



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.

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.

## 22ND / 23RD SEPTEMBER - 25TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

Dear Parishioners, Visitors to our parish, and Friends

Last week I wrote about the invitation to 'listen' to what God wants from the Church in Australia today. How can the Incarnation continue to happen today? How can Jesus continue to be born and shown to the world in Australia today?

The question we are being invited to reflect upon is: 'What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?'

This question expresses the understanding that God still speaks to us, his Church and his People. How does God speak today? Who does God speak to? Bishops and priests do not have a monopoly on hearing God's voice. God's word is in each one of us. As human beings we are created in the image and likeness of God and have God's life in us. As Christians we also share in the life of the Son of God! God speaks! As in every conversation, we also need to listen and to be silent. Prayer is a privileged moment to listen to God's word, but God also speaks in events that happen around us.

There is space for individual listening and reflection, and also space for listening as a group. As an individual, as I listen to the word of God in scripture and in my life, how do I hear God speaking to me? What is stirring within me? What makes me happy in the world around me? What troubles me? Where is God in my life in all this?

God also speaks to us as a group. We are invited to come together as a family, as friends, or as a part of a group we belong to. When we come together as a group we are invited to pray together, be silent together, and listen to each other. Within the group we are invited to share our own experiences of God and our experiences of God's word in our life. As I respectfully listen to another person's stories I am invited to listen to the stirrings that happen within me. As I listen in silent reflection I may realise that God has been speaking to me also! We share our stories and our experiences and together build a new picture of how God works in our midst.

This listening (also called discernment) is not a democratic process. It is not a question of majority rule, but rather a process of asking where God wants us to go today. As in every sincere dialogue and conversation, I may approach one of these listening groups with my own ideas, but when I listen and pray I come out with a much greater understanding.

God speaks to each one of us, especially in moments of silent prayer. We need to take all our stirrings to God in prayer and ask to be further enlightened to discover what we think God is asking of his People in Australia today. Finally we are invited to write and send in our reflections.

Fr Mario



**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.*

**PALMS INFO NIGHT:** On Tuesday 16th October 5:30pm at Ross House, Jenny Florence Room, 247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne. To find out about assignments abroad, how could your skills assist communities overseas and how does the Palms approach work. More at [www.palms.org.au/events](http://www.palms.org.au/events) or 02 95605333

**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](mailto:holsc@bigpond.com) or 9890 1101.

**CALL OF GUADALUPE:** An inspirational, pro life musical, invites anyone, any age, ability to act or help. Coming in 1st and 2nd December. Free drama classes for anyone with interest to learn to act, write, and sing. Classes and rehearsals most Saturdays in Glen Iris by experienced professional actors. RSVP: 0413398528 or [geraldine343@gmail.com](mailto:geraldine343@gmail.com) Info: [www.callofguadalupe.com](http://www.callofguadalupe.com).

**OLYMPIC VILLAGE EXODUS COMMUNITY:** is organising a Movie Luncheon, on Friday, 12th October. The film is 'Ladies in Black' from academy award nominated director Bruce Beresford. The comedy drama is based on Madeline St John's best-selling novel, The Women in Black. The movie is at Palace Balwyn Cinema, 231 Whitehorse Road Balwyn; 10:45am for 11:00am start, \$25 per ticket, includes a light lunch of freshly cut sandwich, cake, coffee/tea. Ticket sales must be confirmed by Monday 8th October. Contact: Anne Hall (0424 014778) or Jo Magnanini (9850 7702). Your generous support of the Olympic Village Exodus Community over many years, has enabled countless families to enjoy a welcome break during the summer school holidays at the annual Exodus Community Family Camp, and is very much appreciated by all of the community at West Heidelberg

**VOLUNTEER OVERSEAS — THE CAGLIERO PROJECT, SALESIANS OF DON BOSCO:** seeking volunteers for January 2019 departure, working with disadvantaged young people in Salesian communities throughout Cambodia, Samoa, Zambia and Solomon Island. Applications close 15th October 2018. Send inquiry on [www.cagliero.org.au](http://www.cagliero.org.au)

### **PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

**THE SICK:** Keith Ashworth, Jenny Ferriere, Francis Micallef, Noeline Zerna.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Marta & Peter Brejta, Brendan Sullivan, Ed Bourke, Silvia Robles.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** John James Betts.

