



ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PARISH
& PRIMARY SCHOOL

ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PARISH

52 Yarra Street

HEIDELBERG

We acknowledge the traditional 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.

St John's parish is a child-friendly community and we gratefully welcome young children and their families; we are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults in our midst.

27TH / 28TH JULY—17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YR C

Maintaining Our Parish Church Building

Dear Parishioners, Visitors and Friends,

The church in our parish is very old. It was designed by William Wardell, a famous English architect who had just arrived in Australia at the time of the gold rush. During his career he also designed a number of other churches and public buildings .

Established in 1851, St John's is one of the oldest six parishes in the Melbourne Archdiocese, itself created in 1847. (Victoria was cut off from New South Wales in 1851.) Our church was constructed in two parts: the front part, comprising of the sanctuary area and half the nave, was completed in 1861. We have photos of this first stage of the building in the parish house, and a plaque commemorating the blessing of this first stage sits by the southern entrance of the church. The second part of the building was completed in 1910, commemorated by a second plaque near the front door.

Over the years different renovations and maintenance projects have been carried out, the latest around thirty years ago. When I joined the parish in October 2013, one of the projects the parish council was looking at was the painting of the interior of the church. This project was put on hold as we soon realised that this needed to be part of a much bigger project.

Due to the size of our church, any major work requires us to remove all our pews to set up a scaffold. It is therefore more convenient to carry out all the necessary jobs as one project. The parish council and the finance committee are working towards a plan to remove the pews and send them to a factory to be fixed and re-stained. The state of the rafters and ceiling will then be examined and the trusses washed. Wiring and the lighting in the church will be checked and where necessary replaced; a new lighting system will be installed, giving us a greater variety of lighting options. The windows will be professionally washed, walls fixed and painted, and the carpet replaced. In some places the carpet is wearing out and it has started to lose its tension.

This is a big and necessary project for us to face. Very conservatively, we estimate the whole project to cost over \$800,000.00. To plan for these renovations, each year we are putting \$40,000 into a dedicated account. This is obviously not enough, but only a start. Parishioners can choose to add to this account by donating money directly towards this cause. Funds raised by the parish raffle will also be added this account. (Perhaps one may also wish to leave money to the parish in their will.)

After the renovations of the interior of the church, we also need to look at the exterior of the building. There are places where the sandstone has been painted over and other places where it has to be replaced as it is crumbling. The windows need be professionally cleaned and the mortar between the blue stone blocks restored. This, again, would be a costly project.

As a parish we have inherited a beautiful heritage church building, it is our duty to look after it and hand it down to those who come after us in as good a condition as possible.

Thank you

.... Mario

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Mario Zammit
PARISH SECRETARY: Mary Peeris
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
CHAIR: Christopher Ratnayake
CHILD SAFETY OFFICER:
Michelle Robertson (0409 533 100)
COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Domenica Ashworth
Adrian Daly
Moira Di Cesare
Bob Dowling
Mary Harty
Maureen Hegarty
PARISH PROGRAMME COORDINATORS:
Jan McCaffery (0423 478 504)
Elizabeth Williamson (0447195553)
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

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.*

PARISH COMMUNITY DINNER: Saturday 17th August from 7:00pm, meeting at Four Leaves Café in Rosanna. A relaxed evening of community and friendship. Order from the menu and pay your own way. All welcome. Please book through the parish office: 9457 1066. **Note change of date!**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN PARISH AGED CARE FACILITY: Catholics living at 'The Views,' (corner of Waiora Road and Lower Plenty Road) are visited weekly by members of the parish offering them friendship, prayerful support, and the Sacrament of Communion. Parishioners who would like to participate in this ministry, please contact the parish office. Training provided. Please contact Fr Mario or the parish office.

