



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.

26TH / 27TH OCTOBER—30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YR C

Dear Parishioners, Visitors and Friends,

PRAY CONSTANTLY

Over the past number of weeks, the gospels readings have been regularly addressing the themes of prayer and faith. We might not always realise that these are two aspects of one reality: our relationship with God. This relationship was especially clear in last Sunday's gospel reading where first Jesus spoke about the need to pray constantly, day and night, and then posed the question: when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth.

Every relationship needs time to develop and mature. Two people who love and respect one another try to find time to talk about their experiences, share their feelings, and support each other. These encounters can take different shapes; they can meet over a meal, go for a walk, or perhaps even sit in silence and simply enjoy each other's presence.

God takes the initiative in our relationship. He creates us in his image and likeness, and breathes on us the breath of the Holy Spirit; we live the life of God and are invited to share in this life. Faith, which is itself a gift from God, is our human response to God's invitation. We are all simultaneously invited and given the ability to respond! Perhaps the first question is: 'How do I accept this invitation and respond in my daily life?'

My faith relationship with God is expressed in my prayer life and in the way I live and give witness to the good news. Prayer is spending time with God, sharing my life, thoughts and wishes with him. The best model of prayer is the one Jesus taught his disciples: the Our Father. Jesus taught them to praise God: holy be your name; to live God's will every day: your will be done; to pray for our daily needs: give us our daily bread; and to ask for forgiveness.

These four types of prayer are all equally important. We start with acknowledging our relationship with God. God is our Lord and creator and in our life we constantly glorify him. We cannot make God holy—as the Our Father seems to imply—but we can ensure that God is glorified in us. The best way for us to glorify God is by living his will. This is an important prayer for us: may we always live your will. We always need to strive to ensure that God's will is foremost in our life.

In this weeks' gospel reading we are presented with two men who enter God's presence to pray. One praises himself, the other praises God! The one who praises himself and his personal works of mercy is telling God that he does not need him, he can do it on his own. What an utter falsehood! How can I, created in the image of God and drawn to God, live without God's continuous grace. The publican recognised that he was a sinner and prayed: Lord have mercy on me, a sinner. We pray: forgive us our trespasses...

Jesus informs that it is the latter who goes home at peace with God. The former is closed in himself and does not allow himself to experience God's love. The invitation once again is for us to reflect on our relationship with God. Who is God in my daily life? Do I acknowledge that he is the all holy one, and I am a sinner needing his help, mercy and forgiveness?

.... Mario

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Mario Zammit
PARISH SECRETARY: Mary Peeris
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
CHAIR: Christopher Ratnayake
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER:
Michelle Robertson (0409 533 100)
COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Domenica Ashworth; Timothy Boyle
Margaret Bradley
Adrian Daly
Moira Di Cesare
Karen Frost
Russell Lew-Kee
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.*

MARCELLIN COLLEGE: Memorial Mass for deceased students at the college chapel, on 31st October at 7:30pm followed by supper. Enquiries to Mary Norden (9842 3080).

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) or the parish office with details.

BACK AGAIN, BOTTLE TOPS TO MAKE PROSTHETIC HANDS FOR CHILDREN: We can start collecting bottle tops again! Not all plastic tops can be used. Some tops have the number 2 or 4 printed on the inside. The numbers indicate the type of plastic used. These are the only ones that can be collected! This generally includes soft drink, water and milk bottle caps. Can you please ensure the tops are clean and that no extra plastic, metal or paper is attached. Thank you.

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS: our Year 12 students who will be sitting for their VCE exams. As a community we journey with you in prayer.

THEOLOGY AT THE PUB: For 18 to 35 year olds. On Monday 4th November. Dinner and a talk together with Archbishop Peter Comensoli. At the European Bier Café, 120 Exhibition Street, Melbourne CBD. Doors open on Level 1 at 6:30pm, the talk starts at 7.30pm.

ST JOHN'S WALKING GROUP: Come join us. New members welcome to join St John's Walking Group. We walk in beautiful places usually for about 5km followed, by coffee, and have a very relaxed, chatty time. Monday, 28th October, we will be exploring Kalparrin Gardens, Greensborough and some of the Plenty River trail. Departing from the parish house at 10:00am. Contact: Jan (0423 478 504)

GEMS 50+ (AND FRIENDS): Tuesday, 29th October, attending 'Morning Melodies' Abbasession Duo,' a Abba tribute show. Bookings essential.

