



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.

13TH / 14TH APRIL, Palm Sunday YEAR C

Dear Parishioners, Visitors and Friends

As a community of faith this week we re-live the most important moments in the life of Jesus Christ.

At Christmas we celebrate the moment when God becomes human like us, so that we could get to know, interact with and live the life of God. God becomes human so that humans could share in God's own life.

Jesus' life, standing for the truth, was not acceptable to the Jewish leaders who sought to eliminate him. Jesus understood that this had to happen. He could have chosen to soften his teaching or change his way of life, but he chose to stay the course!

In Gethsemane we see Jesus agonising over the passion and death ahead of him. He prays the Father that, if it were possible, he would not have to undergo this pain. Yet he chooses to stay and do the Father's will.

Crucified, he is challenged to set himself free and get down from the cross. Could he have done it? Most probably yes. He has called the dead back to life; could he have not come down from the cross? Yet he stays there till the end, and gives up the Spirit.

Why does he stay? Far from being a rhetorical question, this is a question in faith; a question you and I need to ask ourselves many times in our lives.

This year we celebrate Holy Week and Easter under a thick dark cloud. An earthquake has shaken the Body of Christ we belong to and now we can barely recognise the landscape. Many of us are grieving the loss of what we have known for so long. Others have chosen to pitch camp somewhere else. We are often challenged: why do you stay? Why do you still send your children to Catholic schools? Why do you still participate in the life of a faith community you no longer recognise?

Jesus stays because he believes in a loving Father who is always one with him. Even at his darkest hour, Jesus turns to his Father: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me! Jesus believes that death is not the final answer; new life in the resurrection is the answer!

For you and me, this year, as we celebrate Holy Week, we need to ask ourselves: 'Why do I stay?'

.... Mario

HOLY WEEK



RECONCILIATION:

Monday 15 April, 7:30pm.

HOLY THURSDAY:

18 April 7:30pm: Mass of the Lord's Supper and Washing of the Feet followed by Adoration in the parish hall. Evening Prayer at 10:00pm.

GOOD FRIDAY:

19 April, 10:30am: Stations of the Cross in the church and school grounds;
3:00pm: Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at the OLMC Nalleijerring Centre.

HOLY SATURDAY:

20 April 9:00am: Morning Prayer;
8:00pm: Easter Vigil.

EASTER SUNDAY:

21 April, Masses at 7:00am, 8:30am and 10:30am
(No Evening Mass on Easter Sunday).

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.*

MISSION IMMERSION TRIP 2020: Experience faith in action while working among the poor in Manila city and Bataan province in the Philippines, between 2nd and 19th January 2020. Applicants between the ages of 18 and 35 will be given first preference; applicants over 35 will be considered if there is availability. For details and to express interest email: mission2020@mssp.org.au or call: 0403843796. The trip is hosted by the Paulist Missionaries (MSSP).

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. Fr Richard Leonard, a Jesuit priest, will be leading the parish mission. This parish mission is being organised by the parishes of Heidelberg, Heidelberg West, Ivanhoe, Bulleen and Rosanna. All welcome.

ANZAC DAY: celebration on Thursday 25th April during the 9:15am Mass, followed by morning tea at the Francis Xavier meeting room in the parish house. All welcome to join.

RCIA: anyone interested to participate in this programme please contact the parish office.

PARISH COMMUNITY DINNER: on Saturday 27th April from 7:30pm onwards. Meeting at Four Leaves Café, 37 Greville Road, Rosanna. All welcome to join. Please email parish office on Heidelberg@cam.org.au or 94571066 to book. Everyone pays their own way.

STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES: The next instalment is ready to be picked up from the porch of the church. The envelopes are in alphabetical order. Thank you for your generosity. Your continued contributions help the parish meet all its financial commitments.

