



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.

5TH / 6TH OCTOBER—27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YR C

Dear Parishioners, Visitors and Friends,

In the past few weeks, reading through the gospel according to Luke at our Sunday Masses, we came across two very important gospel passages. We reflected on the parables of mercy where Jesus talks about those who are lost and the great celebration that happens when they are found; great news as we encounter a God of infinite love and mercy. Moreover Jesus also warned his disciples that he came not to bring peace but division. The question is how to hold both these, and many other gospel passages, in equal balance in our life of faith.

When we gather each Sunday we come together as a faith community to eat and be nourished by the word of God and the food of the Eucharist. We come bringing with us our whole life. As Christians we invite God to influence the whole of our being, each action we take—family life, culture, politics, leisure and all other aspects we participate in. God invites us to place him in the first place, and everything else follows. The question will always be how to listen to God's word and live as a mature citizen in Australia and in the world today.

We often meet people who want to separate God from the world; separate the spiritual and material. This is not the gospel Christ preached. Jesus tells us that whoever is not ready to shoulder the cross and follow him, is not worthy of being called a Christian.

Some people claim to be people of faith, listening to the gospel message and eating of the Eucharist, and yet are not ready to let their faith influence other aspects of life. Sociology, psychology, science, politics and many other areas of life inform us on how to understand humanity and the world we live in. Topics like abuse, violence, crime, family life, education, migrants, refugees, racism, reconciliation, ecology and many other hot topics need to be discussed and studied through a variety of lenses and perspectives. We as intelligent and mature citizens of world and of our country are invited to listen to the different voices and decide where we stand on these many different issues.

It has become fashionable in today's world, to accept the different voices but deny a voice to people of faith. We find it difficult to see how the word of God can contribute to the discussion about the different issues we encounter today. Yes, I understand that in some aspects, a number of faith leaders have gravely abused their position, yet the word of God remains alive and active in our midst and, as people of faith, we need to add our faith relationship to the many other voices that we have come to recognise and listen to.

When we talk about abuse, violence, crime, family life, education, migrants, refugees, racism, reconciliation, ecology and the whole range of different topics, after listening to the different voices, we also need to ask ourselves 'how does the word of God inform us about these topics today? What does my faith lead me to today? How can I be a person of faith and a good citizen?'

The moment I protest when I hear a person of faith open God's word and reflect on the different issues in today's world, then I know that I am closing myself to God's life within me. This is what Jesus meant when he said he came not to bring peace but division; his word is a word that challenges us and often divides us.

.... 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; on Friday, 11th October, 6:00pm. A prayer service followed by refreshments. An opportunity to stand in compassion and solidarity with people suffering mental health issues and to celebrate the common good of integral mental health for all people. Enquiries 9457 5794. All welcome.

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

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.

REFLECTION DAY BY MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF ST PAUL: Saturday 12th October, 10:00am to 3:00pm at St James the Apostle Parish, 336 Derrimut Road Hoppers Crossing. Topic: Joseph De Piro—Charism, Mission and Service within our contemporary world. Facilitator Joan Jennings. Contribution \$10.00, including lunch. RSVP 9th October: hopperscrossingnorth@cam.org.au

STUDY TOUR OF THE BIBLICAL LANDS: organised by Catholic Theological College. 14th November to 7th December 2020. Visiting Jordan, Israel & Palestinian Territories and Greece and option for 3 days in Crete and Delphi. Tour Leaders: Dr Rosemary Canavan & Rev. Anthony Dean CM. Information Session: Saturday 19th October 2019: 2:00pm to 4:00pm. RSVP & information: Jenny Delahunt 94123314 /jenny.delahunt@ctc.edu.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.

MINISTRIES AT OUR SUNDAY MASSES: We **URGENTLY** need more readers and ministers of Communion especially at the Sunday evening Mass (5:00pm). We also need people who welcome parishioners as they come to Mass.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

RECENTLY BAPTIZED: Ava Milano.

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: Sebastian Kurisummoottil, Gerald (Jim) Lanigan

RECENTLY DECEASED: Margaret Albertino, Antonio Campese, Bill Hollands.

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.

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	Val Wallis	Liz Sier	Matthew Sanders
	Adrian Daly	Alice Wong	Vin Sier	Olivia Sanders
	Donna Richardson	Pauline Griffiths	Leo Hernandez	TBA
	Jeanette O'Sullivan	TBA	Yannick Jonas	TBA
12/13 Oct	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Moira Di Cesare	Peter Penson	Joanne Martinez	Leela Cherubim
2 nd Reader	Jan Mc Caffrey	Marguerite Ryan	Claire Newsome	Rosemary Vecchies
Communion	Marco Di Cesare	Michelle Penson	Ann Domaingue	Sally Tramontana
	Sue Lew-Kee	Fiona Curry	Geraldine Manuel	Des O'Brien
	Maria Basilone	Chris Ratnayake	Brian McIntosh	Philip Johnson
	Domenica Ashworth	Margaret Bradley	TBA	TBA
Counters	6 Oct: Vincent Chung, Bill Barnes, Peter O'Donoghue & 13 Oct: Stephen Devenish, Nicole Pelizzaro, Thomas Bechelli.			
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.				

