



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.

24TH / 25TH AUGUST—21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YR C

Dear Parishioners, Visitors and Friends,

If you permit me, today I will share with you about the way the parish collections work. It is good to write about this from time to time, it gives us the opportunity to thank each other for the way we support the works of our parish community and also to continue doing what we do so well.

In his ministry, the Apostle Paul encourages the Christians to share what they have with others who are in need: "... the grace of God has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. ...They voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints." (2 Corinthians 8:1-4)

We are encouraged to give from what we earn so that our community of faith can survive and grow and that we can help those who are less fortunate than us. "For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich..... The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little." (2 Corinthians 8:9,15)

Three types of collections are taken during Mass in most Australian Catholic parishes: a collection for the works of the community, a collection for the priest's living expenses and special collections. In order to reduce the number of times the plate goes around, in our parish we have decided to join the first two weekly collections into one. At the offertory time, a collection is taken for the needs of the parish community and for the priest's expenses. Special collections are taken up after Communion.

Many parishioners take part in the stewardship / thanksgiving campaign. This can be done by using envelopes, by direct debit or by credit card. Our envelopes have two sections in them, the section on the left hand side is for the parish needs and the section on the right hand side is for the needs of the priests. When choosing to use direct debit or credit card, parishioners need to tell the parish office where they want their contribution to be directed to, either the parish or the priest. As these are two different collections, normally two different amounts will be deducted from your account.

When people choose to take part in the stewardship / thanksgiving programme, they are invited to put in a pledge, promising the parish a certain amount of money weekly / monthly / yearly. This is a very important part of the parish's financial capacity; it allows us to budget and to plan for future works, maintenance and ministry. We encourage all parishioners, those who are new to our parish and those who have been participating in our parish for a long time, to consider taking part in our pledging stewardship / thanksgiving programme. Contributing through direct debit or credit card is beneficial for the parish as it guarantees regularity of income and also saves you having to make sure you have enough money for your contribution.

Once again, thank you for your contribution and may God bless you. In a future message I will continue about this topic.

....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.*

STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES: are available for collection from the church foyer.

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020: Listen to what the Spirit is saying. You can download the Final Report for the first phase of the Plenary Council: Listening and Dialogue from <http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/reports>

PARISH BOOK SWAP: Please make use of the small collection of books in the church foyer. You are welcome to borrow any book.

COLLECT PLASTIC BOTTLE TOPS: Kindly place clean plastic bottle tops in the container in the church foyer. To read more visit: <https://envision.org.au/>

CATHOLIC MAN BREAKFAST: Friday the 20th September; speaker Fr Leo Patalinhug. A high profile chef, TV host and martial arts exponent; his tools of evangelising. Cost: \$50, group discounts available. From 7:00am to 9:00am. At Athenaeum Club, 87 Collins St Melbourne. Topic: 'be a man and feed your family.' Enquiries: michael.bohan@menalive.org.au

PERMANENT DIACONATE: an enquiry meeting will be held on 31st August for single or married men interested in learning more about becoming permanent deacons. The meeting is from 10:00am to 11:00am at the Catholic Theological College (CTC), 278 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne. Further details about the permanent deacons can also be obtained at www.cam.org.au/permanent-diaconate.

ST JOHN'S WALKING GROUP: on Monday 26th August we meet outside the parish house at 10:00am, walk to Ivanhoe, have coffee then return. Welcome to join us on our relaxed, chatty walks. Jan (0423 478 504).

GEMS 50+ (AND FRIENDS): Tuesday 27th August **MORNING MELODIES - 'Classic Hits'** Lower Plenty Hotel, 4 Main Rd, Lower Plenty. Doors open at 9:30am and the show starts at 10:30am. Entertainment, coffee/tea, Devonshire Tea, lunch and a complementary beer, wine or soft drink. \$17 per person (payable on the day). Add your name to the list in the porch. Transport available - 0447195553

WOMEN AND SPIRITUALITY: Women of all ages are invited to gather to explore and deepen our spirituality in a relaxed, welcoming environment. On **Wednesday 2nd October, 1:00 to 3:00pm**, Jane Ormonde, a spiritual director and pastoral carer, will explore with us 'Listening to self, Listening to God and Listening to Nature.' On **Thursday 7th November, 1:00 to 3:00pm**, Cath Connelly, a spiritual director, retreat leader and one of the world's finest harp players, will explore with us Celtic Spirituality and introduce us to her beautiful harp playing. Both sessions will be held in the Francis Xavier meeting room. Donation of \$5.00 appreciated. To register contact Jan (0423478504).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

THE SICK: Giuseppe & Cynthia Amoroso, Mary Mc Brearty, Sheila Mc Grath, Keiran Mc Grath, Peter Crowley, Christopher Dabal, Peggy Preston, Tom Suri, Jean Webb, Shannol Sarikamis, Lina Poon, Eleanor Bowring.

