



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.

16TH / 17TH MARCH—2ND SUNDAY IN LENT, YEAR C

Dear Parishioners, Visitors and Friends

COMMISSIONED TO SERVE!

On a recent discussion programme on TV, reference was made to the priest as being 'ontologically different' from the other members of the Church. What does this really mean?

At our baptism and confirmation we receive the 'seal of the Holy Spirit;' we are branded for God. Animals and slaves are branded to indicate ownership. When the red hot branding iron with the symbol of the master is pressed against the flesh, it burns an indelible mark. Through baptism and confirmation we are marked with a spiritual sign to show that we are children of God, sisters and brothers of Jesus. This Christian branding does not make us special, but puts on us Christian heavier duties and responsibilities. Those who belong to Christ need to live the life of Christ and witness to the good news to all the world.

When Christians grow older, they can participate in the sacraments of service: marriage and orders. Through these sacraments Christians commit themselves to a life of service. (It is unfortunate that the Church has never developed sacraments for Christians who are neither married nor ordained but who still offer their life in faithful service to the body of Christ.)

Through the sacrament of marriage, the husband and wife bind themselves to each other until death, offering their life in service to their children and to the community they live in. Similarly the deacon, the priest and the bishop are ordained to be of service to the people of God. The Church teaches that the sacrament of orders carries with it another type of branding, but this seal does not make the person special. The sacrament of orders places upon those who receive it the duty of being of service to all, imitating Jesus who said that the first will be last, and the last will be first, and that he came not to be served but to serve and to give up his life for all!

The sacrament of orders does not make the person any more holy than the other sacraments do. Those who receive it are still weak and sinful human beings like the rest of humanity. The distinction is in the service they are asked to render to the people of God. It is very wrong to place those who receive the sacrament of orders on a special pedestal, it is akin to creating idols of mere human beings!

Deacons, priests and bishops are often seen as ministering in the name of God, making them look special in the eyes of some members of the community. This makes their duties more onerous and their mistakes (sins) more serious. If police officers, whose duty is to keep law and order, are caught causing trouble in the community, we feel angry that they have abused their office and therefore their offence carries a heavier penalty. So also with those who are ordained, as they carry a bigger responsibility in front of the people of God, each time they abuse their position, they are committing a much greater offence than the rest.

Deacons, priests and bishops have a greater duty to give witness and to be good news to the people of God; not doing so is a grave abuse of the sacrament and seal they have received.

... 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 ASSET -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

'GIFTS DIFFERING' – OUR GRACED SELVES, PRAYING, COMMUNICATING: A Myers Briggs reflection day. Attendees can complete the personality type Indicator form on that day. Facilitated by Peter Malone msc, the seminar runs from 10:00am to 4:00pm on 23rd March, at Heart of Life Spirituality Centre, Box Hill. Cost \$60. (BYO Lunch) Bookings: 9890 1101 / holsc@bigpond.com

SPARC Worship Night: at St Peter and Paul's Parish (23 Leeds Street, Doncaster East) on Saturday 30th March from 7:15pm! Open to all and free to attend.

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 or call the Marcellin Foundation Office on 9851 1464.

OBERAMMERGAU 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!

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

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

RECENTLY BAPTISED: Zac Grech, Luka Petkovic, Giorgia Gutterson.

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: Joseph & Elizabeth Dickenson.

RECENTLY DECEASED: James Peter Leahy.

*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.*

16 Mar / 17 Mar	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Brian Garrone	Marguerite Ryan	Bob Dowling	Matthew Sanders
2 nd 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
23 Mar / 24 Mar	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Sue Lew-Kee	Garry Sproules	Michael Leonard	Des O'Brien
2 nd Reader	Grace Lew-Kee	Pietro Sciotto	Joanne Martinez	Rosemary Vecchies
Communion	Leela Cherubim	Alice Wong	Vin Sier	Matthew Sanders
	Domenica Ashworth	Peter O'Donoghue	Liz Sier	Olivia Sanders
	Emma Chang	Jack Naden	Nigel Mant	Charito Cosio
	TBA	Stanly Devasia	Marni Mant	Leo Cosio
Counters	17 Mar: Stephen Devenish, Nicole Pelizzaro, Thomas Bechelli & 24 Mar: Des O'Brien, Peter Peyton, Percival Makin.			
Collection Weekly Average for February			Heidelcare Co-Ordinator	
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	
Thank you for supporting St John's financially. Please advise if your credit card is lost/stolen or the expiry date has changed.				

