



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.

## *6TH / 7TH OCTOBER - 27TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B*

Dear Parishioners, Visitors to our parish, and Friends

As a parish, a community and society, we commit ourselves to do our best to create an environment that protects, respects and empowers children who participate in our activities. The best way to achieve this is to create a culture around us that respects children. Children are vulnerable members of our society and community, and require special attention and protection.

To help us achieve this, Victorian state legislation was passed three years ago (November 2015) establishing seven standards to guide us as we move forward.

As is our duty, in our parish community we have been working to put these standards into practice. A child safety officer has been nominated in the person of Michelle Robertson, and a Child Safety committee has been formed to help us work through and firmly establish this culture of respect in our parish; together with Michelle Robertson, Moira Di Cesare and Silvana Micallef form the Child Safety committee.

The Child Safety committee has already held some workshops to train and prepare volunteers in our parish. We have now reached a point where we need to deal with Standard Six. This standard speaks about strategies to identify and remove risks to children.

In order to be able to continue offering ministry in the parish, each group that offers any type of service or ministry in our parish needs to sit down and formulate a risk assessment policy. This policy acts like a contingency plan to guide us when children are involved in our ministries.

Each group that meets in our parish needs to consider circumstances when children may be involved in the group's ministry. Even if children do not regularly form part of a particular group, the group needs to consider whether there are possibilities to include children in its activities. Another consideration needs to be about how to approach children if they become involved in some way with the group.

The group's risk assessment policy has to consider, in very practical terms, how the members of the group handle children during their group activities. These risk assessment policies will then be presented to the parish council for official ratification.

On Monday, 15th October and Monday, 29th October, the Child Safety committee will be holding two workshops with all the different groups in our parish to further discuss the requirements of Standard Seven of the Victorian State Child Safety legislation, and to help each group to discuss, work through and formulate the group's risk assessment policy.

I thank Michelle, Moira and Silvana for their commitment in this regard, and I also thank all parishioners who participate in the different ministries in our parish community. Your dedication and commitment helps to enrich the life of our parish.

May God continue to bless you all, and to also bless the children in our midst.

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.*

**ORGAN RECITAL:** at St Patrick's Cathedral on Tuesday 9th October from 7:00 to 8:15pm by Mr Rhys Boak, Director of Music at St Michael's Church, Collins Street, Melbourne. Entrance \$20, no concessions. Children under 15 free. Enquiries: Paul Taylor 9926 5753 / paul.taylor@cam.org.au

**CHRISTIAN MEDITATION AND HEALING RETREAT:** at Pallotti College, Millgrove, from Thursday 1st November 6:00pm to Sunday 4th November 3:00pm. Guest speaker: Frank Daniels, experienced in spiritual direction and Christian meditation. Cost: single \$345.00, couple \$600.00. Enquiries and registration forms: Chiara Pardini (0404 758 665) Registration Jan Thwaites (0407 507 313 / janthwaites@hotmail.com).

**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 Info: www.callofguadalupe.com.

**MERCY CONNECT MELBOURNE:** Mercy Works Ltd. is currently recruiting volunteers to support Refugee Students and Asylum Seekers in Primary and Secondary schools across the Melbourne Archdiocese. The commitment is approximately half a day per week for four school terms. Experience working in an educational setting is preferred but not limited to. Please contact Sr Mary Lewis RSM for application and further information at 9326 1895 / (preferred) somml@bigpond.com www.mercyworks.org.au

**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.

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

**RECENTLY MARRIED:** Joel Favaro with Belinda Twomey.

**THE SICK:** Marie Hankin, Joyce Quinn, Keith Ashworth, Jenny Ferriere, Francis Micallef, Noeline Zerna.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Filomena Farinotti, Gerald (Jim) Lanigan, Frank Pignataro, Joe Digioio.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Ilva Romanin, Karen Place.

*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>6 Oct/ 7 Oct</b>	<b>Sat 6:00pm</b>	<b>Sun 8:30am</b>	<b>Sun 10:30am</b>	<b>Sun 5:00pm</b>
1st Reader	Zen Zebrowski	Pietro Sciotto	Harsha Dilip	Mary Kotefski
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader	Moira Di Cesare	Claire Newsome	Jan McCaffrey	Mark Aiello
Communion	Marco Di Cesare	Leo Hernandez	Beena Dilip	Sally Tramontana
	Lorraine Mascarenhas	Pauline Griffiths	Doris Schembri	Johanna Nesbitt
	Maria Basilone	Jack Naden	Marni Mant	Jenny Hollaway
	Leela Cherubim	Chris Ratnayake	Nigel Mant	TBA
<b>13 Oct/ 14 Oct</b>	<b>Sat 6:00pm</b>	<b>Sun 8:30am</b>	<b>Sun 10:30am</b>	<b>Sun 5:00pm</b>
1st Reader	Anita Metcalf	Jack Naden	Michelle Robertson	Margaret Andrews
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader	Brian Garrone	Peter Penson	Robyn Laurie	Matthew Sanders
Communion	Jeanette O'Sullivan	Teresa Lincoln	Tim Boyle	Margaret Hansen
	Adrian Daly	Fiona Curry	Yannick Jonas	Grace Nesbitt
	Emma Chang	Michelle Penson	Jan McCaffrey	Charito Cosio
	Donna Richardson	Peter O'Donoghue	Leonore Giliberto	Leo Cosio
Counters	<b>7 Oct:</b> Tim Booth, Nigel Mant, Shane Byrnes & <b>14 Oct:</b> Vincent Chung, Bill Barnes, Peter O'Donoghue.			
<b>Collection Weekly Average for September</b>				<b>Heidelcare Co-Ordinator</b>
Parish		Presbytery		October: Marilyn 9459 1950
Stewardship	\$4214.93	Stewardship	\$675.58	November: Joan 9459 3889
Loose	\$571.47	Loose	\$320.00	Morning Tea 7th Oct: Barbara & Liz
<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.				