COLLECT PLASTIC BOTTLE TOPS: Big thanks; you have made a significant contribution to the 28,000 bottle tops being collected by Envision to make three sets of prosthetic hands. Please keep collecting. Place plastic bottle tops in the container in the church foyer. (Kindly wash bottle tops before donating.) To read more visit: <https://envision.org.au/>

2019 KNOX PUBLIC LECTURE: at Catholic Theological College on Wednesday 21st August at 7:30pm. Dr Trudy Dantis speaking about The Voices of Plenary Council. Bookings and Information: sarah.styring@ctc.edu.au or 9412 3366. RSVP Tuesday 13th August. Venue: Catholic Leadership Centre, Corner Victoria Parade & Hoddle Street, East Melbourne.

ST JOHN'S WALKING GROUP: Monday 29th July walking from Studley Park Boathouse to Dight's Falls returning to the Boathouse for coffee. Join us outside the parish house at 10:00am to explore this beautiful walk. Come along and enjoy our relaxing, chatty walks. Contact: Jan (0423 478 504).

GEMS 50+ (AND FRIENDS): Tuesday 30th July at 10:00am. 'Dementia Friends' Presented by 'Dementia Australia.' Increasing awareness and understanding of what it is like to live with Dementia, and to show support of Dementia in the community.

UPCOMING OUTING - MOVIE AND LUNCH: Tuesday 6th August at 11:00am. Film: Late Night. A pioneer and legendary host on the late-night talk-show circuit is accused of being a 'woman who hates women.' Molly is hired as the one woman in Katherine's all-male writers' room to spice things up. Palace Cinema Balwyn 231 Whitehorse Rd Balwyn. Cost \$20 for movie and lunch. Booking essential. Elizabeth (0447195553). Transport available.

BOOK SWAP: Looking for reflective, spiritual books to set up a book swap in the church foyer. Would love your help. Please contact Jan (0423 478 504). Thankyou.

KUMON HEIDELBERG: offering a free trial in August for your child to undertake maths or English classes. Contact: Maureen Hegarty (0423 877 736) to register your interest or find out about Kumon programme.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

THE SICK: Peter Crowley, Mary Palmer, Christopher Dabal, Peggy Preston, Lina Poon, Tom Suri, Jean Webb, Shannol Sarikamis, Eleanor Bowring.

ANNIVERSARIES: Peter Prince, Kit Froelich, Patricia Peyton.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Raymond Walsh, Gena Lipshutt.

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 July/28 July	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Domenica Ashworth	Garry Sproules	Bob Dowling	Mary Kotefski
2 nd Reader	Grace Lew-Kee	Ronnie Maloney	Elizabeth Williamson	Margaret Andrews
Communion	Sue Lew-Kee	Jack Naden	Ann Domaingue	Sally Tramontana
	Jeanette O'Sullivan	Alice Wong	Mary Furlan	Des O'Brien
	Emma Chang	Fiona Curry	Geraldine Manuel	Matthew Sanders
	Lorraine Mascarenhas	Pauline Griffiths	Brian McIntosh	Olivia Sanders
3 Aug/4 Aug	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Brian Garrone	Jack Naden	Claire Newsome	Catie Nesbitt
2 nd Reader	Michael Leonard	Pietro Sciotto	Joanne Martinez	Peter Penson
Communion	Leela Cherubim	Oliver Kmita	Yannick Jonas	Michelle Penson
	Domenica Ashworth	Karen Frost	Doris Schembri	Leo Cosio
	Jan Mc Caffrey	Leo Hernandez	Liz Sier	Charito Cosio
	Donna Richardson	Jerzy Kmita	Vin Sier	Jeny Hollaway
Counters	28 July: Graeme Foote, Michael Tilley & 4 August: Tim Booth, Nigel Mant, Shane Byrnes.			
Collection Weekly Average for June			Heidelcare Co-Ordinator	
Parish		Presbytery		August: Cath 0490 254 928
Stewardship	\$2,977.00	Stewardship	\$573.93	September: Marilyn 0490 254 928
Loose	\$744.30	Loose	\$357.50	Morning Tea, 4th Aug: Carmel & Heather
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 27th/28th at all Masses. The May collection was \$578.95, thank you for your generosity. Money raised will be donated to support the Jose De Piro Kabataan Orkestra that visited us a few weeks ago.

