



# 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.

## *9TH / 10TH MARCH—1ST SUNDAY IN LENT, YEAR C*

*Dear Parishioners, Visitors and Friends*

*In the gospel according to Matthew we come across the episode where Jesus asks his disciples: 'who do people say I am?' The disciples tell him what they had heard from others about him. Then he asks them a second, more basic question: 'and who do You say I am?' Simon responds in the name of the whole group: 'you are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God!' Jesus praises him for this response since it was a clear indication of the Spirit of God working in him; he then calls him Peter, meaning rock, and said that on this rock Jesus will build his community (see Matthew 16:13-20).*

*Simon Peter is henceforth referred to as a rock because of the faith he had expressed in Jesus. He declared that he believed that Jesus was the Son of God, the Messiah promised in the Old Testament, and this faith in Jesus will become the bedrock of the new community that will grow around Jesus.*

*This is an important event for each one of us. Regardless of what everyone else says about Jesus, I need to make my own decision and I have to make my own statement of faith.*

*When a new tree is planted its most important job is to dig deep looking for water and strengthening its roots. It is only when the tree is able to survive and grow big, depending on its own roots, that it can form part of a forest. In order to exist, a forest depends on the strong roots of each single tree.*

*The community of faith is similar to the forest. Each of us need to be able to strengthen our faith in Jesus the Messiah of God. My faith is not a faith in a person, even if that person is a very holy one, my faith is only in the God of Jesus Christ, a God who is love and who has called me to enter into a deep faith-filled relationship with him.*

*Jesus told his disciples that 'where two or three are gathered in his name, he is there in their midst' (Matthew 18:20). Jesus was not after creating a large organisation, but a strong community of faith. He was content with the two or three who really believed in him and came together to support each other.*

*As human beings we are attracted by numbers, we are constantly counting numbers and taking polls to see how many support our ideas or policies. In the People of God it does not work the same way, we are not in for a popularity fair or a contest, but a witness to the faith in God.*

*In a strong storm, a tree's instinct is to push its roots deeper into the ground so that it can hold strong against the winds and is able to stand up straight and proud. In times when we are shaken by storms and our faith is questioned, we are also invited to dig in deeper into our faith. The basis of who we are is what 'I' believe, not what others believe. Can I stand up with Simon Peter and declare that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God?*

*The season of Lent that we have just started is a good moment for each of us to re-visit our faith in the Christ who was crucified and died for us to pass on to his resurrection. We too, as Body of Christ, have moments when we need to suffer and die in order to get to our resurrection.*

*... 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

**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  
**FIRST RECONCILIATION,**  
**FIRST COMMUNION, CONFIRMATION:**  
Parish Secretary (9457 1066)

**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.*

**INVEST IN YOUR BEST ASSETT - MARRIAGE!** Forget life's tensions and interruptions and rekindle the closeness, intimacy, love and romance that brought you together. Recharge your relationship batteries and explore the precious nature of your marriage, allowing you both to share your feelings, hopes and dreams with each other in ways that normal, daily living tends to inhibit. No group sharing is involved; couples and a priest present the weekend. It is based around Catholic values but couples of all faiths are welcome. 2019 Melbourne weekend dates: 29-31 March, 31 May-2 June, 23-25 August, and 15-17 November. Starting from Friday 7:00pm to Sunday 5:00pm. Accommodation and are meals provided. For further information and to book contact: Mercy and James (0409183676), vicbookings@wwme.org.au, Website:www.wwme.org.au

**SPIRITUAL DIRECTION:** Have you been wondering about seeing a spiritual director or enquiring about what spiritual direction is? We welcome your enquiry and would be happy to meet with you to introduce you to spiritual direction and how it can support you. To find out more contact enquiries@kardia.com.au.

**ST JOHN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL REUNION:** on Saturday 16th March from 7:30pm at Cellini's Lounge and Bar, 191 Burgundy Str, Heidelberg. All past students, partners and parents welcome; please come and join the fun. Bring your dancing shoes! Nibblies supplied; drinks at bar prices.

**ANNUAL CANTERBURY ROADER'S LUNCH:** Thursday 11th April at Marcellin College, 11:30am for Mass in the chapel, 12:30pm for a college tour/ drinks on the balcony and 1:00pm seated for lunch in the functions room. Bookings now open for Marcellin Old Collegians. \$60 per person includes a two-course lunch and drinks. Bookings at [www.trybooking.com/474287](http://www.trybooking.com/474287) or call the Marcellin Foundation Office on 9851 1464.

**WHAT'S GOOD ABOUT GOOD FRIDAY?:** The Passion in John's gospel, a discussion by Dr Mary Coloe pbvm. Saturday 16th March at St Pius X Church Hall, 431 Waterdale Road, Heidelberg West, from 2:00 to 3:30pm. Bring your bible! Light refreshments provided. RSVP: tracey.doublet@marists.org.au / 9389 3175, by Wednesday 13th March. Entrance free!

