



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.

## 3RD / 4TH NOVEMBER - 31ST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

### PRAYING THE PSALMS IN OUR SUNDAY LITURGY

Dear Parishioners, Visitors to our parish and Friends,

Each Sunday, as part of our celebration of the Mass, we are given three readings and a psalm or canticle to reflect upon. The first reading is taken from the Old Testament—the Hebrew Bible (in the Sundays after Easter we read from the book of the Acts of the Apostles), the second reading is taken from the books of the New Testament, while the gospel reading is taken from one of the four gospels.

In each of these three readings we listen to God speaking to us; the reader who proclaims the reading allows God word to be carried on his voice. Without the voice of the reader, the word of God cannot be proclaimed and heard. At the end of each reading we are invited to respond and accept the message just proclaimed. When the reader declares: the word / gospel of the Lord, with one voice we respond: thanks be to God / praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Apart from this dialogue between God and us, there is also the responsorial psalm and the gospel acclamation where we are invited to voice our own prayerful response. Often the reader proclaiming the psalm reads the verses of the psalm while the congregation repeats a response. In a monastic tradition the psalm is read 'in choir.' The monastics sit on two sides of the altar and each side alternates as they recite the psalm. This way of reciting the psalm means that we are more involved as we have to read the whole verse and not just the response. From next Sunday, we will be reciting the psalms in this monastic style at our Sunday Masses. The psalm will be presented like this:

**All together:** I love you Lord, my strength.

#### Left Side Reads:

I love you, Lord, my strength,  
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.  
My God is the rock where I take refuge;  
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.

#### Right Side Reads:

The Lord is worthy of all praise:  
when I call I am saved from my foes.  
Long life to the Lord, my rock!  
Praised be to the God that saves me.  
He has given great victories to his king  
and shown love for his anointed.

**All Together:** I love you Lord, my strength.



Plenary Council 2020

Listen to what the Spirit is saying...

**PRAYER:** Come, Holy Spirit of Pentecost. Come, Holy Spirit of the great South Land. O God, bless and unite all your people in Australia and guide us on the pilgrim way of the Plenary Council. Give us the grace to see your face in one another and to recognise Jesus, our companion on the road. Give us the courage to tell our stories and to speak boldly of your truth. Give us ears to listen humbly to each other and a discerning heart to hear what you are saying. Lead your Church into a hope-filled future, that we may live the joy of the Gospel. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, bread for the journey from age to age. Amen.  
Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us.  
St Mary MacKillop, pray for us.

This alternative style of prayer will help us experience a new way of praying the psalms.  
Fr Mario

**PARISH PRIEST:** Fr Mario Zammit  
**PARISH SECRETARY:** Mary Peeris  
**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL CHAIR:**  
Christopher Ratnayake  
**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.*

**AS PART MY MINISTRY IN THE PARISH,** I am happy to offer the following services: Visit families to pray / spend time with them; Offer home Masses; Visit the sick and homebound; Bless homes; Listen to stories that need to be told; Offer sacraments of Anointing of the Sick and Reconciliation; and any other ministry. Kindly contact the parish office for an appointment. Fr Mario.

**ST JOHN'S MOVIE NIGHT – UNDER THE STARS:** A BBQ and movie is being organised for young people in our parish on Saturday 24th November at 7:00pm, after the 6:00pm Mass. Our young parishioners are invited for a fun night in the parish house garden. Entrance from the yard at the rear of the parish house. RSVP necessary by Wednesday 21st November on: stjohnsyouth@hotmail.com

**WE PRAY FOR:** the Year 12 students who are sitting their VCE exams. As a parish faith community we journey with you in prayer. May God be with you!

**ST JOHN'S WALKING GROUP:** A new group has been formed in our parish for those who would like to meet and go for a walk together. Anyone is welcome to join. More details will be given. Please contact Jan on 0423478504.

**TAKING PART IN THE 2020 PLENARY COUNCIL:** some focus groups have already been organised to share their opinion and send their messages for the Plenary Council. Any parishioners who would like to participate. Please contact the parish office and more groups will be organised. Thank you.

**SOUTHERN STARS SOCIAL CLUB:** are organising an over 28's party night for single Catholics in 28 to 60 age group, on Saturday 17th November starting at 8:00pm at Benedict House, St Benedict's Parish, 301 Warrigal Road, Burwood. (Melways Map 61 H6). Cost \$13.00, includes door prizes and supper. Enquiries Peter (9885 2167).