ST JOHN'S ANOINTING MASS: 1st August at 9:15am. A beautiful opportunity for those seeking healing in their lives, physical, emotional or spiritual. A chance to support each other and then join for morning tea in the Francis Xavier meeting room. All welcome. If you require transport contact Elizabeth (0447195553). For catering purposes add your name to the list at the back of the church.

MORNING TEA & SAUSAGE SIZZLE: Next Sunday 4th August after 10:30am Mass. Come and join us as we continue to share community over a small meal and a cup of tea. Gold coin donation to cover expenses of sausage sizzle, appreciated. All welcome.

SHOW, SELL AND SHARE: Next Sunday 4th August, in the parish hall after both morning Masses. Bringing together people who would like to show, maybe sell their handmade goods and share their skill to any who would like to have a go. Stalls include knitting, crocheting, scrapbooking demonstration, card making, painting, jewelry and printed cards. Children will be able to make their own jewelry or name banners. Come along and buy and/or have a try. Proceeds donated to the Jose De Piro Kabataan (youth) Orkestra. Contact Jan (0423478504).

PARISH RAFFLE: We will be attempting to unlock the fridge with the drinks next weekend 3rd and 4th August in the parish hall, after all Masses. The name of the winner will be published the following week. Thank you to the parishioners who donated the fridge and the drinks. The raffle made \$1,700 towards the proposed church renovations.

COMMUNION MINISTERS AND READERS ARE NEEDED: to participate in our weekend Masses; an important way to help our community in its time of prayer. A training workshop for New Communion Ministers will be held on Monday 5th August at 7:00pm. Thank you to all current Communion Ministers and Readers.

OUR LADY OF MERCY COLLEGE: Year 7 enrolments for 2021 close 23rd August 2019.

PILGRIMAGE TO AMBON: Together with another 23 people I am again going to the Indonesian island of Ambon in early September to visit sites and memorials dedicated to family members who died there as prisoners of war. Although not an underdeveloped island there are many needs in schools hospitals and orphanages. We take with us some items for boys (aged 11 to 18) at an orphanage. We can take second-hand shorts, shirts, underwear or footwear. We are also seeking donations of tooth brushes and tooth paste. Donations will be appreciated and put towards those in needy circumstances. Items may be left at the parish house or I will collect from you. Thank you. Des O'Brien (0438 796 986)

COMMUNION IN THE HOME: Do you know of someone who is no longer able to attend mass and would like to be visited and to receive communion at home. Please contact Elizabeth (0447195553) with details.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND: Invest in your marriage! Come and learn how to keep/rekindle the passion in your relationship and how to keep your love growing! Weekend is based around Catholic values but couples of all faiths are welcome. 23-25 August and 15-17 November. Starts Friday 7:00pm, ends Sunday 5:00pm. Accommodation and meals provided. Information/Bookings: Mercy & James (0409 183 676) or vicbookings@wwme.org.au. Web: wwme.org.au

FIRST READING

Genesis 18:20-32

The Lord said, 'How great an outcry there is against Sodom and Gomorrah! How grievous is their sin! I propose to go down and see whether or not they have done all that is alleged in the outcry against them that has come up to me. I am determined to know.'

The men left there and went to Sodom while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. Approaching him he said, 'Are you really going to destroy the just man with the sinner? Perhaps there are fifty just men in the town. Will you really overwhelm them, will you not spare the place for the fifty just men in it? Do not think of doing such a thing: to kill the just man with the sinner, treating just and sinner alike! Do not think of it! Will the judge of the whole earth not administer justice?' The Lord replied, 'If at Sodom I find fifty just men in the town, I will spare the whole place because of them.'

