



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.

27TH / 28TH APRIL, 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER, YR C

Dear Parishioners, Visitors and Friends

In the gospel today we read that on the evening of the day of the resurrection, the first day of the week, Jesus visited his disciples locked in a room, scared of the people outside. Later on we are informed that 'eight days later' Jesus visited them again.

In this passage the author of the gospel points out two important pieces of information. Firstly, the importance of the Sunday, the day of the resurrection, for the early Christian community. The decision to move away from the observance of the Sabbath to celebrating the day of the resurrection, is a very early one.

Secondly, John mentions the eighth day, which in gospel computation is the following Sunday. Reference to the eighth day was very important for early Christians. The first creation story tells us that God created the universe in six days, and rested on the seventh day. The disciples now speak about an eighth day, marking a new creation! The eighth day, like the first day, is the day of new life, the day of the resurrection!

Through their baptism, Christians become people of the eighth day, forming part of the new creation brought about by the resurrection of the Christ. This understanding of the eighth day shows itself especially in Christian architecture. Many baptism fonts and baptisteries are built with eight sides, a visible image of this new reality we are born into. Unfortunately this link between baptism and the resurrection has been lost in some church buildings, but it is often being recovered in newer churches.

While in the Old Testament, the first covenant, God asked his people dedicate the seventh day to him, in the New Testament, the new covenant in Christ's passion and death, the day of the resurrection becomes the more important day and is celebrated as the day of the Lord.

For us Christians this is a clear reminder that we participate in the new creation brought about by this new life in Christ.

.... Mario

THANKSGIVING MASS: on Sunday 26th May as a parish we thank all volunteers who have in any way offered ministry to our parish community. We acknowledge the work of readers, ministers of Communion, altar servers, choirs and musicians, church cleaners, those who prepare flowers, sacristans, Austin volunteers, money collectors and counters, parish council and finance committee members, Vinnies, Heidelcare and many, many more who regularly and generously give of their time and talent. We will offer prayers at all weekend Masses, while the 10:30am Mass will be a Mass of thanksgiving followed by a sausage sizzle at the parish hall. A special blessing will be offered for our volunteers. For catering purposes kindly put down name and number on sheet in church porch or contact the parish office 9457 1066 / heidelberg@cam.org.au

MISSION IMMERSION TRIP 2020: Experience faith in action while working among the poor in Manila city and in Bataan province in the Philippines. The immersion trip leaves on 2nd January and returns on 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 speak to Fr Mario. In the Philippines the group will be hosted by the Paulist Missionaries (MSSP) whose work is supported by St John's parish.

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

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.*

SPECIAL HOLY WEEK COLLECTIONS:

St Vincent De Paul Conference collection held on Holy Thursday raised \$541.20; the Good Friday Holy Land appeal raised \$454.65 and for the parish \$862.15. Thank you for your generosity.

MASS FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS:

The Life, Marriage & Family Office warmly invites expectant mothers and their families to the Mass for Expectant Mothers to be celebrated by Archbishop Peter at St Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday 2nd June at 11:00am. Register online at: www.cam.org.au/lifemarriagefamily or contact 9287 5587 or lmf@cam.org.au. Registrations close on Friday 24th May. Expectant mothers who register will receive a small token of recognition.

COMING HOME CONCERT:

Fr Rob Galea and his band of professional musicians will be giving a full-production 'Coming Home' concert in Melbourne in July. Catholic music as you have not heard before in a quality and uplifting presentation of Christian music with outstanding lighting, visual and sound production. Fr Rob's music brings a positive message in a modern style appealing to all ages. More information at www.frgministry.com/tickets.

St John's Walking Group:

'On Monday 29th April St John's Walking Group will leave from outside the parish house at 10:00am for our first walk for Term 2. We will car pool for a short drive to Rosanna, walk through the Rosanna Parklands to Macleod, have coffee, then walk back to Rosanna. If you are 50+ please join us. Contact Jan on 0423 478 504.

GEMS 50+ (AND FRIENDS):

The next GEMS gathering will be Tuesday 30th April 30th at 10:00am in the Francis Xavier meeting room. All welcome to join us for a games and morning tea morning. Transport available. Elizabeth (0447195553).