ANNIVERSARIES: Maria Monteleone, Claudito Vencio Sr, Veronica Joyce, Herman Langen, June & Barry Plant.

*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*

24 Aug/25 Aug	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Jan Mc Caffrey	Marguerite Ryan	Bob Dowling	Margaret Andrews
2 nd Reader	Grace Lew-Kee	Garry Sproules	TBA	Mary Kotefski
Communion	Leela Cherubim	Fiona Curry	Doris Schembri	Sally Tramontana
	Sue Lew-Kee	Oliver Kmita	Elizabeth Williamson	Des O'Brien
	Maria Basilone	Jerzy Kmita	Yannick Jonas	Matthew Sanders
	Emma Chang	Bobbie Bartkus	TBA	Olivia Sanders
31 Aug/1 Sep	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Anita Metcalf	Pietro Sciotto	Elizabeth Williamson	Peter Penson
2 nd Reader	Adrian Daly	Karen Frost	Joanne Martinez	Matthew Sanders
Communion	Lorraine Mascarenhas	Bill Barnes	Liz Sier	Michelle Penson
	Donna Richardson	Barbara Barnes	Vin Sier	Leo Cosio
	Domenica Ashworth	Margaret Bradley	Tim Boyle	Charito Cosio
	TBA	Alice Wong	Mary Furlan	Jenny Hollaway
Counters	25 Aug: Leo Cosio, Leo Hernandez, Yannick Jonas & 1 Sep: Jack Naden & A Team.			
Collection Weekly Average for July			Heidelcare Co-Ordinator	
Parish		Presbytery		August: Cath 0490 254 928
Stewardship	\$3,171.46	Stewardship	\$548.72	September: Marilyn 0490 254 928
Loose	\$631.12	Loose	\$315.00	Morning Tea, 1st Sept: Father's day
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. Thank you for your generosity.

FATHER'S DAY! Next weekend we remember and pray for all fathers and father figures in our families. We will have the opportunity to light a taper in remembrance of fathers who are physically absent in our life. As we light the taper we offer a silent prayer for all who cared for us in this role. We also pray for all departed fathers in our community. Let us also remember all those men who would have loved to be fathers, but did not have the opportunity to father any children.

PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FOUNDATION APPEAL: Next weekend 31st Aug/1st September, as we celebrate Father's Day, we are invited to support retired priests in our archdiocese. These priests have faithfully ministered in our parishes and are now being cared for at this stage of their life. They need our financial assistance to be able to be sufficiently looked after. Please be generous with this appeal as we 'caring for those who care.' The appeal is being held at all Masses. Contributions over \$2.00 are tax deductible; receipts will only be forwarded for donations over \$5.00. Please find envelopes at each church entrance.

SAUSAGE SIZZLE: Next Sunday 1st September after 10:30am Mass, we celebrate Father's Day. Come and join us as we continue to share community over a small meal. Gold coin donation to cover expenses of sausage sizzle, appreciated. All welcome.

MEETING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR PARISH: from year 4 and older. Saturday 31st August after 6:00pm Mass. Meeting for a BBQ dinner and a movie in the parish hall. RSVP: stjohnsyouth@hotmail.com or ring the parish office. All welcome. Parents also welcome as helpers - Working with Children Check required.

ROVING REFILLS: at St John's church car park on Sunday 29th September from 9:00am to 12 noon. Roving Refills is trying to change the way we access and consume products that are unnecessarily packaged, usually in plastic containers. Adding to the growing BYO container movement, we hope to reduce waste created by single-use bottles/containers and conserve the natural resources used to make them. We hope to provide an affordable alternative to packaged detergents, cleaners and shampoo/conditioner. We do not make any products ourselves - we choose our suppliers based on the quality of their products, their ability and willingness to take back the containers we buy from them, and their location (in an effort to reduce the distance products travel).