*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.*

<b>22 Sept/23 Sept</b>	<b>Sat 6:00pm</b>	<b>Sun 8:30am</b>	<b>Sun 10:30am</b>	<b>Sun 5:00pm</b>
1st Reader	Sue Lew-Kee	Peter Penson	Robyn Laurie	Rosemarie Vecchies
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader	Maddy Lew-Kee	Elizabeth Williamson	Michael Leonard	Leela Cherubim
Communion	Lorraine Mascarenhas	Jack Naden	Tim Boyle	Melania Mugamu
	Leela Cherubim	Michelle Penson	Yannick Jonas	Sally Tramontana
	Maria Basilone	Chris Ratnayake	Jan Mc Caffery	Grace Nesbitt
	TBA	Peter O'Donoghue	Doris Schembri	TBA
<b>29 Sept/30 Sept</b>	<b>Sat 6:00pm</b>	<b>Sun 8:30am</b>	<b>Sun 10:30am</b>	<b>Sun 5:00pm</b>
1st Reader	Jan Mc Caffrey	Garry Sproules	Melania Mugamu	Peter Penson
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader	Sharon D'Souza	Michael Leonard	Bob Dowling	Margaret Andrews
Communion	Domenica Ashworth	Margaret Bradley	Sue Lew-Kee	Margaret Hansen
	Emma Chang	Alice Wong	Geraldine Manuel	Charito Cosio
	Donna Richardson	Val Wallis	Erin Manuel	Leo Cosio
	TBA	Stanly Devasia	Leonore Giliberto	Catie Nesbitt
Counters	<b>23 Sept:</b> Peter Symes, Paul De Stefanis & <b>30 Sept:</b> Graeme Foote, Michael Tilley.			
<b>Collection Weekly Average for August</b>				<b>Heidelcare Co-Ordinator</b>
Parish		Presbytery		September: Merilyn 9459 1950
Stewardship	\$3527.50	Stewardship	\$733.55	October: Merilyn 9459 1950
Loose	\$699.53	Loose	\$367.50	
<b>Thank you</b> for supporting St John's financially. Please advise if your credit card is lost/stolen or the expiry date has changed.				

**PLEASE NOTE:** There will be communion service in the mornings instead of Mass on 24th and Tuesday 25th.

**GOLD COIN COLLECTION:** The July Collection was \$518.20. Next Gold Coin Collection on 29th and 30th September. Thank you.

**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 and running these workshops.

**GEMS—OVER 50 FRIENDSHIP GROUP:** 25th September, Footy Colours Day. Wear your footy scarf or the colours of your favourite team. 'Footy' food served. Contact: Elizabeth (0447195553) /Jan (0423478504).

**2ND OCTOBER— NO GEMS MEETING.**

**Upcoming GEMS Cinema outing:** 9th October, 'Ladies in Black' Balwyn Cinema, including lunch \$20. Adapted from the best-selling novel by Madeline St John, 'Ladies in Black' is an alluring and tender-hearted comedy drama about the lives of a group of department store employees in 1959 Sydney. Contact: Elizabeth (0447195553) to book.

**SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY:** is celebrated by the Church on 30th September. For further details and for the Australian Catholic Bishops' 2018-19 Justice Statement, entitled 'A Place to Call Home: Making a home for everyone in our land' visit website <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au> or call 8306 3499.