HEIDELCARE ANNUAL ECUMENICAL

SERVICE: this Tuesday 30th April, 7:30pm, at St Martin's Catholic Church Rosanna. The guest speaker is Marion Power, President of St Vincent de Paul Society Rosanna/Macleod Conference, speaking about 'The work of the St Vincent de Paul Society.' Service is followed by supper. All welcome to come for a cuppa and a chat.

THE EYRIE:

You can assist us by advertising your business on The Eyrie, our parish magazine. To spots are currently available. Please contact Michelle on 049 989 1101 or the parish office on 9457 1066 or heidelberg@cam.org.au.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

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

ANNIVERSARIES: Eileen & Allan Sproules, Roy McKenna.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Vilma Medica.

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.*

27 Apr / 28 Apr	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Pamela Smith	Pietro Sciotto	Joanne Martinez	Sharon D'Souza
2 nd Reader	Zen Zebrowski	Marguerite Ryan	Michelle Robertson	Matthew Sanders
Communion	Maria Basilone	Peter O'Donoghue	Nigel Mant	Mark Aiello
	Leela Cherubim	Christopher Ratnayake	Marni Mant	Sally Tramontana
	TBA	Pauline Griffiths	Brian McIntosh	Sue Lew-Kee
	TBA	Fiona Curry	Doris Schembri	TBA
4 May / 5 May	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Brian Garrone	Jack Naden	Michelle Robertson	Des O'Brien
2 nd Reader	Moira Di Cesare	Pietro Sciotto	Joanne Martinez	Catie Nesbitt
Communion	Jeanette O'Sullivan	Margaret Bradley	Mary Furlan	Claire Aboueid
	Marco Di Cesare	Val Wallis	Elizabeth Williamson	Matthew Sanders
	Leela Cherubim	Jerzy Kmita	Yannick Jonas	Olivia Sanders
	Maria Basilone	Oliver Kmita	Ann Domaingue	Jenny Hollaway
Counters	28 Apr: Stephen Devenish, Nicole Pelizzaro, Thomas Bechelli & 5 May:			
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.				

GOLD COIN COLLECTION: This weekend at all Masses. The March collection was \$523.45. Thank you for your generosity.

Morning Tea & Sausage Sizzle: After 10:30am Mass next Sunday 7th April. All welcome. Gold coin donation to cover expenses of sausage sizzle, appreciated.

Parish Mass Count: During the month of May we will be having our annual Mass count. This is normally carried out during the offertory. Thank you.

HOLY WATER: you can collect newly blessed Holy Water from the Baptism Font. Holy water bottles (\$5 each) are available from the sacristy. A prayer of blessing is also available in the porch.

PROJECT COMPASSION: Please place your boxes and envelopes with your contributions for Caritas Australia in the basket on the church organ in the front of the church. Thank you for your generosity.

ANNUAL PARISH RAFFLE: A 120 Litre bar fridge full of drinks to the value of \$300. Bar fridge is padlocked and 170 keys are sold for \$10.00 each. The holder of the key that unlocks the padlock wins the bar fridge! Please buy your keys after weekend Masses. Try your luck with the padlock at the parish lunch on 23rd June. Proceeds go towards the planned church renovations.

BIRTH OF A CHILD, MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES: As a parish family we are invited to thank God, acknowledge and pray for parishioners celebrating milestone birthdays, anniversaries or the birth of a child. Kindly inform the parish office of these occasions.

SERVE THE SERVERS: Our next Serve the Servers night, where we celebrate with our young altar servers and readers, will be held on 25th May after the 6:00pm Mass. Young servers are invited to bring a friend with them. This is our way of thanking these young members of the parish for their commitment. RSVP: stjohnsyouth@hotmail.com

UP COMING EVENTS:

BIGGEST Morning Tea: Tuesday 21st May between 10:00am and 12:00noon in the Parish Hall. \$5 entry on the day, door prizes and games. Monies raised donated to cancer research. We possibly all know someone touched by cancer. Maybe you can get a group of friends together so as a caring community we are able to make a significant donation to Cancer Research. Bookings: Elizabeth (0447195553), add your name to the list in church foyer or contact the parish office.

