



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.

10TH / 11TH NOVEMBER - 32ND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

Dear Parishioners, Visitors to our parish and Friends,

With you I am a disciple of Christ

For you, I am priest!

Last weekend I was invited to visit the parish where I ministered for thirteen years (1999—2012). The parish of Our Lady of Victories, Horsley Park, NSW is this year celebrating the silver jubilee of the opening of its new church, and priests who have ministered in the parish were invited to celebrate with the community.

The anniversary was a good excuse for Fr Jude and me to return to Horsley Park where we received a very heart-warming welcome. It was nice catching up with families and friends we had ministered with. Unfortunately some have returned home to the Father, and this was a good moment to share our sympathies with their relatives. Others were sick and we prayed over them as we shared friendship. Parishioners who we knew as children and youth are now grown up, married and with children of their own. Hugs and kisses were traded in large amounts!

As part of my ministry I am often invited to bless houses, but what I actually bless are the families that turn the buildings into homes. Celebrating the jubilee of a church building has the same meaning; the building comes to life when the Church, the Body of Christ and the People of God gathers in it. The motto of the Horsley Park parish is aptly: Celebrating Community! Church and Eucharist is about who we are and who we become, a community of faith in Christ.

One family we visited is journeying with a very sick husband, making it impossible for them to participate in the weekly Eucharist. They shared with us how, many members of the community, have been looking after them and ministering to them through visits and prayers and by providing them with cooked meals. I could not resist reflecting how this was Church in everyday life. The Eucharist we participate in, is meant to give us the energy to live and reach out the good news with other members of the community. Last Sunday's gospel message was very appropriate: the first commandment is to love God, and the second is just as important, to love our neighbour. The way we love and minister to our neighbour is a very good indicator of how strong is our faith and our love of God.

It is good to be back to my new home, family and friends here at St John's, and also a gentle reminder for me to continue living out the Eucharist we share, and living in community.

Fr Mario



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.

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.*

TAKING PART IN THE 2020 PLENARY COUNCIL: The agenda for the Plenary Council is being prepared by a process in which everyone can and is urged to comment on what you think the council needs to address. You can do this either by going directly to <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources.have-your-say/> or by taking part in the survey organised by St Kevin's parish, Templestowe on <http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6MQ8TDV> and respond to the questions: A) What does the Church look like now? B) What is Christ calling us to make our Church today? C) What do we, as Church, need to be to move from A to B? D) What does the Church need to do to reach out to our own world? The responses will be gathered and submitted to the council.

MEET LUKE, HIS GOSPEL AND HIS JESUS: With Advent we start the year of Luke. Learn more about this gospel on Monday 26th November, 3rd and 10th December from 7:30pm to 9:00pm at St Mary's church, Greensborough. Donations welcome. Information: Sandra (9434 7553). This course is offered by the Catholic School of Evangelisation.

FOR SALE: 11 piece Royal Doulton Nativity set in pristine condition & in original packaging; price \$200. Call Maureen on 0412 652674.

SOUTHERN STARS SOCIAL CLUB: are organising an over 28's party night for single Catholics between 28 and 60, Saturday 17th November from 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).

ORGAN RECITAL BY CALVIN BOWMAN: at St Patrick's Cathedral, Wednesday 14th November, 7:00pm to 8:30pm. Works by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750). Tickets \$20 (no concessions), children under 15, free. Book: <https://www.trybooking.com/ZESS> or at the door. Enquiries: music@cam.org.au / 9926 5753, Wednesday to Sunday.

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 share photos from the past with a note describing what is being depicted in the photo.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

RECENTLY BAPTISED: Grace Stavrou, Mia Salemm, Ruby Blanch, Alessio Pesce.

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

ANNIVERSARIES: Francis Murphy.

*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.*

10 Nov / 11 Nov	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Michael Leonard	Claire Newsome	Robyn Laurie	Mark Aiello
2 nd 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
17 Nov / 18 Nov	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Zen Zebrowski	Garry Sproules	Robyn Laurie	Matthew Sanders
2 nd Reader	Brian Garrone	Marguerite Ryan	Grace Lew-Kee	Catie Nesbitt
Communion	Leela Cherubim	Alice Wong	Sue Lew-Kee	Sally Tramontana
	Donna Richardson	Pauline Griffiths	Yannick Jonas	Jenny Hollaway
	Lorraine Mascarenhas	Val Wallis	Doris Schembri	Charito Cosio
	TBA	Stanly Devasia	TBA	Leo Cosio
Counters	11 Nov: Des O'Brien, Shane Byrnes & 18 Nov: Graeme Foote, Michael Tilley.			
Collection Weekly Average for October				Heidelcare Co-Ordinator
Parish		Presbytery		November: Joan 9459 3889
Stewardship	\$3085.28	Stewardship	\$723.08	December: Elaine 9459 6721
Loose	\$698.62	Loose	\$350.00	
Thank you for supporting St John's financially. Please advise if your credit card is lost/stolen or the expiry date has changed.				

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION IN OUR PARISH: This Saturday, 10th November, we celebrated the First Communion of children in our parish. Let us continue to keep these children and their families in our prayers.