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION: group meets in the multi faith chapel, Austin Towers, Level 2 at the Austin Hospital every Tuesday from 12:30 to 1:00pm. Meditation is a universal spiritual custom and a practice that we find at the core of all the great religious traditions, including the Christian tradition where it is known as contemplative prayer. The half hour period includes a short reflection and 20 minutes of silent meditation seeking God in the silence and stillness beyond word and thought leading from the mind to the heart. This is followed by a time for questions. For further information please contact Trudy 0416 187 849.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

THE SICK: Cliff Jones, Cederick (Ced) Legg, Francis Micallef, Paul Sullivan.

ANNIVERSARIES: Satkunam Chelvanayagam, Colin Anthony, Edgar Tate-Loverly, Peter Kazysik, Marjorie Wilson.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Nazha Shamieh.

*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.*

13 Apr / 14 Apr	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Leela Cherubim	Marguerite Ryan	Elizabeth Williamson	Mathew Sanders
2 nd Reader	Peter Penson	Michael Leonard	Adele Boyle	Candida Rowlands
Narrator	Domenica Ashworth	Jack Naden	Robyn Laurie	Des O'Brien
Other Voices	Brian Garrone	Claire Newsome	Bob Dowling	Margaret Andrews
Communion	Emma Chang	Jerzy Kmita	Geraldine Manuel	Tony Rowlands
	Lorraine Mascarenhas	Oliver Kmita	Ann Domaingue	Jenny Hollaway
	Michelle Penson	Jack Naden	Tim Boyle	Charito Cosio
	TBA	Stanly Devasia	Yannick Jonas	Leo Cosio
20 Apr / 21 Apr	Easter Vigil	Sun 7:00am	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am
1st Reader	Various Readers	Ronnie Maloney	Jan Mc Caffrey	Elizabeth Williamson
2 nd Reader	Various Readers	-	Claire Newsome	Robyn Laurie
Communion	Michelle Penson	Sally Tramontana	Val Wallis	Yannick Jonas
	Leo Cosio	-	-	Alice Wong
	Charito Cosio	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Counters	14 Apr: Tim Booth, Nigel Mant, Shane Byrnes & 21 Apr: Vincent Chung, Bill Barnes, Peter O'Donoghue.			
Collection Weekly Average for March			Heidelcare Co-Ordinator	
Parish		Presbytery		April: Rosemary 0490 254 928
Stewardship	\$2,991.85	Stewardship	\$593.32	May : Jenny 0490 254 928
Loose	\$554.04	Loose	\$295.00	
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: next Sunday 21st April. Volunteers please meet at 8:30am for 9:30am Mass. Parishioners are also invited to participate in this Mass to minister to the sick by their presence.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (2ND RITE OF RECONCILIATION): Monday 15th April we gather at 7:30pm for the celebration of the sacrament of Reconciliation. We start together with a gospel reading and a reflection, followed by individual confession. This will be the last opportunity for Reconciliation before Easter.

REHEARSAL FOR ALL TAKING PART IN THE THREE DAYS OF EASTER: Wednesday 17th April, 7:00pm Holy Thursday; 7:30pm Good Friday; 8:00pm Easter Vigil. It is very important that all taking part are present for these rehearsals. Thank you.

PLEASE NOTE: No adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesday night 17th April.

COLLECTIONS FOR THE THREE DAYS OF EASTER: The collection on Holy Thursday is for St Vincent de Paul Conference and the collections on Good Friday are for the Catholics in the Holy Land and for the parish expenses. Thank you.

EASTER OFFERING ENVELOPES: are available in the pews. Money from the Easter Offering (together with the collections to priest support) goes to support priests in our parish, sick and retired priests, priests in poorer parishes and the ministry of the archbishop. Thank you for your generosity.

PROJECT COMPASSION: Contributions for Caritas Australia can be placed in the basket on the church organ in the front of the church. Thank you.

PROJECT COMPASSION: Living with a disability was challenging for Nguyet. Since featuring in Project Compassion 2017 Nguyet has successfully built her own business, a dream that has become a reality with the support of Caritas Australia. Nguyet has become independent, an important member of her community and has great hope for her future. Please donate to give children living with disabilities in Vietnam the opportunity for an education and inclusion in their community. Donate through boxes / envelopes / 1800 024 413 / www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion.