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. All welcome. Morning sessions start with Mass.

JOSE DE PIRO KABATAAN ORCHESTRA 2019 TOUR OF MELBOURNE AND REGIONAL VICTORIA: A talented youth orchestra from Bataan, Philippines started by Fr Joe Cremona will perform a series of concerts at Our Lady of Mercy College Performing Arts Centre, Heidelberg: Saturday 15th June. No cost to attend but donations to assist the orchestra to continue to develop appreciated.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: can help children better understand the Sunday gospel and how it applies to their lives. On this Sunday 28th April Children's Liturgy will commence for 2019 during 10:30am Mass. Each Children's Liturgy session will be held in the school library and will last for 10 - 15 minutes. Children in Grades 2 to 6 are welcome to participate. If you would like any further information please contact Jan (0423 478 504).

TWO PARISH LUNCHES: at Four Leaves Café, on Sunday 23rd June and Sunday 30th June at 12:30pm. Look out for more details.

FIRST READING

Acts of the Apostles 5:12-16

The numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily. The faithful all used to meet by common consent in the Portico of Solomon. No one else ever dared to join them, but the people were loud in their praise and the numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily. So many signs and wonders were worked among the people at the hands of the apostles that the sick were even taken out into the streets and laid on beds and sleeping-mats in the hope that at least the shadow of Peter might fall across some of them as he went past. People even came crowding in from the towns round about Jerusalem, bringing with them their sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all of them were cured.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 117:2-4. 22-27.

TOGETHER: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

LEFT SIDE

Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.'

Let the sons of Aaron say: 'His love has no end.'

Let those who fear the Lord say: 'His love has no end.'

RIGHT SIDE

The stone which the builders rejected

has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.

This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.

LEFT SIDE

O Lord, grant us salvation; O Lord grant success.

Blessed in the name of the Lord is he who comes.

We bless you from the house of the Lord;

the true God is our light

TOGETHER: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

SECOND READING

Apocalypse 1:9-13,17-19

I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever. My name is John, and through our union in Jesus I am your brother and share your sufferings, your kingdom, and all you endure. I was on the island of Patmos for having preached God's word and witnessed for Jesus; it was the Lord's day and the Spirit possessed me, and I heard a voice behind me, shouting like a trumpet, 'Write down all that you see in a book.' I turned round to see who had spoken to me, and when I turned I saw seven golden lamp-stands and, surrounded by them, a figure like a Son of man, dressed in a long robe tied at the waist with a golden girdle. When I saw him, I fell in a dead faint at his feet, but he touched me with his right hand and said, 'Do not be afraid; it is I, the First and the Last; I am the Living One. I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and of the underworld. Now write down all that you see of present happenings and things that are still to come.'

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

After eight days Jesus came in and stood among them. In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.' Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

ENCOUNTERING OUR RISEN LORD

Thomas is one of the most clearly defined characters in the gospels. Born loser, realist, pessimist, he has missed out on the Easter night appearance of Jesus. He would not believe that Jesus has been raised simply on the other disciples' claim 'We have seen the Lord.' He insists on seeing, touching, hearing for himself.

Eight days later, with divine 'courtesy,' Jesus is prepared to meet Thomas' conditions exactly. But, at the sight of his risen Lord, Thomas abandons them. He, the late-comer, the obtuse one, goes on to make the most exalted act of faith contained in the gospel: 'My Lord and my God!' It is Thomas, the hesitant, the doubter, who brings out the full identity of Jesus.

Jesus adds a comment that brings us into the picture too: 'Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.' Thomas has believed because, like the other disciples present in the room, he has now seen the risen Lord. Succeeding generations of believers will not have the privilege of seeing the risen Lord. We have to believe simply the testimony handed down in the Church. We are not at a disadvantage. We are in fact 'blessed' – because from us a faith greater than that of Thomas will be drawn. And the greater the faith, the more scope for the power of God to enter and transform our lives. The gospel imparts to those who believe all the knowledge necessary for a life-giving encounter with the Lord.

Fr Brendan Byrne sj