**MORNING TEA & SAUSAGE SIZZLE:** After 10:30am Mass this Sunday 7th October. All welcome. A gold coin donation to cover expenses will be appreciated.

**THANK YOU LETTERS:** confirming pledges, for all parishioners contributing by direct debit, credit card or envelopes are available in the church porch. If you have not received a new set of envelopes or if your direct debit or credit card contributions are not being drawn, please contact the parish office at 9457 1066. Please note that the envelope numbers have changed. Kindly throw away any left over envelopes from past years. Please only use the new set of envelopes issued after 1st September. Parishioners who would like to start contributing using direct debit, credit card or envelopes please call the parish office on 9457 1066. Thank you for your generosity to our parish.

**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!

**GEMS, PARISHIONERS' FRIENDSHIP GROUP: TUESDAY 9TH OCTOBER,** Film outing—fully booked.

**TUESDAY 16TH OCTOBER:** 10.00am. Relax, chat, play and create. Visitors always welcome. We meet in the Francis Xavier meeting room at the rear of the parish house. Contact: Elizabeth 0447195553, Jan 0423478504.

**PRAYER FOR THE SYNOD:** As the Church celebrates the synod for young people, the faith and vocational discernment, let us keep our leaders in prayer.

**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](mailto: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.

**FAMILY SUNDAY:** This Sunday we celebrate Family Sunday. We thank God for all families who make up our parish community. We also join couples celebrating important milestones in their marriage. Let us also remember widows and widowers who have lost their life partners; we thank God for their gifts. This year we are reminded that family time together, especially at common meals, help build families. Please take a free copy of *Living Icons: Mothers, Fathers and the Gospel of the Family* from the porch in the church. We pray for our families:

*Heavenly Father, grant healing to all families in distress, especially those burdened with strained relationships. Draw close to all families who have experienced violence, upheaval, illness or division. May all who have been wounded find ready comfort and healing. Amen.*

**FIRST READING**

Genesis 2: 18-24.

The Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate.' So from the soil the Lord God fashioned all the wild beasts and all the birds of heaven. These he brought to the man to see what he would call them, each one was to bear the name the man would give it. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of heaven and all the wild beasts. But no helpmate suitable for man was found for him. So the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep. And while he slept, he took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh. The Lord God built the rib he had taken from the man into a woman, and brought her to the man. The man exclaimed: 'This at last is bone from my bones, and flesh from my flesh! This is to be called woman, for this was taken from man.' This is why a man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife, and they become one body.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Psalm 18:8 10. 12-14.

**R./ May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives**

O blessed are those who fear the Lord  
and walk in his ways!

By the labour of your hands you shall eat.  
You will be happy and prosper.

**R./**

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine  
in the heart of your house;  
your children like shoots of the olive,  
around your table.

**R./**

Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord.  
May the Lord bless you from Zion  
in a happy Jerusalem all the days of your life!  
May you see your children's children.  
On Israel, peace!

**R./****SECOND READING**

Hebrews 2:9-11.

We see in Jesus one who was for a short while made lower than the angels and is now crowned with glory and splendour because he submitted to death; by God's grace he had to experience death for all mankind. As it was his purpose to bring a great many of his sons into glory, it was appropriate that God, for whom everything exists and through whom everything exists, should make perfect, through suffering, the leader who would take them to their salvation. For the one who sanctifies, and the ones who are sanctified, are of the same stock; that is why he openly calls them brothers.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

If we love one another, God will live in us in perfect love.

Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Mark 10: 2-16.

Some Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, 'Is it against the law for a man to divorce his wife?' They were testing him. He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' 'Moses allowed us' they said 'to draw up a writ of dismissal and so to divorce.' Then Jesus said to them, 'It was because you were so unteachable that he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.' Back in the house the disciples questioned him again about this, and he said to them, 'The man who divorces his wife and marries another is guilty of adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another she is guilty of adultery too.'

People were bringing little children to him, for him to touch them. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' Then he put his arms round them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.

**FIDELITY AND GRACE**

Jesus challenges the Pharisees' reliance upon the Law of Moses to 'permit' divorce. The law does not 'permit' divorce. It recognises it as a reality of human life and seeks (Deut 24:1-4) to limit its harsh consequences for women.

But this provision, introduced because of human 'hardness of heart,' yields before the Creator's original design for marriage, now being reclaimed by Jesus. He draws on the biblical account of creation (Gen 2:18-24, as in the First Reading) to call to mind the sense of companionship and mutual knowledge intended to surround sexual union in marriage. Marital love-making should be the physical expression of life-long intimacy and commitment.

Jesus then rules out divorce and remarriage. Yet this ruling is given in the context of an expectation, shared by the early community, that the world as presented constituted was soon to pass away (cf. Mark 9:1; 13:5-36; 1 Cor 7:29-35) and where life expectancy was less than half that prevailing in Western societies today. These considerations must clearly be taken into account when Jesus' ruling on divorce is applied to later situations, something already beginning in the New Testament (Matt 5:32; 19:9; 1 Cor 7:10-16) and continuing in the canonical practice of the Church.

Congregations now contain many people in second marriages. Today's Gospel must be proclaimed and heard with sensitivity to the fact that, in the course of life, people make mistakes, relationships fail, and new ones are forged. Without surrendering the values of Jesus, the key thing is that people find in all their life journey the grace of a loving God.

Fr Brendan Byrne sj