



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.

28TH / 29TH SEPTEMBER - 26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YR C

Dear Parishioners, Visitors and Friends,

This week I return from my annual leave to enter the seventh year of our faith journey together. Once again I thank you for welcoming me into your families and your community, allowing me to celebrate your faith and those special moments in your family life. The main feature of my time away this year was a visit to Perth and to Margaret River, very nice and quiet places to be in. I also managed to visit the small paradise in Rottnest island! It was a beautiful restful time.

One Sunday, while I was away, as we celebrated Sunday Mass, the main celebrant looked at us and welcomed: good morning Church! What a beautiful expression, full of meaning. A constant reminder that we are the Church, the community of faith. When we refer to the Church, the Body of Christ, the People of God, community of faith we do not look beyond ourselves, but rather within. You and I, we are the Church of Christ in Heidelberg, we celebrate, eat and become Body of Christ for all around us.

This is not an easy message to proclaim or to witness to. It has never been easy to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. Christ warned his disciples that he had come to bring not peace, but division. Families will be divided for and against Christ and his gospel. As Christians we are invited to take up the cross every day and follow him. Christ's cross was not a decorative, light plastic cross, but a rough piece of timber, full of splinters!

Over the past six years we have witnessed the landscape of our faith shift from under our feet. The 'Holy' Church we have come to know and love has now shown itself to be a sinful Church. I have often written and spoken about this reality and I understand that some among us may be tired of hearing about this very painful reality, but unfortunately for all of us, this dreadful reality is not going away and we might need to learn to live in the painful messiness of this time.

My role is not to judge, much less to condemn, but to speak God's love and mercy. Every time I hear about the many crimes committed by those who have been entrusted to look after our beautiful vulnerable children, my stomach churns; I feel sick at the knowledge of all that has been going on around us in the name of our 'Holy' Church.

I do not write asking you to feel sorry for me, but I feel the need to share with the family of God around me, how all this affects me as I decide and choose to continue to offer my poor ministry within this community of faith. As much as it is within my power, I apologise for the sins of those who should have known much better than to abuse those entrusted to their care. I pray that we as a poor, sinful, humbled Church may one day find healing. I reach out to the many among us who feel hurt by the actions of many in our midst.

At times I feel helpless, as if this great tragedy has taken away my voice. I realise that we can no longer speak with authority, since we have gravely abused the trust that was given us. Someone challenged me to reflect on why do I stay on in my ministry. My response is that I choose and decide to stay, as long as there are people who want to continue to be people of faith and journey as a community.

... 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.*

MENTAL HEALTH WEEK: at St Pius X Parish, 419 Waterdale Rd, West Heidelberg; Friday, 11th October, 6:00pm. A prayer service followed by refreshments. It is an opportunity to stand in compassion and solidarity with those suffering mental health issues and to celebrate the common good of integral mental health for all people. Enquiries 9457 5794. All welcome.

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.

MARCH FOR THE BABIES: Saturday 12th October at 1:00pm. Leaves from Treasury Gardens, Cnr Spring St & Wellington Pde Melbourne. Wear pink and/or blue for the babies.

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 focus on your relationship with God. Beautiful environment, silence and daily spiritual direction; 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 Rd, Templestowe. enquiries@kardia.com.au

ST JOHN'S WALKING GROUP: We will next meet to walk on Monday 7th October outside the parish house at 10:00am. Destination to be advised. You are very welcome to join us. Contact Jan (0423478504).

GEMS 50+ (AND FRIENDS): The GEMS will be taking a break over the next two weeks. We will meet again on Tuesday October 8th.

REFLECTION DAY BY MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF ST PAUL: Saturday 12th October, 10:00am to 3:00pm at St James the Apostle Parish, 330 Derrimut Road Hoppers Crossing. Topic: Joseph De Piro—Charism, Mission and Service within our contemporary world. Facilitator Joan Jennings. Donation \$10.00, including lunch. RSVP 9th October hopperscrossingnorth@cam.org.au

DISCOVER PALMS: Sunday 27th October at 10:30am, Jenny Florence Room, Ross House, 247-251 Flinders Lane, Melbourne. Information: 02 9560 5333 / palms.org.au/assignments-abroad. Qualified medics, teachers, tradies, business and admins are always required.