## **PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

**RECENTLY MARRIED:** Michael Sullivan and Caitlin Walsh.

**RECENTLY BAPTISED:** Alfred Le Lacheur.

**THE SICK:** Jenny Ferriere, Cliff Jones, Elizabeth Larkin, Cederick (Ced) Legg, Francis Micallef, Joyce Quinn, Michael Ryan, Cheryl Stern, Paul Sullivan, Frank Walton, Noeline Zerna.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Geetha Jossy, Paul Sullivan, Anthony Rochford, Mary Byrnes.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Joan Senior.

*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.*

9 Mar / 10 Mar	<b>Sat 6:00pm</b>	<b>Sun 8:30am</b>	<b>Sun 10:30am</b>	<b>Sun 5:00pm</b>
1st Reader	Michael Leonard	Jack Naden	Robyn Laurie	Sharon D'Souza
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader	Leela Cherubim	Garry Sproules	Adele Boyle	Candida Rowlands
Communion	Jeanette O'Sullivan	Pauline Griffiths	Vin Sier	Jenny Hollaway
	Domenica Ashworth	Fiona Curry	Liz Sier	Charito Cosio
	Emma Chang	Leo Hernandez	Tim Boyle	Leo Cosio
	TBA	Margaret Bradley	Yannick Jonas	Tony Rowlands
16 Mar / 17 Mar	<b>Sat 6:00pm</b>	<b>Sun 8:30am</b>	<b>Sun 10:30am</b>	<b>Sun 5:00pm</b>
1st Reader	Brian Garrone	Marguerite Ryan	Bob Dowling	Matthew Sanders
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader	Anita Metcalf	Michael Leonard	TBA	Mark Aiello
Communion	Lorraine Mascarenhas	Val Wallis	Mary Furlan	Sally Tramontana
	Sue Lew-Kee	Ronnie Maloney	Brian McIntosh	Des O'Brien
	Maria Basilone	Jerzy Kmita	Elizabeth Williamson	TBA
	TBA	Oliver Kmita	Doris Schembri	TBA
Counters	<b>10 Mar:</b> Vincent Chung, Bill Barnes, Peter O'Donoghue & <b>17 Mar:</b> Stephen Devenish, Nicole Pelizzaro, Thomas Bechelli.			
<b>Collection Weekly Average for February</b>			<b>Heidelcare Co-Ordinator</b>	
Parish		Presbytery		March: Joan 0490 254 928
Stewardship	\$3,324.98	Stewardship	\$581.54	April: Rosemary 0490 254 928
Loose	\$584.77	Loose	\$312.50	
<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.				

**AUSTIN MASS:** next Sunday 17th March. Volunteers please meet at 8:30am for 9:30am Mass at the chapel. Parishioners are invited to participate in this Mass to minister to the sick by their presence.

**SAVE THE DATE:** Parish Mission, from Monday 20th May to Wednesday 22nd May. A morning session at St Pius X, Heidelberg West (9:30am) and a repeat evening session at St Clement's, Buleen (7:30pm) are provided. The mission is a joint venture by the Heidelberg, Heidelberg West, Ivanhoe, Bulleen and Rosanna parishes. Fr Richard Lenard, a Jesuit priest, will be leading the parish mission. All welcome.

**MASSES WITH THE SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK:** Thursday 28th March we invite parishioners, especially the sick and the elderly, for Mass with the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick at the 9:15am, followed by morning tea at Francis Xavier meeting room in the parish house, hosted by the Year 6 students, and at 11:30am, followed by light lunch. Parishioners in need of transport please contact the office as soon as possible.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY:** we require leaders and assistants to be able to organise our children's liturgy during the Sunday 10:30am Mass. All leaders and assistants need a current Working With Children Check. Please contact Jan McCaffery on 0423 478 504

**OBERRAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY AND ALPINE TOUR IN 2020:** Organised by Meridian Travel of 159 Burgundy Street, Heidelberg. Information night on Thursday 28th March at 6:30pm. RSVP: 9458 1555 / sales@meridiantravel.com.au. Seats are limited!

**GIFTS DIFFERING—OUR GRACED SELVES:** praying, communicating. A Myers Briggs reflection day. 23 March, at Heart of Life Spirituality Centre, Box Hill. Bookings: 9890 1101 / holsc@bigpond.com

**PRAYING THE GOSPELS:** During the season of Lent you are invited to join us as we reflect and pray the Sunday gospels. Every Monday at 7:00pm at the parish house. All welcome to join.

**PROJECT COMPASSION:** If we walk in hope, we have joy in our hearts. Let us be lights of hope. (Pope Francis). Please take home a box or a set of envelopes and support Caritas this Lenten season themed 'Give Lent 100%: Lives change when we all give 100%.' You are empowering communities with hope and helping those in great need to shape a better future for themselves, their families and their communities. Donate through boxes / envelopes / 1800 024 413 / www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion. Let us help those who are poorer than us this Lent!

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** each Friday in Lent, at 7:30pm. We pray the traditional prayer of the Way of the Cross, in preparation for the celebration of the Lord's passion and death.