**TWO TALKS ABOUT THE GOSPEL OF LUKE:** by Fr Brendan Byrne, a Jesuit priest and biblical scholar. On Thursday 25th October and Thursday 1st November, from 7:30pm to 9:00pm, at the Francis Xavier meeting room in the parish house. Entrance free. Fr Brendan will talk about the narratives about Jesus' childhood in the first two chapters in the gospel according to Luke. All welcome!

**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). Any 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.

**NEW SETS OF STEWARDSHIP / THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES:** Letters of acknowledgement and the new sets of envelopes are available in the church foyer 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](mailto:heidelberg@cam.org.au). Please DO NOT use old thanksgiving envelopes. If you did not receive the new envelopes please call the parish office on 9457 1066. Thank you.

**FIRST READING***Wisdom 50:2:12, 17-20.*

The godless say to themselves, 'Let us lie in wait for the virtuous man, since he annoys us and opposes our way of life, reproaches us for our breaches of the law and accuses us of playing false to our upbringing. Let us see if what he says is true, let us observe what kind of end he himself will have. If the virtuous man is God's son, God will take his part and rescue him from the clutches of his enemies. Let us test him with cruelty and with torture, and thus explore this gentleness of his and put his endurance to the proof. Let us condemn him to a shameful death since he will be looked after – we have his word for it.'

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM***Psalm 53:3-6. 8.***R./ The Lord upholds my life.**

O God, save me by your name;  
by your power, uphold my cause.  
O God, hear my prayers;  
listen to the words of my mouth.

For proud men have risen against me,  
ruthless men seek my life.  
They have no regard for God.

But I have God for my help.  
The Lord upholds my life.  
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart  
and praise your name for it is good

**R./****R./****R./****SECOND READING***James 3:16-4:3.*

Wherever you find jealousy and ambition, you find disharmony, and wicked things of every kind being done; whereas the wisdom that comes down from above is essentially something pure; it also makes for peace, and is kindly and considerate; it is full of compassion and shows itself by doing good; nor is there any trace of partiality or hypocrisy in it. Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness.

Where do these wars and battles between yourselves first start? Isn't it precisely in the desires fighting inside your own selves? You want something and you haven't got it; so you are prepared to kill. You have an ambition that you cannot satisfy; so you fight to get your way by force. Why you don't have what you want is because you don't pray for it; when you do pray and don't get it, it is because you have not prayed properly, you have prayed for something to indulge your own desires.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

God has called us with the gospel

to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL***Mark 9:30-37*

After leaving the mountain Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee; and he did not want anyone to know, because he was instructing his disciples; he was telling them, 'The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him to death; and three days after he has been put to death he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he said and were afraid to ask him.

They came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the road?' They said nothing because they had been arguing which of them was the greatest. So he sat down, called the Twelve to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all.' He then took a little child, set him in front of them, put his arms round him, and said to them, 'Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

**HUGGED BY GOD**

Still cherishing hopes of sharing Jesus' messianic glory understood in purely conventional terms, the disciples are fixated on sorting out which of them will be 'the greatest.'

To counter this false ambition, Jesus takes a child from the house and sets it in front of them all. Then putting his arms around the child, he makes an extraordinary statement of self-identification: 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

To grasp the full force of this action, we have to put aside the idealisation of childhood that is actually rather recent in western society. In the ancient world children were precious, no doubt, to their parents. But they had no social or civic status whatsoever; until adulthood children were nobodies.

Thus for someone outside the family to 'welcome' a child turns prevailing values upside down. It requires setting aside self-importance and adult status, and simply meeting the child as an equal. That, says Jesus, is what the disciples must 'practice'—because in so doing they will be welcoming not only him but also the Father who stands behind his entire life and mission.

Here is a profound revelation of God's love. Jesus' gesture of hugging the child in front of all shows more powerfully than words could express the preciousness to God of each and every human life, no matter how small, how insignificant. We are all—in our 'littleness' rather than our achievement—in this moment hugged by God.

*Fr Brendan Byrne sj*