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 at least a week prior to the celebration.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

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

ANNIVERSARIES: Reg Shanahan, Jim Dunlea, Maurie Dunlea, Joe Birsas, Rose Conway, Sadie Dunlea.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Adele Staples, Eva Crowe, Dorothy Alva.

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.

28/29 Sept	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Noel Micallef	Ronnie Maloney	Elizabeth Williamson	TBA
2 nd Reader	Zen Zebrowski	Barbara Barnes	Robyn Laurie	Mary Kotefski
Communion	Leela Cherubim	Bill Barnes	Tim Boyle	Jenny Hollaway
	Lorraine Mascarenhas	Jerzy Kmita	Mary Furlan	Sally Tramontana
	Maria Basilone	Oliver Kmita	TBA	Philip Johnson
	Domenica Ashworth	Peter O'Donoghue	TBA	TBA
5/6 Oct	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Pamela Smith	Claire Newsome	Michelle Robertson	Margaret Andrews
2 nd Reader	Leela Cherubim	Michael Leonard	Bob Dowling	Matthew Sanders
Communion	Jan Mc Caffrey	Bobbie Bartkus	Liz Sier	Matthew Sanders
	Adrian Daly	Val Wallis	Vin Sier	Olivia Sanders
	Donna Richardson	Alice Wong	Leo Hernandez	TBA
	Jeanette O'Sullivan	Pauline Griffiths	Yannick Jonas	TBA
Counters	29 Sept: Tim Booth, Nigel Mant, Shane Byrnes & 6 Oct: Vincent Chung, Bill Barnes, Peter O'Donoghue.			
Collection Weekly Average for August			Heidelcare Co-Ordinator	
Parish		Presbytery		October: Marilyn 0490 254 928
Stewardship	\$3,953.13	Stewardship	\$709.29	November: Joan 0490 254 928
Loose	\$726.95	Loose	\$375.00	Morning Tea, 6th Oct: Barbara & Liz
Thank you for supporting St John's financially. Please advise if your credit card is lost/stolen or the expiry date has changed.				

WOMEN AND SPIRITUALITY: Women are encouraged to participate in these engaging and informative sessions. Wednesday 2nd October: Listen to self, Listen to God, Listen to nature, presented by Jane Ormonde. Thursday 7th November: Celtic Spirituality and Music presented by Cath Connelly with her harp. At Francis Xavier meeting room, St John's parish house, 52 Yarra Street, Heidelberg, from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. To register please contact St John's parish office 9457 1066 / heidelberg@cam.org.au or Jan (0423478504).

MORNING TEA & SAUSAGE SIZZLE: After 10:30am Mass next Sunday 6th October. All welcome. A gold coin donation to cover expenses will be appreciated.

PLENARY COUNCIL: Over the next two to three months groups will be gathering to talk about the actions we would like to see implemented as a result of the coming Plenary Council. If you would like to participate in a group or form your own group please contact the Parish Office on 9457 1066.

EXTRAORDINARY MONTH OF THE MISSIONS: This year Pope Francis has declared the month of October as an extraordinary month of prayers for the missions. The theme chosen by the Pope for this month is: 'Baptised and Sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World.' During this month we are invited to pray for all who are still discovering the message of good news of a God of mercy and love. Through our Baptism we are all called and we are all sent out to witness to this good news. Let us continue to share this message of great love through our words and actions.

HOME VISITS / FAMILY BLESSINGS / HOME MASSES: Fr Mario is available to visit, pray with you in your family and share faith. To invite Fr Mario please contact the parish office.

GOLD COIN COLLECTION: This weekend 28th/29th September, at all Masses. Thank you.

HEIDELCARE MEETING: on Monday 7th October at 7:30pm in the parish house Francis Xavier meeting room. All welcome.

HOME MASSES: For the past couple of months Father Mario has celebrated mass in parishioners' homes. These masses have been prayerful and joyful experiences in an intimate setting—a family home. If you would like to host a home mass next year or ask questions about doing so please contact parish office 94571066 heidelberg@cam.org.au

NEED VOLUNTEERS: Each Sunday there are a number of ministries individuals perform in support of the Mass. Volunteers are needed to welcome parishioners and visitors and handout newsletters. As well we need volunteers to help with the PowerPoint presentation. Training will be provided. To volunteer please contact the Parish Office on 9457 1066. Please consider helping in these practical ways. Thank you.