Theology @ the Pub: Monday, 2nd September at European Bier Café Level 1, 120 Exhibition Street CBD. Fr Justin Ford talking about: 'Memory and Reconciliation: The Church and the Faults of the Past.' Doors open at 6:30pm; talk starts at 7:30pm. All welcome. In 2000 the International Theological Commission published 'Memory and Reconciliation: The Church and the Faults of the Past,' Fr Justin Ford will take up those reflections and show how the essential holiness of the Church is untainted by the sins of her members.

Silent Directed Retreat: 14th to 21st November, directors: Marlene Marburg and Bernadette Miles at Holy Cross Centre, Templestowe. Cost: \$1,390 for full retreat / \$199 per day, includes accommodation, meals and daily spiritual direction. A privileged time to tune out the noise and distractions of our regular routines to more intentionally focus on our relationship with God. A beautiful environment, silence and daily spiritual direction in which you can rest and reconnect to the source of life. Also possible to make a shorter retreat during this time. Information and bookings: Kardia, Holy Cross Centre, 208 Serpells Road, Templestowe. enquiries@kardia.com.au

FIRST READING*Isaiah 66:18-21*

The Lord says this: I am coming to gather the nations of every language. They shall come to witness my glory. I will give them a sign and send some of their survivors to the nations: to Tarshish, Put, Lud, Moshech, Rosh, Tubal, and Javan, to the distant islands that have never heard of me or seen my glory. They will proclaim my glory to the nations. As an offering to the Lord they will bring all your brothers, on horses, in chariots, in litters, on mules, on dromedaries, from all the nations to my holy mountain in Jerusalem, says the Lord, like Israelites bringing oblations in clean vessels to the Temple of the Lord. And of some of them I will make priests and Levites, says the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM*Psalm 116***TOGETHER:** Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.**LEFT SIDE**

O praise the Lord, all you nations,
acclaim him all you peoples!

RIGHT SIDE

Strong is his love for us;
he is faithful for ever.

TOGETHER: Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.**SECOND READING***Hebrews 12:5-7,11-13*

Have you forgotten that encouraging text in which you are addressed as sons? My son, when the Lord corrects you, do not treat it lightly; but do not get discouraged when he reprimands you. For the Lord trains the ones that he loves and he punishes all those that he acknowledges as his sons. Suffering is part of your training; God is treating you as his sons. Has there ever been any son whose father did not train him? Of course, any punishment is most painful at the time, and far from pleasant; but later, in those on whom it has been used, it bears fruit in peace and goodness. So hold up your limp arms and steady your trembling knees and smooth out the path you tread; then the injured limb will not be wrenched, it will grow strong again.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL*Luke 13:22-30*

Through towns and villages Jesus went teaching, making his way to Jerusalem. Someone said to him, 'Sir, will there be only a few saved?' He said to them, 'Try your best to

enter by the narrow door, because, I tell you, many will try to enter and will not succeed.

'Once the master of the house has got up and locked the door, you may find yourself knocking on the door, saying, "Lord, open to us" but he will answer, "I do not know where you come from." Then you will find yourself saying, "We once ate and drank in your company; you taught in our streets" but he will reply, "I do not know where you come from. Away from me, all you wicked men!"

'Then there will be weeping and grinding of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves turned outside. And men from east and west, from north and south, will come to take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God.

'Yes, there are those now last who will be first, and those now first who will be last.'

THE NARROW GATE

Someone questions Jesus about the number who will be saved. He will not respond in quantitative terms ('How many ...?'). Rather, he turns the question back into a warning. Do not miss the opportunity while it is still available.

To make the point, Jesus takes images from everyday life (without necessarily commending the behaviour involved!).

When an entrance or gateway is narrow and many are trying to get through, it pays to struggle and get to the front right away. We cannot just 'coast' into salvation; effort is required.

Travellers arriving late at a large household might hope for special consideration on the grounds of being known to the owner. But the lodging is full up with others who have got in before them. Imagine how they would then feel—out on the street for the night in a strange city, the door barred against them.

In the preaching of Jesus we are all invited to the banquet of the Kingdom. But we can exclude ourselves from the banquet by not being prepared to accept that divine hospitality at the time—and in the company—of God's choosing.

The Gospel summons us to go in by 'the narrow gate,' the gate that strips us of the various kinds of 'baggage' that selfishness loads upon us.

Those who daily take the message to heart can leave the question of salvation safely left in the hands of the all-generous God, whose only desire in our regard is to have us honoured guests at the banquet of eternal life.

Fr Brendan Byrne sj