



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.

## 2ND / 3RD NOVEMBER—31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YR C

Dear Parishioners, Visitors and Friends,

### THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

*October is the month of evangelisation. This year Pope Francis invited us to celebrate a special missionary month of prayer, reminding us that we all have a mission. Our mission is to preach the good news and to help grow the People of God.*

*I suggest that November is the month of the Community of Faith. It is the month when we are invited to remember the members of the Body of Christ who are already in the fullness of God's glory, those in the process of being purified and we who are still on the journey here on earth.*

*Many times during the year we are invited to celebrate the lives of saints. I like to refer to the saints as our sisters and brothers in the faith. Like us, they have been called, baptised and sent to be light to the world and salt of the earth. We are invited to look at the saints and reflect on how they lived their faith and their discipleship of Jesus so that, like them, we may also learn to follow Jesus more faithfully.*

*On the first day of the month of November, we are invited to celebrate one feast day for all our sisters and brothers who are saints; those who have reached the fullness of their glory in God. We are created in the image and likeness of God, we are given the life of God, and we are invited to become part of the kingdom of God, in a limited way here on earth, and in its fullness in heaven. Paul says that here we see things as in a reflection, as if in a mirror; but then the mirror will shatter, and we will be able to see God as he really is!*

*On All Saints' Day we do not only celebrate those saints who have been officially declared to be so, but also the great multitude of faithful believers who also walked their journey faithfully and are now in the fullness of God's glory. Among these I recognise relatives and friends who have lived a good and holy life. The prophet Isaiah says that on the holy mountain, an image of heaven, God holds a banquet feast of rich foods and fine wines. At this banquet sit God with his angels and all our sisters and brothers who are in his presence. When we come to eat and drink the Body and Blood of Christ, we sit at this same banquet with God and all his saints, and our relatives and friends.*

*On the second day of November, and to a certain extent throughout the month of November, we remember those of us who have run their race and are waiting to be washed clean. The truth is that God has saved us and has forgiven us all our sins, but we are still sinful human beings. If we take a white cloth and wash it in bleach, it might look clean in our eyes; but when we put it up against the sun, we will probably still see traces of old stains. Similarly, through the sacraments, we are reconciled with God and we try our best to live a holy life, yet we are never perfect. What looks clean in our eyes looks terrible when compared to the brightest light that is God. The embarrassment we feel when we realise how stained we really are is a good image of purgatory. We all need this space where we can let God clean us; perhaps a time when our sinful eyes can get accustomed to the bright light that is God. If it is painful to look directly at the sun, a created being, how much more painful will it be to face God in all his brilliance.*

*Let us support, in our prayers, our sisters and brothers in their process of being cleansed.*

.... 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.*

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY ASSISTING REFUGEE STUDENTS:** through Mercy Works Ltd. to support refugee students and asylum seekers in primary and secondary schools across Melbourne. Commitment is approximately half a day per week for four school terms. Experience working in an educational setting is preferred but not limited to. Training day for new volunteers end of November. Enquiries and application to Sr. Mary Lewis rsm at somml@bigpond.com (preferred for contact). www.mercyworks.org.au, 9326 1895

**MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID COURSE:** Neal Murphy a parish catechist at Lady of the Pines parish is a qualified mental health first aid facilitator and is hosting a two day course on the 23rd and 30th November from 9:00am to 4:00pm in the Judy Abbot room in the Peace Centre, 77 Carbine Str, Donvale. Cost: \$20 includes text book and certificate. Contact 9841 8354 or donvale@cam.org.au. Bookings are essential.

**ANGLICAN ROMAN CATHOLIC PRAYER FOR RECONCILIATION:** Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli and Archbishop Philip Freier join together at 7:00pm Sunday 3rd November, at St John's Anglican Church, 552 Burke Road, Camberwell. All welcome.

**COME AND MEET MATTHEW:** his Gospel and his Jesus. On Three Thursday evenings: 28 Nov, 5 & 12 Dec 7.30-9.30pm at St Thomas the Apostle Church, Diamond Creek Road Greensborough North. By the Catholic School of Evangelisation. Donation only. Details: Sandra 9434 7553.

**ST JOHN'S WALKING GROUP:** On Monday 4 November, we meet at 10:00am outside the parish house. New members welcome to join. Contact: Jan (0423 478 504)

**GEMS 50+ (AND FRIENDS):** We will be having a break on **Tuesday November 5th** for Melbourne Cup Public Holiday.

**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.

**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.

#### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

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

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Dot Buckland.

*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.*

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 <sup>nd</sup> Reader	Zen Zebrowski	Marguerite Ryan	Elizabeth Williamson	Mary Kotefski
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
9/10 Nov	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Noel Micallef	Garry Sproules	Robyn Laurie	Matthew Sanders
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader	Grace Lew-Kee	Claire Newsome	Michelle Robertson	Des O'Brien
Communion	Sue Lew-Kee	Alice Wong	Yannick Jonas	Jenny Hollaway
	Leela Cherubim	Chris Ratnayake	Tim Boyle	Sally Tramontana
	Domenica Ashworth	Pauline Griffiths	Mary Furlan	Des O'Brien
	Lorraine Mascarenhas	Margaret Bradley	Elizabeth Williamson	Olivia Sanders
Counters	<b>3 Nov:</b> Des O'Brien, Peter Peyton, Percival Makin & <b>10 Nov:</b> Garry Sproules, Janice McGrath, Giuseppe Amoroso.			
Collection Weekly Average for September				Heidelcare Co-Ordinator
Parish		Presbytery		November: Joan 0490 254 928
Stewardship	\$3,116.38	Stewardship	\$310.70	December: Elaine 0490 254 928
Loose	\$688.79	Loose	\$345.00	Morning Tea, 3rd Nov: Kate & Marguerite
<b>Thank you</b> 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 3rd November. All welcome. A gold coin donation to cover expenses will be appreciated.

