'

(in the parish for 30 years)

THANK YOU:

To all parishioners who have been a part of this important Stewardship Program;

To Mary Peeris our parish secretary for all the work in the office;

To Mark Chetcuti for being programme chairperson;

To Fr Jude Pirotta for celebrating all Mass and speaking at the 'Our Future' weekend;

To the leadership team, speakers, commentators, volunteers at Mass, those who attended the Parish Forums and those who made lots of follow-up phone calls;

To Lorella Del Popolo, our programme coordinator;

To parishioners past and present who have supported and continue to support our parish through their many God given gifts of time, talent and treasure.

THANK YOU!

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

RECENTLY MARRIED: Manuel Vezzaro with Jennifer Osenaris.

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

ANNIVERSARIES: Wall Kennedy, Vince Cannuli, Frank Merlino, Felice Seliavone, Mick Dubecki, Norman Collier, Mary Collier.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Sandra Kidd.

*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.*

8 Sept / 9 Sept	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Anita Metcalf	Pietro Sciotto	Elizabeth Williamson	Matthew Sanders
2 nd Reader	Pamela Smith	Jack Naden	Robyn Laurie	Candida Rowlands
Communion	Maria Basilone	Alice Wong	Tim Boyle	Tony Rowlands
	Leela Cherubim	Val Wallis	Yannick Jonas	Sally Tramontana
	Jeanette O'Sullivan	Teresa Lincoln	Jan Mc Caffery	Charito Cosio
	Lorraine Mascarenhas	Stanly Devasia	Doris Schembri	Leo Cosio
15 Sept/16 Sept	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Zen Zebrowski	Ronnie Maloney	Michelle Robertson	Mark Aiello
2 nd Reader	Adrian Daly	Marguerite Ryan	Grace Lew-Kee	Catie Nesbitt
Communion	Domenica Ashworth	Fiona Curry	Geraldine Manuel	Jenny Hollaway
	Emma Chang	Pauline Griffiths	Sue Lew-Kee	Johanna Nesbitt
	Donna Richardson	Elizabeth Williamson	Leonore Giliberto	Margaret Hansen
	TBA	Leo Hernandez	TBA	TBA
Counters	9 Sept: Des O'Brien, Peter Peyton, Percival Makin & 16 Sept: Garry Sproules, Janice McGrath, Giuseppe Amoroso.			
Collection Weekly Average for August				Heidelcare Co-Ordinator
Parish		Presbytery		September: Marilyn 9459 1950
Stewardship	\$3527.50	Stewardship	\$733.55	October: Marilyn 9459 1950
Loose	\$699.53	Loose	\$367.50	
Thank you for supporting St John's financially. Please advise if your credit card is lost/stolen or the expiry date has changed.				

NEW SETS OF STEWARDSHIP / THANKSGIVING

ENVELOPES: The new direct debit, credit card and cash pledges start on Sunday 16th September. Letters of acknowledgement and the new sets of envelopes are available in the church foyer at all Masses from this weekend in alphabetical order. Parishioners who would like a tax receipt for the 2017/18 financial year, please contact the parish office by phone at 94571066 or email heidelberg@cam.org.au

GEMS—FRIENDSHIP GROUP: Outing on Tuesday, September 11th to Essendon Airways Museum. Meet at the rear of Building 44 in Essendon Airport. (Entry via Edgar Johnson Lane.) Those who have booked for this outing and require transport please meet at the back of the parish house at 10:00am. Contact: Elizabeth 0447195553 /Jan 0423478504.

NEW GARDEN BENCHES FOR OUR CHURCH: Over the past few weeks we have replaced the garden benches on the southern side of the church (facing Yarra street). The old benches were deteriorating rapidly and needed to be replaced. The total cost of the new benches (including installation) is \$3,299 (ex-GST). A second parishioner has donated \$300 towards this project. Thank you. Any further donations to cover this expense is greatly appreciated. Donations can be deposited directly in the church bank account: BSB 633 000 A/C 138400957. Please email and let us know when you pay by EFT.

ELECTRIC MOBILITY SCOOTER: in good condition, available for free. Contact parish office 9457 1066.

PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FOUNDATION APPEAL: The Appeal totaled \$1417.35. Thank you for your generosity.

NOTICES FROM OUTSIDE THE PARISH:

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.

SPIRITUAL LEADERS FORMATION PROGRAM: One-year, part-time program held on Friday mornings in Box Hill offered to people in various positions of leadership, spiritual formation and outreach ministries. Suitable for lay ecclesial ministers, chaplains, community leaders, principals and nurses. The program, starting on 22nd February 2019, focuses on personal integration of the theory and practice of a contemplative, discerning approach to pastoral ministry. Applications close 16th November 2018. Contact Heart of Life for the brochure and application form: holsc@bigpond.com or 9890 1101.

ARCHBISHOPS CATHOLIC MAN BREAKFAST SERIES: 13th September. Guest speaker our new Archbishop, Peter A. Comensoli speaking about: 'Being a man; a man of God!' at CQ Club 113–123 Queen St, Melbourne. Cost \$45. From 7:00am to 9:00am sharp. Enquiries Michael Bohan 0439 172 465. This is an opportunity for men to gather and be encouraged and inspired in their faith.

VOLUNTEER WITH PALMS AUSTRALIA: Mission needs mechanics, tools and trades! What skills can you share with our neighbours? Contact Christine on 02 9560 5333.

FIRST READING*Isaiah 35:4-7*

Say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy; for water gushes in the desert, streams in the wasteland, the scorched earth becomes a lake, the parched land springs of water.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM*Psalms 145:7-10.***R./ Praise the Lord, my soul!**

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free

R./

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bound down,
the Lord who loves the just,
the Lord, who protects the stranger.

R./

The Lord upholds the widow and orphan,
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age

R./

SECOND READING*James 2:1-5*

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats;' then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

GOSPEL*Mark 7:31-37*

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

TOUCHING AND HEALING

The healing itself is one of the most 'physical' of all Jesus' miracles. In this non-Jewish region of Galilee (the Decapolis) Jesus acts like a pagan wonder-worker, with special gestures and words.

The man's condition, involving both a hearing and speaking disability, places him at great social disadvantage: he can neither *receive* verbal communication nor freely *communicate* his own thoughts, feelings, and reflections to others. His condition is lonely and isolated. What Jesus does for this marginalised person brings him into the hearing and speaking community. Now he can receive interpersonal communication and make known his thoughts and feelings to others.

The very physical aspect of this miracle has rendered it apt for interpretation in a symbolic sense—notably in the Christian liturgy of baptism. The man represents all who enter the community of faith through this sacrament. Before baptism we are 'deaf' to the Word of life spoken to us by the Creator. In the sacrament, in the person of the minister, Christ touches our ears to give us the capacity to hear God's life-giving Word in the Scriptures proclaimed by the Church. Having heard that Word in the context of our own life-experience, we can then turn to praise God and share what we have heard and discovered with our fellow believers. Our ears are opened and our tongues 'loosened' for full participation in the community of faith.

Fr Brendan Byrne sj