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

ST JOHN'S MOVIE NIGHT – UNDER THE STARS: A BBQ and movie is being organised for young people (10 to 15 year old) in our parish on Saturday 24th November at 7:00pm, following 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: stjohneyouth@hotmail.com

MASS OF REMEMBRANCE: Friday 7th December at 7:30pm. As a parish community we gather to celebrate a Remembrance Mass for the family members and friends of parishioners who have died during the past year. Parishioners please contact parish office (94571066 / heidelberg@cam.org.au) to include the names of loved ones on our parish list. All are invited to participate. Please come early before mass and write down your name and the name of the person/s you have come to remember. We invite you to bring a photograph of your loved ones. There will be a light supper after Mass. *Grief and Loss Team*.

ST JOHN'S WALKING GROUP: Monday 12th November meeting at 10:00am at the rear of the parish house, car pool to the Heidi Museum of Modern Art and walk around the sculpture park, finishing off with coffee and a chat at the Heidi Café. All welcome to join on these enjoyable explorations. Information: Jan (0423 478 504).

AUSTIN MASS: next Sunday 18th November. Volunteers please meet at 8:30am for 9:30am Mass. Parishioners are invited to participate in this Mass.

GEMS AND FRIENDS: outing: to the Yarra Valley Chocolaterie and Ice Creamery, Tuesday 13th November. **FEW PLACES LEFT ON THE BUS.** 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 Street at 10:15am returning at 3:00pm. Cost (bus) \$5 per person; lunch and cuppa at own cost. Bookings essential by Monday morning, 12th November: Elizabeth (0447195553).

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.

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

2018 RERUM NOVARUM ORATION: Widening the Door of Hope—A Response to the Victorian Assisted Dying Legislation. Tuesday 20th November, 7.30pm at the Mercy Theatre ACU 115 Victoria Parade Fitzroy (via Young Street). Orators: Assoc. Prof. Natasha Michael and Dr Stephen Parnis. RSVP / Inquiries: by Monday 12th November justice@cam.org.au or 9926 5727

FIRST READING

1 Kings 17: 10 - 16.

Elijah the Prophet went off to Sidon. And when he reached the city gate, there was a widow gathering sticks; addressing her he said, 'Please bring a little water in a vessel for me to drink.' She was setting off to bring it when he called after her. 'Please' he said, 'bring me a scrap of bread in your hand.' 'As the Lord your God lives', she replied, 'I have no baked bread, but only a handful of meal in a jar and a little oil in a jug; I am just gathering a stick or two to go and prepare this for myself and my son to eat, and then we shall die.' But Elijah said to her, 'Do not be afraid, go and do as you have said; but first make a little scone of it for me and bring it to me, and then make some for yourself and for your son. For thus the Lord speaks, the God of Israel:

"'Jar of meal shall not be spent, jug of oil shall not be emptied, before the day when the Lord sends rain on the face of the earth.'"

The woman went and did as Elijah told her and they ate the food, she, himself and her son. The jar of meal was not spent nor the jug of oil emptied, just as the Lord had foretold through Elijah.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 145: 7-10.

TOGETHER: Praise the Lord, my soul!**LEFT SIDE (AMBO SIDE)**

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

RIGHT SIDE (PRIEST'S SIDE)

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

LEFT SIDE (AMBO SIDE)

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.

TOGETHER: Praise the Lord, my soul!**SECOND READING**

Hebrews 9:24-26.

It is not as though Christ had entered a man-made sanctuary which was only modelled on the real one; but it was heaven itself, so that he could appear in the actual presence of God on our behalf. And he does not have to offer himself again and again, like the high priest going into the sanctuary year after year with the blood that is not his own, or else he would have had to suffer over and over again since the world began. Instead of that, he has made his appearance once and for all, now at the end of the last age, to do away with sin by sacrificing himself. Since men only die once, and after that comes judgement, so Christ, too, offers himself only once to take the faults of many on himself, and when he appears a second time, it will not be to

deal with sin but to reward with salvation those who are waiting for him.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Happy the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mark 12: 38-44.

In his teaching Jesus said, 'Beware of the scribes who like to walk about in long robes, to be greeted obsequiously in the market squares, to take the front seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at banquets; these are the men who swallow the property of widows, while making a show of lengthy prayers. The more severe will be the sentence they receive.'

He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the treasury, and many of the rich put in a great deal. A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny. Then he called to his disciples and said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, this poor widow has put more in than all who have contributed to the treasury; for they have all put in money they had over, but she from the little she had has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on.'

TRUST OR EXPLOITATION?

Jesus' comment upon the action of the widow in today's Gospel can be understood in two ways. We can see him pointing to the widow's action as an extreme example of generosity and trust in God. It is not the amount contributed that counts before God but the trust and self-giving it represents. While some give just what they have left over after making good allowance for their comfort, the widow gives everything. She becomes an example of faith to admire and possibly to emulate, according to our circumstance and calling.

The alternative is to see Jesus *deploring* rather than commending what is happening here. In the preceding scene Jesus has denounced the scribes for taking the places of honour at banquets (where they will be well fed), while 'swallowing the property of widows.' In the scene immediately following he foretells the destruction of the temple to whose treasury the widow has contributed. This wider context suggests that Jesus interprets the widow's act as an instance where religious law, as interpreted by the scribes, induces 'little ones,' such as her, to contribute to the treasury far more than they can afford. The scene then becomes a warning against the way in which religion, falsely interpreted and promoted, can oppress rather than liberate the poor and vulnerable, for whose cause and whose life Christ shed his blood on the cross.

We do not necessarily have to choose between these two interpretations; both are valid and valuable. We can admire the widow's generosity and faith while remaining critical of the abuse of religion that drove her to it.

Fr Brendan Byrne sj