**THE EYRIE PARISH MAGAZINE:** is a tool in our community where parishioners can communicate and share opinions and ideas. Articles in the parish magazine are not about faith, catechism or theology, but about our experience as parish. We invite parishioners to take up this opportunity and write about subjects that interest them or respond to articles that have appeared in past issues. Please also share photos from the past with a note describing what is being depicted in the photo.

*Q: So what if I don't know what Armageddon means?*

*A: It's not the end of the world....*

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

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

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Kevin White, Paul Sullivan.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Annelise Peyton, Goeff Waters.

*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.*

3 Nov / 4 Nov	<b>Sat 6:00pm</b>	<b>Sun 8:30am</b>	<b>Sun 10:30am</b>	<b>Sun 5:00pm</b>
1st Reader	Moira Di Cesare	Ronnie Maloney	Elizabeth Williamson	Rosemary Vecchies
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader	Anita Metcalf	Pietro Sciotto	Harsha Dilip	Mary Kotefski
Communion	Marco Di Cesare	Leo Hernandez	Beena Dilip	Sally Tramontana
	Lorraine Mascarenhas	Jack Naden	Nigel Mant	Jenny Hollaway
	Jan Mc Caffrey	Alice Wong	Marni Mant	Charito Cosio
	Jeanette O'Sullivan	Fiona Curry	Yannick Jonas	Leo Cosio
10 Nov / 11 Nov	<b>Sat 6:00pm</b>	<b>Sun 8:30am</b>	<b>Sun 10:30am</b>	<b>Sun 5:00pm</b>
1st Reader	Michael Leonard	Claire Newsome	Robyn Laurie	Mark Aiello
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader	Pamela Smith	Jack Naden	Bob Dowling	Candida Rowlands
Communion	Maria Basilone	Chris Ratnayake	Doris Schembri	Margaret Hansen
	Adrian Daly	Michelle Penson	Tim Boyle	Tony Rowlands
	Emma Chang	Teresa Lincoln	Leonore Giliberto	Matthew Sanders
	TBA	Peter O'Donoghue	Geraldine Manuel	Olivia Sanders
Counters	<b>4 Nov:</b> Garry Sproules, Janice McGrath, Giuseppe Amoroso & <b>11 Nov:</b> Des O'Brien, Shane Byrnes.			
<b>Collection Weekly Average for September</b>				<b>Heidelcare Co-Ordinator</b>
Parish		Presbytery		November: Joan 9459 3889
Stewardship	\$4206.18	Stewardship	\$681.83	December: Elaine 9459 6721
Loose	\$571.47	Loose	\$320.00	Morning Tea, 4th Nov : Kate & Marguerite
<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:** Will be held this Sunday 4th November after the 10:30am Mass. Parishioners and visitors are welcome to join and help build community. A gold coin donation to cover expenses of the sausage sizzle is appreciated.

**REMEMBERING OUR DEPARTED SISTERS AND BROTHERS:** this weekend we remember our loved ones who have died. At all our Masses we will have the opportunity of lighting a taper in their memory. We also remember parishioners who have died and priests and religious who have ministered in our midst.

**THIS WEEKEND:** I have been invited to visit Horsley Park, in NSW, the parish where I ministered for twelve years before coming to Heidelberg. This year, the parish of Horsley Park, dedicated to Our Lady of Victories, is celebrating twenty-five years from the opening of their 'new' church and have invited all priests that have ministered in their parish return and celebrate this event with them. It will be a nice time for me as I catch up with families I have left behind. I will be away from Friday to Monday. Fr Ted and Fr Wayne will celebrate our weekend Masses at St John's, and there will be a communion service on Monday morning. Thank you. Fr Mario.

**THE VIEWS, 2 – 6 LOWER PLENTY ROAD, HEIDELBERG:** is a new nursing home that has recently opened in our parish (at the corner of Lower Plenty Road and Waiora Road). The pastoral care person at this nursing home has requested us to visit the elderly and provide them with a weekly Communion Service on a Thursday morning. Any parishioners who would like to participate in this ministry please contact the parish office on heidelberg@cam.org.au or 94571066. Appropriate training will be provided. Thank you.

**NOVEMBER MASSES:** envelopes available in the porch of the church. Envelopes can be dropped off at the parish office, sacristy or in the Sunday collections. The names of our departed loved ones will be placed on the altar and remembered at all Masses. You may also wish to write the names of your loved ones in the register next to the baptism font.