**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 this Saturday 9th November at 7:00pm, after evening Mass. 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.

**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.

**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.



**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. Kindly only donate items from this list: tinned ham, tinned tuna, tinned vegetables, tinned fruit, breakfast cereals, Christmas cakes, mince tarts, chocolates, tea, coffee, Milo, sugar, rice, pasta, and pasta Sauce. Donations are required by Monday 3rd December, latest. A money 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 conference.

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE:** at St John's Parish. We thank Sally Tramontana who has served as conference president for the past four years, and welcome Leo Cosio who has now taken on this role for the coming four year. Sally, thank you for your generosity in your role as president and Leo, we offer you our prayers as you take on this new role.

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

**ST MARTIN OF TOURS VIETNAM TRIP:** Join us on a cultural and spiritual journey of Vietnam. Departing 10 March 2020. Visiting Ho Chi Minh, Bao Loc Orphanage and Convent, Dalat and Hoi An. Please contact Deana Thomas, Hello World ph: 9852 0200 (business hours) Email: deana.lowertemplestowe@helloworld.com.au Mary Zaccari ph 0408 020 072 (after hours)

**FIRST READING**

Wisdom 11:22-12:2

In your sight, Lord, the whole world is like a grain of dust that tips the scales, like a drop of morning dew falling on the ground. Yet you are merciful to all, because you can do all things and overlook men's sins so that they can repent. Yes, you love all that exists, you hold nothing of what you have made in abhorrence, for had you hated anything, you would not have formed it. And how, had you not willed it, could a thing persist, how be conserved if not called forth by you? You spare all things because all things are yours, Lord, lover of life, you whose imperishable spirit is in all. Little by little, therefore, you correct those who offend, you admonish and remind them of how they have sinned, so that they may abstain from evil and trust in you, Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Psalm 144:1-2.8-11.13-14

**TOGETHER:**

I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

**LEFT SIDE**

I will give you glory, O God my King,  
I will bless your name for ever.  
I will bless you day after day  
and praise your name for ever.

**RIGHT SIDE**

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,  
slow to anger, abounding in love.  
How good is the Lord to all,  
compassionate to all his creatures.

**LEFT SIDE**

All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,  
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.  
They shall speak of the glory of your reign  
and declare your might, O God.

**RIGHT SIDE**

The Lord is faithful in all his words  
and loving in all his deeds.  
The Lord supports all who fall  
and raises all who are bowed down.

**TOGETHER:**

I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

**SECOND READING**

2 Thessalonians 1:11-2:2

We pray continually that our God will make you worthy of his call, and by his power fulfil all your desires for goodness and complete all that you have been doing through faith; because in this way the name of our Lord Jesus Christ will be glorified in you and you in him, by the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

To turn now, brothers, to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and how we shall all be gathered round him: please do not get excited too soon or alarmed by any prediction or rumour or any letter claiming to come from us, implying that the Day of the Lord has already arrived.

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Luke 19:1-10

Jesus entered Jericho and was going through the town when a man whose name was Zacchaeus made his appearance; he was one of the senior tax collectors and a wealthy man. He was anxious to see what kind of man Jesus was, but he was too short and could not see him for the crowd; so he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to catch a glimpse of Jesus who was to pass that way. When Jesus reached the spot he looked up and spoke to him: 'Zacchaeus, come down. Hurry, because I must stay at your house today.' And he hurried down and welcomed him joyfully. They all complained when they saw what was happening. 'He has gone to stay at a sinner's house' they said. But Zacchaeus stood his ground and said to the Lord, 'Look, sir, I am going to give half my property to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody I will pay him back four times the amount.' And Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man too is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek out and save what was lost.'

**THE CHALLENGE OF INCLUSION**

The chief tax collector, Zacchaeus, faces a double barrier in his attempt to see Jesus. He is too small of stature to see over the crowd and, as one who plies a despised and resented occupation, no one is going to make way for him. So, like a curious youngster, he climbs a tree.

It is hard not to see a comic touch when Jesus stands beneath the tree and bids Zacchaeus to come down and be his host that day.

But the tax collector's hospitality to Jesus, while a great joy for him, soon becomes a problem for everyone else. They mutter and murmur: "He has gone to stay at a sinner's house."

Sinner or not, Zacchaeus declares a policy of extravagant generosity: half of his wealth will go to the poor and anyone defrauded will receive compensation four-fold.

This draws from Jesus a truly memorable declaration: "Today salvation has come to this house." What Zacchaeus has experienced amounts to a virtual 'definition' of salvation: the joy of being found by the Lord, conversion of heart, transformation of life, and inclusion within the community ('this man too is a son of Abraham').

But what of the crowd? The inclusion of the tax collector in the community demands conversion of them as well. Are *they* also transformed? We do not know. Here is where the episode holds out a wider challenge. Salvation is not just about Jesus' kindness to individuals. It has a social dimension as well. Are we comfortable with all who Jesus wants to include in the community of the Kingdom?

Fr Brendan Byrne sj