AUSTIN MASS: this 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, Bulleen (7:30pm) are provided. The mission is a joint venture by the Heidelberg, Heidelberg West, Ivanhoe, Bulleen and Rosanna parishes. Fr Richard Leonard, 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

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.

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.

PROJECT COMPASSION: Tati lives in the remote forest of Indonesia. She is a mother of three who was earning an income working in a local rubber plantation. Since taking part in eco-tourism training with Caritas Australia and its partners, Tati can now afford to send her children to school. With new hope and commitment Tati aspires to a future free from poverty for her family. Help lift communities in Indonesia out of poverty, and give them hope to protect our common home. Donate through boxes / envelopes / 1800 024 413 / www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion. Let us help those who are poorer than us this Lent!

ST JOHN'S WALKING GROUP: ON Monday, 18th March the walking group will be meeting outside the parish house at 10:00am to explore the Banyule Flats, a truly beautiful place to walk. When walking in such beautiful places we can truly be in awe of the wonders of our God. Our walk will be followed by coffee somewhere in Heidelberg. Please feel welcome to join us. (Jan 0423478504).

GEMS 50+ (AND FRIENDS): On Tuesday, 19th March, from 10:00am to 12:00noon. Join us for a games morning and a cuppa. Francis Xavier meeting room at the back of the parish house. For information: Elizabeth 0447195553 .

GEMS UPCOMING OUTING, FILM AND LUNCH: On Tuesday 26th March at 11:00am. Cost \$20 **'Sometimes, Never, Always'** is a heartfelt comedy drama about words and loss. It tells the story of family with an exceptional Scrabble vocabulary who cannot put their words to use and communicate with each other, and their journey to reconnect. Contact: Elizabeth (0447195553). Transport available. Bookings close Thursday 21st March.

FIRST READING

Genesis 15:5-12. 17-18

Taking Abram outside the Lord said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

'I am the Lord' he said to him 'who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldaeans to make you heir to this land.' 'My Lord, the Lord' Abram replied, 'how am I to know that I shall inherit it?' He said to him, 'Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off.

Now as the sun was setting Abram fell into a deep sleep, and terror seized him. When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a Covenant with Abram in these terms: 'To your descendants I give this land, from the wadi of Egypt to the Great River.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 26:1. 7-9. 13-14

TOGETHER: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

LEFT SIDE (AMBO SIDE)

The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life
before whom shall I shrink?

RIGHT SIDE (PRIEST'S SIDE)

O Lord, hear my voice when I call;
have mercy and answer.

Of you my heart has spoken:
'Seek his face.'

LEFT SIDE (AMBO SIDE)

It is your face, O Lord, that I seek,
hide not your face.

Dismiss not your servant in anger;
you have been my help.

RIGHT SIDE (PRIEST'S SIDE)

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.

Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord!

TOGETHER: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

SECOND READING

Philippians 3:17 – 4:1

My brothers, be united in following my rule of life. Take as your models everybody who is already doing this and study them as you used to study us. I have told you often, and I repeat it today with tears, there are many who are behaving as the enemies of the cross of Christ. They are destined to be lost. They make foods into their god and they are proudest of something they ought to think shameful; the things they think important are earthly things. For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies

of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe.

So then, my brothers and dear friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

Luke 9:28-36

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' – He did not know what he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him.' And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.

'THIS IS MY SON, LISTEN TO HIM!'

As Jesus sets out on the journey to Jerusalem, where he will suffer and die, the Transfiguration confirms the direction of his life and mission.

In Jewish thought of the time, the two prophetic figures, Moses and Elijah, were both expected to return in the messianic age. Hence Peter interprets the transfiguring of Jesus and the appearance alongside him of the two prophets, Moses and Elijah, as a sign that the time of messianic glory has arrived. His offer to make dwelling places for Jesus and the other two implies that all three are on the same level—an inadequate understanding sharply corrected when the voice (of God) from the cloud pronounces the true identity of Jesus: '... my Son, the Beloved,' according him a status far outstripping that of Moses or Elijah.

The divine voice goes on to add: 'Listen to him.' Listen, that is, to what he has been saying about the direction his ministry will take. Precisely *as* God's Son he will go up to Jerusalem and accomplish the 'exodus' that is his Father's will for him. The allusion is clearly to Jesus' death. It is called 'exodus' because, although it will be a monstrous miscarriage of justice on the part of human authorities, it will also be a *divine liberation* comparable with, and indeed fulfilling, the Exodus from Egypt of old.

For the remainder of Lent, we are invited to accompany Jesus on his journey to Jerusalem. This will be our essential preparation for a deep experience of the paschal mystery in Holy Week.

Fr Brendan Byrne sj