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

PLenary COUNCIL: 'Let's Listen and Discern' is the next phase leading up to the 2020 Plenary Council. Please join together to give input into this very important opportunity for us to contribute to future directions of the Church in Australia. Date: 23rd October At: 7:00pm in the Francis Xavier meeting room in the parish house. To register contact heidelberg@cam.org.au / 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.

WOMEN AND SPIRITUALITY: Women are encouraged to participate in this engaging and informative session. Thursday 7th November: Celtic Spirituality and Music presented by Cath Connelly with her harp. At Francis Xavier meeting room in the parish house, from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. To register contact 9457 1066 / heidelberg@cam.org.au or Jan (0423478504).

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 and book a date please contact the parish office 9457 1066 / heidelberg@cam.org.au

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

ST JOHN'S WALKING GROUP: Next Monday 7th October the walking group will be exploring the **Glenard Estate** an area of Heidelberg designed by Walter Burley Griffin in 1914. To join meet outside the parish house at 10:00am. Please contact Jan (0423478504).

GEMS 50+ (AND FRIENDS): Fully booked. Tuesday, 8th October watching 'Downton Abbey' - the movie, at the Palace Balwyn followed by lunch.

VOCAL AND INSTRUMENTAL CONCERT: at St Patrick's Cathedral on Tuesday 15th October at 7:00pm. Featuring Baroque Ensemble SONARE and Vocal Ensemble CANTUS NOVESIA from Germany, under the direction of Joachim Neugart, Director of Music at the cathedral in Neuss, Germany. Tickets: \$20.00 (no concessions). Children under 15 free. Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/BFXGN> or at the door.

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: '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. To participate and for information and resources go to: millionkidspraying.org.

CELEBRATING THE 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.

SAVE THE DATE: Christmas Market 24th November from 9am at the parish hall. Contact Jan (0423478504).

FIRST READING

Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4

How long, Lord, am I to cry for help while you will not listen; to cry 'Oppression!' in your ear and you will not save? Why do you set injustice before me, why do you look on where there is tyranny? Outrage and violence, this is all I see, all is contention, and discord flourishes. Then the Lord answered and said, 'Write the vision down, inscribe it on tablets to be easily read, since this vision is for its own time only: eager for its own fulfilment, it does not deceive; if it comes slowly, wait, for come it will, without fail. See how he flags, he whose soul is not at rights, but the upright man will live by his faithfulness.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 94:1-2. 6-9.

TOGETHER: If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

LEFT SIDE

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord.

RIGHT SIDE

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand.

LEFT SIDE

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.'

TOGETHER: If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

SECOND READING

2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14

I am reminding you to fan into a flame the gift that God gave you when I laid my hands on you. God's gift was not a spirit of timidity, but the Spirit of power, and love, and self-control. So you are never to be ashamed of witnessing to the Lord, or ashamed of me for being his prisoner; but with me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God.

Keep as your pattern the sound teaching you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. You have been trusted to look after something precious; guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The word of the Lord stands for ever;
it is the word given to you, the Good News.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 17:5-10

The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith.' The Lord replied, 'Were your faith the size of a mustard seed you could say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea", and it would obey you.

'Which of you, with a servant ploughing or minding sheep, would say to him when he returned from the fields, "Come and have your meal immediately"? Would he not be more likely to say, "Get my supper laid; make yourself tidy and wait on me while I eat and drink. You can eat and drink yourself afterwards"? Must he be grateful to the servant for doing what he was told? So with you: when you have done all you have been told to do, say, "We are merely servants: we have done no more than our duty."' "

FAITH AND GRATEFUL SERVICE

Today's gospel falls into two distinct parts. First, the apostles ask Jesus to increase their faith. Jesus' response does not imply that the disciples have no faith. His point seems to be that the little faith they have is enough to work miracles if only they exploited its possibilities to the full.

As so often, Jesus employs everyday images—not without a touch of exaggeration—to drive home the point. On the one hand, a mustard seed is proverbially small. On the other hand, the extensive root system of the mulberry tree makes it notoriously difficult to uproot. Yet a word proceeding from a tiny amount of faith could bring about this effect. It is people of faith who channel God's power into the world.

In the second part of the gospel we might find off-putting both the image of slavery and, even more, the suggestion that God regards us as 'worthless slaves' who deserve no gratitude whatsoever.

Jesus draws upon an aspect of life familiar to his audience (slavery) without necessarily approving of it. His point is that we should not serve God in the hope of gaining payment or due reward. That would amount to the kind of 'merit' mentality that St Paul, in particular, excluded. Long before we do any good work ourselves, our faith should make us conscious of the immense benefits we have already received from God. Our Christian service, then, will be an expression of faith and love, motivated by abiding *gratitude* for all God has done for us.

Fr Brendan Byrne sj