



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.

## 16TH / 17TH NOVEMBER—33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YR C

Dear Parishioners, Visitors and Friends,

*'God, not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all people are in fact alive.'*

November is the month when we commemorate, in a special way, our sisters and brothers who have died. Belief in eternal life has not always formed part of the Jewish faith. The authors of the earlier books of the Old Testament did not believe that we lived eternally in God's presence. In the book of Genesis Abraham was promised innumerable descendants, as many as the sand in the sea and the stars in the sky! (Gen 22:17) Abraham lived forever through his descendants.

In later writings we notice the development of this belief, especially in the book of Maccabees. The mother and her seven sons, described in this book, believe that while the Greek persecutor could destroy their body, he could never destroy their spirit. They believed that they would live forever in God. From here arises the expression that while we die in the body, we will live in the spirit, in God!

We are created in the image and likeness of God and carry within us the breath and life of God himself. Since God is eternal, God's life within us, our soul, can never die. This image and life of God we carry within us is given to us, placing in us a yearning to return back to the person it came out from, God. God invites us to share his life on earth, so that we can also share his life in heaven. On earth we live in God's kingdom if we let God's image and likeness grow and mature within us; until we once again become fully one with God, in heaven.

Although we are made in God's image and likeness, and carry within us this great desire and attraction to be united with the fullness of light, God also gives us freedom to choose. We can choose to walk towards the light or to distance ourselves from it. It would certainly feel like 'hell' to realise that, because of choices made in life, one would never be able to live in the fullness of that light and life which is God.

Moreover, we know from our own experience that, with all our good intentions, we never fully succeed to live in the light. We often stain our white baptismal robe, and our flame of faith often flickers and perhaps even goes out. While we retain the life of God within us, we still remain sinners. "All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven." (Catechism #1030)

Because of our sinful human nature, we all require to be purified. It is like appearing in front of the King only to become aware that you are not suitably dressed for the occasion! Alternatively it is like letting your eyes get used to the infinite light that is God. Traditionally we have compared purgatory to a fire that purifies; just as gold is tested and purified by fire, so are we!

We can never fully understand the mysteries of life beyond death, and we can only talk about them by analogy, using images from our daily human experiences. As we journey forward, and continue running our race, we look forward to the moment when we are united with the fullness of life, the brightest light, God himself.

.... Mario

**PARISH PRIEST:** Fr Mario Zammit  
**PARISH SECRETARY:** Mary Peeris  
**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL**  
**CHAIR:** Christopher Ratnayake  
**SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE CHAIR:**  
Michelle Penson (0499 891 101)  
**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.*

**FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVE MASS:** Each year on Christmas Eve St John's Parish celebrates the Family Christmas Eve Mass. We invite your child/children to take an active part in this year's mass. Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday 24th December at 7:00pm in the OLMC Naleijerring Centre OLMC, on Yarra Street. Students from Year Prep to Year 12 are welcome to take part in one of the following ministries: reader (Year 4—12); prayer of the faithful (Year 2—12); offertory procession (Year P—12); altar server. If your child is interested in taking part, please email their name, year level and the ministry they would like to be involved in: elizabeth.williamson@cam.org.au

**ADVENT—A TIME OF PREPARATION:** Soon we will be starting the time of Advent—a time to prepare for the great celebration of Christmas. There are many ways we can prepare ourselves. Decorating our houses and setting up our nativity sets are an important part of our preparation. We invite you to a time of prayer and reflecting on the Sunday readings starting on Monday 26th November at 7:00pm in the parish house. During Advent we will be meeting every Monday. Everyone is welcome to join. No prior preparation necessary. RSVP on heidelberg!@cam.org.au

**BOTTLE TOPS TO MAKE PROSTHETIC HANDS FOR CHILDREN:** Thank you for collecting and dropping off your '2' and '4' clean plastic bottle tops.

**ST JOHN'S WALKING GROUP:** On Monday 18th November. Leave from outside the parish house at 10:00am. Traveling to Gresswell Forest, Watsonia. Walk around the forest followed by coffee in Macleod. Contact Jan (0423478504).

**GEMS 50+ (AND FRIENDS):** This Tuesday 19th November we invite you to a talk by **Gerald Quigley**, practicing community pharmacist, master herbalist, media health commentator and author. These joint qualifications give him a unique overview of health from a holistic perspective. He is happy to answer questions related to illnesses and medications. Many of you would of heard him on 3AW's, 'House of Wellness' on a Sunday morning. All welcome. Francis Xavier meeting room at the rear of the parish house at 10:00am. Elizabeth 0447195553.

**SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2020** for children not attending St John's Parish School. Applications for the 2020 sacrament programme: Reconciliation (Year 3), Eucharist (Year 4), and Confirmation (Year 6) open on Monday 25th November. Details in next week's newsletter.

**CHARISMATIC MASS:** Thursday 21st November at St Thomas the Apostle Church, 251 Diamond Ck Rd, Nth Greensborough. Starting at 7:30pm with praise & worship and Mass. Prayer ministry and supper after Mass. Contact Rose (0411 650 339) or Emilia (0418 120 902).

#### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

**RECENTLY BAPTISED:** Grace Rakis, Grace Coloe, Oliver Petkovic, Lenny Daniele.

**THE SICK:** Constance Anne Chang, Christopher Dabal, Gordon Eng, Giovanni Mirabella, Vita Nativo, Mary Wright.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Mary Rochford, Rita Kenna, Fr John Greene, Joyce Hemple.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Anna Cottrell, Audrey Lloyd, John Shields, Carmel Henderson.

*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.*

16/17 Nov	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Anita Metcalf	Peter Penson	Claire Newsome	Leela Cherubim
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader	Brian Garrone	Garry Sproules	Joanne Martinez	Rosemary Vecchies
Communion	Adrian Daly	Oliver Kmita	Geraldine Manuel	Mark Aiello
	Maria Basilone	Jerzy Kmita	Ann Domaingue	Leo Cosio
	Emma Chang	Val Wallis	Liz Sier	Charito Cosio
	Jeanette O'Sullivan	Bobbie Bartkus	VinSier	Sally Tramontana
23/24 Nov	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Domenica Ashworth	Pietro Sciotto	Elizabeth Williamson	Rosemary Vecchies
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader	Pamela Smith	Barbara Barnes	Michael Leonard	Margaret Andrews
Communion	Lorraine Mascarenhas	Fiona Curry	Leo Hernandez	Jenny Hollaway
	Donna Richardson	Barbara Barnes	Brian McIntosh	Des O'Brien
	Noel Micallef	Alice Wong	Yannick Jonas	Matthew Sanders
	Leela Cherubim	Jack Naden	Tim Boyle	Olivia Sanders
Counters	<b>17 Nov:</b> Graeme Foote, Michael Tilley & <b>24 Nov:</b> Tim Booth, Nigel Mant, Shane Byrnes.			
Collection Weekly Average for October				Heidelcare Co-Ordinator
Parish		Presbytery		November: Joan 0490 254 928
Stewardship	\$2,961.67	Stewardship	\$620.73	December: Elaine 0490 254 928
Loose	\$714.62	Loose	\$357.50	

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

**SPECIAL COLLECTION IN SUPPORT OF MINISTRY AMONG THE DEAF:** This weekend 16th and 17th of November, we will be having the Catholic Deaf Appeal at all Masses. Thank you for your support.

**AUSTIN COMMUNION SERVICE:** This Sunday 17th November. Volunteers please meet at 8:30am for 9:30am Mass. Parishioners are invited to participate in this Mass to minister to the sick by their presence.

**GOLD COIN COLLECTION:** The October collection was \$578.75. Next collection will be on 23rd and 24th November. Money collected assists in the education of children and young adults in a poor area of the Philippines.

**JOURNEYING IN HOPE:** all who are grieving the loss of someone close are invited to join us for 9:15am Mass on Thursday 21st November followed by morning tea and a chat in the Francis Xavier meeting room, at the rear of the parish house. It will be great to see you. For catering purposes please rsvp to the parish office (9457 1066) or Jan (0423 478 504).

**CHRISTMAS MARKET:** Sunday 24th November, from 9:00am to 12:30pm in the parish hall. 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). All welcome.

**CHRISTMAS GIFT CARDS:** We give and receive many gifts during Christmas. Many gifts are simply put aside soon after. This Christmas you can give a gift that lasts! You can give your gift to those less fortunate by buying an MSSP Gift Card. Money donated go to 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. Donations are tax-deductible.



**St Vincent de Paul Society**  
VICTORIA  
*good works*

**VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL:** As Christmas approaches St John's Vinnies conference is preparing to assist those less fortunate in our area. Please donate non-perishable food items for the hampers to be given to needy families.