**MELBOURNE CUP DAY GATHERING:** Tuesday 6th November. GEMS invite all parishioners to the Francis Xavier meeting room from 2:00pm. Finger food and bubbly provided. Watch the Melbourne Cup and enter a sweep and enjoy afternoon tea. Inquiries: Elizabeth (0447195553).

**GEMS OUTING:** to the Yarra Valley Chocolaterie and Ice Creamery on Tuesday 13th November. Group chocolate tasting, watch chocolatiers hand crafting chocolates, browse showroom and relax in the cafe with a light lunch. All welcome. Scenic views of the Yarra Valley. Bus leaves Yarra Str at 10:15am returning at 3:00pm. Cost \$5 per person (towards the bus); lunch and cuppa at own cost. Bookings essential Elizabeth (0447195553) / Jan (0423478504).

**THE EYRIE CHRISTMAS EDITION:** The editors are asking parishioners to share stories about how Christmas is celebrated in our families. These stories will be printed in the Christmas issue of the St John's EYRIE magazine. Different cultures have different ways of celebrating this important festivity. Please email: heidelberg.eyrie@cam.org.au

**FRIST HOLY COMMUNION IN OUR PARISH:** Saturday, 10th November, as a parish we celebrate the First Communion of a number of our younger parishioners at 11:00am at the OLMC Naleijerring Centre. Thank you to all who were involved in preparing these children. Parishioners are welcome to join. Let us keep these children and their families in our prayers.

**FIRST READING**

Deuteronomy 6: 2-6.

Moses said to the people: 'If you fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and if you keep all his laws and commandments which I lay on you, you will have a long life, you and your son and your grandson. Listen then, Israel, keep and observe what will make you prosper and give you great increase, as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you, giving you a land where milk and honey flow.

'Listen, Israel: The Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let these words I urge on you today be written on your heart.'

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Psalm 17:2-4. 47.51

R./ I love you Lord, my strength.

I love you, Lord, my strength,  
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.  
My God is the rock where I take refuge;  
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.  
The Lord is worthy of all praise:  
when I call I am saved from my foes.

Long life to the Lord, my rock!  
Praised be to the God that saves me.  
He has given great victories to his king  
and shown love for his anointed.

**SECOND READING**

Hebrews 7:23-28.

There used to be a great number of priests under the former covenant, because death put an end to each one of them; but this one, Christ, because he remains for ever, can never lose his priesthood. It follows, then, that his power to save is utterly certain, since he is living for ever to intercede for all who come to God through him.

To suit us, the ideal high priest would have to be holy, innocent and uncontaminated, beyond the influence of sinners, and raised up above the heavens; one who would not need to offer sacrifices every day, as the other high priests do for their own sins and then for those of the people, because he has done this once and for all by offering himself. The Law appoints high priests who are men subject to weakness; but the promise on oath, which came after the Law, appointed the Son who is made perfect for ever.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them.

Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Mark 12: 28-34.

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord you God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him any more.

**TWIN COMMANDMENT OF LOVE**

Scribes are usually hostile figures in the gospels but the scribe who questions Jesus seems to be a genuine enquirer. His question—which commandment of the Torah is the 'first?'—was an item of discussion in the Jewish world of Jesus' time.

Jesus first gives a conventional response, quoting the commandment recited by Jews each day in the Shema prayer (Deut 6:5).

He then goes further, laying alongside the 'first' commandment a 'second' taken from Lev 19:18: 'to love one's neighbour as oneself.' The combination seems to have been something distinctive of Jesus—though Jewish parallels are not lacking from a later period.

Loving one's neighbour 'as oneself' may not seem all that demanding. One only has to put the neighbour's interests on an equal level with one's own, implying by the same token a healthy valuing of oneself.

But on closer inspection it is really asking an act of the imagination in high degree. It requires asking myself: 'What do I really want from another person?—understanding, tolerance, respect, loyalty, compassion?'—then to ensure that all my actions in regard to that person enact, rather than contradict, such qualities.

There is an attractive moment of mutual affirmation at the end. The Jewish legal expert acknowledges that Jesus' teaching conforms to the claim of Israel's prophets that the rituals of sacrifice, such as those practiced in the Temple, are worthless unless accompanied by justice and love. This renders the scribe 'not far from the kingdom of God' in the sense that the onset of the kingdom is rendering such rituals obsolete through the twin commandment of love.

Fr Brendan Byrne sj