HEIDELCARE ANNUAL ECUMENICAL SERVICE: on Tuesday 30th April, 7:30pm, at St Martin's Catholic Church Rosanna. Guest speaker Marion Power, President of St Vincent de Paul Society Rosanna/Macleod Conference will be speaking about 'The work of the St Vincent de Paul Society.' Followed by supper. All welcome to come for a cuppa and a chat.

ST JOHN'S WALKING GROUP: is taking some time off. We resume on Monday 29th April. Look out for 28th April newsletter for details. Contact Jan (042 347 8504).

GEMS 50+ (AND FRIENDS): there is **no** gathering on **Tuesday 16th April**. We resume on Tuesday 23rd April.

MEAL TRAIN: We are looking to start a 'meal train' to provide meals to families currently affected by a chronic illness or death. Presently we have two families with mothers suffering from breast cancer. If you can help please register on <https://mealtrain.com/gw08ke> or contact Jessica McKirkle (0428 086 375).

THE EYRIE: You can help us by advertising your business on The Eyrie parish magazine. Two spots available. Contact Michelle (049 989 1101) or the parish office (9457 1066).

FIRST READING

Isaiah 50:4-7

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. or my part, I made no resistance, either did I turn away. offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 21:8-9. 17-20. 23-24

TOGETHER: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

LEFT SIDE

All who see me deride me.
They curl their lips, they toss their heads.
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;
let him release him if this is his friend.'

RIGHT SIDE

Many dogs have surrounded me,
a band of the wicked beset me.
They tear holes in my hands and my feet.
I can count every one of my bones

LEFT SIDE

They divide my clothing among them.
They cast lots for my robe.
O Lord, do not leave me alone,
my strength, make haste to help me!

RIGHT SIDE

I will tell of your name to my brethren
and praise you where they are assembled.
'You who fear the Lord give him praise;
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.
Revere him, Israel's sons.'

TOGETHER: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

SECOND READING

Philippians 2:6-11

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
Christ became obedient for us even to death dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

GOSPEL

Luke 23: 26-49

As they were leading him away they seized on a man, Simon from Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and made him shoulder the cross and carry it behind Jesus. Large numbers of people followed him, and of women too, who mourned and lamented for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep rather for yourselves and for your children. For the days will surely come when people will say, "Happy are those who are barren, the wombs that have never borne, the breasts that have never suckled!" Then they will begin to say to the mountains, "Fall on us!"; to the hills, "Cover us!" For if men use the green wood like this, what will happen when it is dry?' Now with him they were also leading out two other criminals to be executed.

When they reached the place called The Skull, they crucified him there and the two criminals also, one on the right, the other on the left. Jesus said, 'Father forgive them; they do not know what they are doing.' Then they cast lots to share out his clothing.

The people stayed there watching him. As for the leaders, they jeered at him. 'He saved others,' they said 'let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.' The soldiers mocked him too and when they approached to offer him vinegar they said, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.' Above him there was an inscription 'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals hanging there abused him. 'Are you not the Christ?' he said. 'Save yourself and us as well.' But the other spoke up and rebuked him. 'Have you no fear of God at all?' he said. 'You got the same sentence as he did, but in our case we deserved it; we are paying for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus,' he said 'remember me when you come into your kingdom.' 'Indeed, I promise you,' he replied 'today you will be with me in paradise.'

It was now about the sixth hour and, with the sun eclipsed, a darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. The veil of the Temple was torn right down the middle; and when Jesus had cried out in a loud voice, he said, 'Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.' With these words he breathed his last.

When the centurion saw what had taken place, he gave praise to God and said, 'This was a great and good man.' And when all the people who had gathered for the spectacle saw what had happened, they went home beating their breasts. All his friends stood at a distance; so also did the women who had accompanied him from Galilee, and they saw all this happen.