Upcoming outing: Tuesday 12th November visiting the Dandenong Ranges Botanic Gardens (formerly National Rhododendron Garden) with breathtaking views over the Yarra Valley. Star attraction a stunning display of rhododendrons, hydrangeas, camellias and more. We leave at 10:30am from Cape Street, in front of the church; returning at 3:30pm. Cost \$35, includes bus fare, guided tour of the gardens and lunch. Bookings essential. Contact Jan (0423 478 504).

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 contact the parish office.

CELEBRATION OF SIGNIFICANT ANNIVERSARIES: Please inform the parish office so we can celebrate.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

THE SICK: Cynthia & Giuseppe Amoroso, Christopher Dabal, Gordon Eng, Sheila Mc Grath, Keiran Mc Grath, Mary Wright, Anna Cottrell.

ANNIVERSARIES: Annelise Peyton.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Beppino Constanzo, Sr Stephanie Christian.

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.

26/27 Oct	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Adrian Daly	Ronnie Maloney	Bob Dowling	Mary Kotefski
2 nd Reader	Brian Garrone	TBA	Michelle Robertson	Mark Aiello
Communion	Lorraine Mascarenhas	Bobbie Bartkus	Leo Hernandez	Leo Cosio
	Emma Chang	Val Wallis	TBA	Charito Cosio
	Domenica Ashworth	Alice Wong	TBA	Leela Cherubim
	Jeanette O'Sullivan	Pauline Griffiths	TBA	TBA
2/3 Nov	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Moira Di Cesare	Michael Leonard	Bob Dowling	Margaret Andrews
2 nd Reader	Zen Zebrowski	Marguerite Ryan	Elizabeth Williamson	Des O'Brien
Communion	Marco Di Cesare	Fiona Curry	Nigel Mant	Leo Cosio
	Noel Micallef	Bill Barnes	Marni Mant	Charito Cosio
	Jan Mc Caffrey	Barbara Barnes	Ann Domaingue	TBA
	Donna Richardson	Val Wallis	Leo Hernandez	TBA
Counters	27 Oct: Jack Naden & A Team & 3 Nov: Des O'Brien, Peter Peyton, Percival Makin.			
Collection Weekly Average for September				Heidelcare Co-Ordinator
Parish		Presbytery		October: Merilyn 0490 254 928
Stewardship	\$3,116.38	Stewardship	\$310.70	November: Joan 0490 254 928
Loose	\$688.79	Loose	\$345.00	Morning Tea, 3rd Nov: Kate & Marguerite

Thank you for supporting St John's financially. Please advise if your credit card is lost/stolen or the expiry date has changed.



St Vincent de Paul Society
VICTORIA
good works

VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL: As Christmas approaches St John's Vinnies group will be preparing to assist those less fortunate in our area. It is customary to give hampers to these families. Over the coming weeks we will be collecting non-perishable food items for the hampers. A list of items required is in the church noticeboard. **Please only donate the items requested** so that we can organise balanced hampers. Donations are required by Monday 3rd December, latest. A collection will also held on the weekend of 14/15 December. Thank you.

2020 COLUMBAN CALENDARS: can be purchased for \$10.00 from the parish office or the church vestry before or after Mass. Christmas cards are also available for \$7 a pack of 10. Proceeds support the work of our parish St Vincent de Paul society

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).

CHRISTMAS GIFT CARDS: Give a gift that lasts this Christmas season! Your gift can help those who are less fortunate! When you buy an MSSP Christmas Gift Card you donate money to help support the education of the young adults, members of the Jose' De Piro Kabataan Orkestra in the Philippines. You can nominate the amount you would like to donate. For further information contact the parish office.

THANK YOU: to the parishioner who donated \$5,000 towards the eventual church renovations.

GOLD COIN COLLECTION: This weekend at all Masses.

THE EYRIE PARISH MAGAZINE: please take a copy of the latest issue of our magazine. Thank you to all contributors and the editing team. Well done!

MORNING TEA & SAUSAGE SIZZLE: After 10:30am Mass next Sunday 3rd November. All welcome. A gold coin donation to cover expenses will be appreciated.