Abraham replied, 'I am bold indeed to speak like this to my Lord, I who am dust and ashes. But perhaps the fifty just men lack five: will you destroy the whole city for five?' 'No', he replied 'I will not destroy it if I find forty-five just men there.' Again Abraham said to him, 'Perhaps there will only be forty there.' 'I will not do it' he replied 'for the sake of the forty.'

Abraham said, 'I trust my Lord will not be angry, but give me leave to speak: perhaps there will only be thirty there.' 'I will not do it' he replied 'if I find thirty there.' He said, 'I am bold indeed to speak like this, but perhaps there will only be twenty there.' 'I will not destroy it' he replied 'for the sake of the twenty.' He said, 'I trust my Lord will not be angry if I speak once more: perhaps there will only be ten.' 'I will not destroy it' he replied 'for the sake of the ten.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 137:1-3.6-8.

TOGETHER: Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.

LEFT SIDE

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple.

RIGHT SIDE

I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul.

LEFT SIDE

The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.
Though I walk in the midst of affliction
you give me life and frustrate my foes.

RIGHT SIDE

You stretch out your hand and save me,
your hand will do all things for me.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands. (R.)

TOGETHER: Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.

SECOND READING

Colossians 2:12-14

You have been buried with Christ, when you were baptised; and by baptism, too, you have been raised up with him through your belief in the power of God who raised him from the dead. You were dead, because you were sinners and had not been circumcised: he has brought you to life with him, he has forgiven us all our sins.

He has overridden the Law, and cancelled every record of the debt that we had to pay; he has done away with it by nailing it to the cross.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! You have received the Spirit which makes us God's children, and in that Spirit we call God our Father. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 11:1-13

Once Jesus was in a certain place praying, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said, 'Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.' He said to them, 'Say this when you pray: "Father, may your name be held holy, your kingdom come; give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive each one who is in debt to us. And do not put us to the test."'

He also said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a friend and goes to him in the middle of the night to say, "My friend, lend me three loaves, because a friend of mine on his travels has just arrived at my house and I have nothing to offer him;" and the man answers from inside the house, "Do not bother me. The door is bolted now, and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up to give it to you." I tell you, if the man does not get up and give it him for friendship's sake, persistence will be enough to make him get up and give his friend all he wants.

'So I say to you: Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For the one who asks always receives; the one who searches always finds; the one who knocks will always have the door opened to him. What father among you would hand his son a stone when he asked for bread? Or hand him a snake instead of a fish? Or hand him a scorpion if he asked for an egg? If you then, who are evil, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!'

PRAYING WITHIN THE FAMILY OF GOD

While short and stark compared to the *Our Father* more familiar to us in St Matthew's version, the Lukan form in today's gospel probably preserves more accurately Jesus actual words to his disciples.

Behind the opening word 'Father' lies Jesus' characteristic address to God as '*Abba*,' the familiar Aramaic address to the male parent, most accurately rendered as 'Dad.' The prayer begins, then, by drawing the disciples into the familial relationship with God that he enjoys.

The sequence of the petitions that follows is itself an instruction on prayer. God's agenda' comes first: that God's name be held holy, that God's kingdom come. Only after this Godward focus (which, of course, is ultimately for the benefit of the world) do the petitions address human need: for sustenance ('daily bread'), for forgiveness, and finally for protection in the hour of trial.

In the petition for forgiveness, the sense is not that God waits to see whether we forgive before offering forgiveness. Rather, we can block the flow of God's always available forgiveness if we do not let it flow through us by forgiving others.

The final petition does not imply that God would *lead* us into temptation and trial. Rather, we pray that in trials and troubles our faith may not give way.

As a whole, the prayer is the prayer of a community that knows itself to be the loved family of God, to whom, on its journey through life, it constantly turns in confidence and trust to receive those benefits that only God can give.

Fr Brendan Byrne sj