**ST JOHN'S WALKING GROUP, WALKING OUR TRAILS:** next Monday, 11th March, even though it is a public holiday we will still be walking leaving from outside the Parish House at 10am to explore the Yarra Flats. You are very welcome to join us. Contact Jan on 0423 478 504.

**GEMS 50+ (AND FRIENDS):** Tuesday 12th March at 10:00am. 'Beyond the Gardens.' A volunteer guide from the Botanic Gardens Victoria is visiting to take us on a virtual journey down the garden's paths. At the Francis Xavier meeting room at the rear of the parish house. Transport available. All welcome. Enquiries: Elizabeth (0447195553).

**ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PLAYGROUP:** runs during school terms every Monday from 9:15am to 11:00am. For information contact coordinator Rachelle Hitch: 0431 810 771 / rachelle.hitch@hotmail.com

**FIRST READING**

Deuteronomy 26:4-10

Moses said to the people: 'The priest shall take the panner from your hand and lay it before the altar of the Lord your God. Then, in the sight of the Lord your God, you must make this pronouncement:

"My father was a wandering Aramaean. He went down into Egypt to find refuge there, few in numbers; but there he became a nation, great, mighty, and strong. The Egyptians ill-treated us, they gave us no peace and inflicted harsh slavery on us. But we called on the Lord, the God of our fathers. The Lord heard our voice and saw our misery, our toil and our oppression; and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with mighty hand and outstretched arm, with great terror, and with signs and wonders. He brought us here and gave us this land, a land where milk and honey flow. Here then I bring the first-fruits of the produce of the soil that you, Lord, have given me." You must then lay them before the Lord your God, and bow down in the sight of the Lord your God.'

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Psalm 90:1-2. 10-15.

**TOGETHER:** Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

**LEFT SIDE (AMBO SIDE)**

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High and abides in the shade of the Almighty says to the Lord: 'My refuge, my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!'

**RIGHT SIDE (PRIEST'S SIDE)**

Upon you no evil shall fall,  
no plague approach where you dwell.  
For you has he commanded his angels,  
to keep you in all your ways.

**LEFT SIDE (AMBO SIDE)**

They shall bear you upon their hands  
lest you strike your foot against a stone.  
On the lion and the viper you will tread  
and trample the young lion and the dragon

**RIGHT SIDE (PRIEST'S SIDE)**

His love he set on me, so I will rescue him;  
protect him for he knows my name.  
When he calls I shall answer: 'I am with you.'  
I will save him in distress and give him glory.

**TOGETHER:** Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

**SECOND READING**

Romans 10:8-13

Scripture says: The word, that is the faith we proclaim, is very near to you, it is on your lips and in your heart. If your lips confess that Jesus is Lord and if you believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, then you will be saved. By believing from the heart you are made righteous; by confessing with your lips you are saved. When scripture says: those who believe in him will have no cause for shame, it makes no distinction between Jew and Greek: all belong to the same Lord who is rich enough, however many ask for his help, for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!  
No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

**GOSPEL**

Luke 4:1-13

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit through the wilderness, being tempted there by the devil for forty days. During that time he ate nothing and at the end he was hungry. Then the devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to turn into a loaf.' But Jesus replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone.'

Then leading him to a height, the devil showed him in a moment of time all the kingdoms of the world and said to him, 'I will give you all this power and the glory of these kingdoms, for it has been committed to me and I give it to anyone I choose. Worship me, then, and it shall all be yours.' But Jesus answered him, 'Scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.'

Then he led him to Jerusalem and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God', he said to him 'throw yourself down from here, for scripture says: He will put his angels in charge of you to guard you, and again: They will hold you up on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.' But Jesus answered him, 'It has been said: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Having exhausted all these ways of tempting him, the devil left him, to return at the appointed time.

**TEMPTATION UNDER THE GUISE OF GOOD**

Lent is a time when we are invited to enter with Jesus into the desert. We go there to share both his conflict and his victory, to feel something of our own weakness and temptations, to increase our capacity to make good decisions (discernment).

The three temptations put to Jesus are subtle. Like all temptations to which good people are vulnerable, they come under the guise of good. Playing upon his status as Messiah and Son of God, the devil makes suggestions that are, in their own way, appropriate.

Jesus is hungry. Just this once let him use his miraculous powers for himself rather than for others. That will strengthen him for his mission.

What about a shortcut to world power? That would save a lot of trouble and suffering. Just a small price. Worship the devil not God.

Get your messianic career off to a flying start with a leap from the Temple. If you're the Messiah angels will see that you come to no harm and it will make a great impression.

Conscious of the true direction of his mission, Jesus dismisses each suggestion instantly. He cannot redeem the world by using the world's own techniques, manipulated by the devil. Son of God though he is, he will tread the ordinary path of human life, entering fully into the pain and evil of the world to transform it from within by the power of divine love. Only this way can he fulfil the Father's will to reclaim it for true humanity.

Fr Brendan Byrne sj