REMEMBERING OUR DEPARTED SISTERS AND BROTHERS: on the first weekend of November we remember our departed loved ones. Before all Masses we have the opportunity of lighting a taper in their memory. We also remember parishioners who have died and priests and religious who have ministered in our midst.

NOVEMBER MASSES: envelopes are available in the porch of the church and can be dropped off at the parish office, sacristy or in the Sunday collections. Names of our departed loved ones will be placed on the altar and remembered at all Masses. You can also write the names of your loved ones in the register next to the baptism font.

COMMUNITY DINNER: a time to build friendships, community ties, and celebrate together on Saturday 9th November at 7:00pm, after evening Mass. This time we meet at Café Matto, opposite Leo's. This is an informal evening; everyone orders their own meal from the restaurant menu and pays his / her own way. To book please contact the parish office: 94571066 / heidelberg@cam.org.au

CHRISTMAS MARKET: Sunday 24th November in the parish hall. You can purchase handmade and hand painted Christmas cards, Christmas decorations, soap and artist printed cards, paintings, Christmas sweets etc. To set up a stall please contact Jan (0423478504). You would be most welcome.

FIRST READING

Sirah 35:12-14,16-18

The Lord is a judge who is no respecter of personages. He shows no respect of personages to the detriment of a poor man, he listens to the plea of the injured party. He does not ignore the orphan's supplication, nor the widow's as she pours out her story. The man who with his whole heart serves God will be accepted, his petitions will carry to the clouds. The humble man's prayer pierces the clouds, until it arrives he is inconsolable nor will he desist until the Most High takes notice of him, acquits the virtuous and delivers judgement. And the Lord will not be slow, nor will he be dilatory on their behalf.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 32:2-3,17-19,23

TOGETHER: The Lord hears the cry of the poor.**LEFT SIDE**

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad.

RIGHT SIDE

The Lord turns his face against the wicked
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.
The just call and the Lord hears
and rescues them in all their distress.

LEFT SIDE

The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;
those whose spirit is crushed he will save.
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.
Those who hide in him shall not be condemned.

TOGETHER: The Lord hears the cry of the poor.**SECOND READING**

2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18

My life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing.

The first time I had to present my defence, there was not a single witness to support me. Every one of them deserted me – may they not be held accountable for it. But the Lord stood by me and gave me power, so that through me the whole message might be proclaimed for all the pagans to hear; and so I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts on me, and bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 18:9-14

Jesus spoke the following parable to some people who prided themselves on being virtuous and despised everyone else, 'Two men went up to the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood there and said this prayer to himself, "I thank you, God, that I am not grasping, unjust, adulterous like the rest of mankind, and particularly that I am not like this tax collector here. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes on all I get." The tax collector stood some distance away, not daring even to raise his eyes to heaven; but he beat his breast and said, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner." This man, I tell you, went home again at rights with God; the other did not. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the man who humbles himself will be exalted.'

TRUE AND FALSE PRAYER TO GOD

The characters in the parable told in today's gospel illustrate two radically different ways of coming before God. In prayer the focus should be upon God. The Pharisee's concern, however, is all about himself. Worse still, it also includes the failings of his fellow human being, so conveniently illustrated here in the person of the tax-collector.

The Pharisee (though, of course, not all Pharisees were like this) typifies those who can only bolster their own self-image by putting others down. Life is a competition in virtue. God's role is that of assessing the results and issuing the prizes. Prayer is an opportunity to keep God informed about how successfully one is doing, and also about the shortcomings of others.

The tax-collector, by contrast, simply pleads that God be merciful to him, a sinner. In what sense was he sinner? Because of personal moral failure? Perhaps. But perhaps also because, with a family to support and no other job possibilities, he finds himself trapped in an occupation that makes him a sinner in his own eyes and those of his world. All this the parable leaves open.

In any case, as declared by Jesus, it is the tax collector who is right with God ('justified'), while the Pharisee is not.

This should bring comfort to many who feel trapped in their sinfulness and unworthy to approach God. The parable suggests that God can deal far more easily with our sinfulness than our 'righteousness' in our own eyes. It is the latter that erects a barrier against the bountiful mercy of God.

Fr Brendan Byrne sj