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 by Monday 3rd December, latest. A money collection will be 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.

**ANOINTING MASS OF HEALING:** will be held at our parish on Thursday 28th November at 9:15am. Sick and elderly members in our parish are invited to attend. Mass will be followed by morning tea at the Francis Xavier meeting room, hosted by our year 6 students. Transport is available if required, contact 94571066.

**JOURNEYING IN HOPE:** On Friday 6th December at 7:30pm, we gather as a parish community around parishioners who have lost a loved one during the past twelve months. Please contact parish office (94571066 / heidelberg@cam.org.au) to RSVP. Please come early before Mass and write down your name and the name of the person/s you have come to remember. Please bring a photograph of your loved ones. Everyone invited. Light supper after Mass.

**FIRST READING**

Malachi 3: 19-20

The day is coming now, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and the evil-doers will be like stubble. The day that is coming is going to burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, leaving them neither root nor stalk. But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness will shine out with healing in its rays.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Psalm 97: 5-9

**TOGETHER:** The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice.

**LEFT SIDE**

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp  
with the sound of music.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
acclaim the King, the Lord.

**RIGHT SIDE**

Let the sea and all within it, thunder;  
the world, and all its peoples.

Let the rivers clap their hands  
and the hills ring out their joy  
at the presence of the Lord.

**LEFT SIDE**

For the Lord comes,  
he comes to rule the earth.  
He will rule the world with justice  
and the peoples with fairness

**TOGETHER:** The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice.

**SECOND READING**

2 Thessalonians 3:7-12

You know how you are supposed to imitate us: now we were not idle when we were with you, nor did we ever have our meals at anyone's table without paying for them; no, we worked night and day, slaving and straining, so as not to be a burden on any of you. This was not because we had no right to be, but in order to make ourselves an example for you to follow.

We gave you a rule when we were with you: not to let anyone have any food if he refused to do any work. Now we hear that there are some of you who are living in idleness, doing no work themselves but interfering with everyone else's. In the Lord Jesus Christ, we order and call on people of this kind to go on quietly working and earning the food that they eat.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lift up your heads and see; your redemption is near at hand.

Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Luke 21:5-19

When some were talking about the Temple, remarking how it was adorned with fine stonework and votive offerings, Jesus said, 'All these things you are staring at now – the time will come when not a single stone will be left on another: everything will be destroyed.' And they put to him this question: 'Master,' they said, 'when will

this happen, then, and what sign will there be that this is about to take place?'

'Take care not to be deceived,' he said, 'because many will come using my name and saying, "I am he" and, "The time is near at hand." Refuse to join them. And when you hear of wars and revolutions, do not be frightened, for this is something that must happen but the end is not soon.' Then he said to them, 'Nation will fight against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes and plagues and famines here and there; there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.

'But before all this happens, men will seize you and persecute you; they will hand you over to the synagogues and to imprisonment, and bring you before kings and governors because of my name – and that will be your opportunity to bear witness. Keep this carefully in mind: you are not to prepare your defence, because I myself shall give you an eloquence and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to resist or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relations and friends; and some of you will be put to death. You will be hated by all men on account of my name, but not a hair of your head will be lost. Your endurance will win you your lives.'

**EVIL WILL NOT HAVE THE LAST WORD**

Today's passage from the gospel according to Luke (21:5-19) comes from the discourse on the future that Jesus gives as his days in Jerusalem draw to their climax. In the discourse looks beyond his own death and resurrection to the time of the Church. In this period the disciples will have their own 'passion' to undergo in the shape of the trials that await them in the long period before the kingdom of God is finally in place.

The disciples will be persecuted and hauled before law courts. Most poignantly, they will suffer division and betrayal among themselves and within their own families.

In all this they should draw comfort from knowing that Jesus has foreseen such trials and placed them within the context of events leading up to the overthrow of evil and the triumph of God at the time of his own return as cosmic Lord.

The time of the Church has extended vastly beyond anything foreseen by the early believers. We retain the doctrine of the 'Second Coming' in our creeds not necessarily because we believe that Jesus will soon appear on the clouds of heaven but because it asserts the eventual triumph of God's rule in the universe.

Until then, all is provisional. Wars, famines and earthquakes continue. Those who work for justice and a more human life for all people face hostility, imprisonment, even death. There will always be grounds for disillusionment and loss of faith. The Lord's encouraging message applies as much to our time as it did to the early generations of believers.

Fr Brendan Byrne sj