BOTTLE TOPS TO MAKE PROSTHETIC HANDS FOR CHILDREN: Please leave your bottle tops in the container provided in the church foyer. Note: only tops with a '2' or '4' on the actual cap (not the bottle) can be used. Tops without numbers are unusable. Kindly rinse tops.

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED (AUSTRALIA): October is the month of the Rosary. Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) is hosting a prayer campaign on Friday 18th October titled: 'One Million Children Praying the Rosary.' The prayer initiative invites teachers, parents and grandparents to pray the rosary together with children for peace and unity around the world. If you would like to participate information and resources can be found online at: www.millionkidspraying.org.

FIRST READING

Amos 6:1. 4-7

The almighty Lord says this: Woe to those ensconced so snugly in Zion and to those who feel so safe on the mountain of Samaria. Lying on ivory beds and sprawling on their divans, they dine on lambs from the flock, and stall-fattened veal; they bawl to the sound of the harp, they invent new instruments of music like David, they drink wine by the bowlful, and use the finest oil for anointing themselves, but about the ruin of Joseph they do not care at all. That is why they will be the first to be exiled; the sprawlers' revelry is over.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 145: 6-10

TOGETHER: Praise the Lord, my soul!

LEFT SIDE

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

RIGHT SIDE

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down.
It is the Lord who loves the just,
the Lord, who protects the stranger.

LEFT SIDE

He upholds the widow and orphan
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age.

TOGETHER: Praise the Lord, my soul!

SECOND READING

1 Timothy 6:11-16

As a man dedicated to God, you must aim to be saintly and religious, filled with faith and love, patient and gentle. Fight the good fight of the faith and win for yourself the eternal life to which you were called when you made your profession and spoke up for the truth in front of many witnesses. Now, before God the source of all life and before Jesus Christ, who spoke up as a witness for the truth in front of Pontius Pilate, I put to you the duty of doing all that you have been told, with no faults or failures, until the Appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who at the due time will be revealed by God, the blessed and only Ruler of all, the King of kings and the Lord of lords, who alone is immortal, whose home is in inaccessible light, whom no man has seen and no man is able to see: to him be honour and everlasting power. Amen.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus Christ was rich but he became poor, to make you rich out of his poverty.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 16:19-31

Jesus said to the Pharisees: 'There was a rich man who used to dress in purple and fine linen and feast magnificently every day. And at his gate there lay a poor man called Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to fill himself with the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. Dogs even came and licked his sores. Now the poor man died and was carried away by angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. 'In his torment in Hades he looked up and saw Abraham a long way off with Lazarus in his bosom. So he cried out, "Father Abraham, pity me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames." "My son," Abraham replied "remember that during your life good things come your way, just as bad things came the way of Lazarus. Now he is being comforted here while you are in agony. But that is not all: between us and you a great gulf has been fixed, to stop anyone, if he wanted to, crossing from our side to yours, and to stop any crossing from your side to ours." 'The rich man replied, "Father, I beg you then to send Lazarus to my father's house, since I have five brothers, to give them warning, so that they do not come to this place of torment too." "They have Moses and the prophets," said Abraham "let them listen to them." "Ah no, father Abraham," said the rich man "but if someone comes to them from the dead, they will repent." Then Abraham said to him, "If they will not listen either to Moses or to the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead.'"

THE COST OF SELF -ABSORPTION

In the parable about the rich man and the beggar, Lazarus, we should not assume that the rich man was notably wicked. It was more that, absorbed in his comfortable life, he did not notice the poor beggar lying in need at his door. Likewise, we are not told that Lazarus was notably virtuous or deserving. It was his desperate situation that attracted the attention of God.

The action of the story swings upon the notion of a great reversal. The reversal occurs when both men die and go very different ways. The rich man is carted off to Hades, while Lazarus is gently conveyed (by angels) to the bosom of Abraham. (Such 'destinations' reflect images of the afterlife conventional at the time; the parable does not teach the existence of a fiery hell!). The point of the story is that, across the change from this life to the next, situations remain fixed. In this life, the rich man's indifference meant that no crumb of comfort passed from his table to the beggar outside; there was no 'crossing over' from one side to another. Now, in the afterlife situation exactly the same fixity prevails—except that now all is reversed. The problem is not so much the rich man's wealth in itself but the fact that his high living blinded the him to the need of a fellow human being, and wider social responsibility. The opportunity to attend to such obligations though will not last for ever. Ultimately, the parable is about conversion and the difficulty that riches put in its way.

Fr Brendan Byrne sj