



ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PARISH

52 Yarra Street

HEIDELBERG

We acknowledge the traditional owners and 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.

Central to the mission of St John's Parish is an unequivocal commitment to fostering the dignity, self-esteem and integrity of children and young people and providing them with a safe, supportive and enriching environment to develop spiritually, physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially.

1ST / 2ND DECEMBER—FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A

Dear Parishioners, Visitors to our parish and Friends,

STAY AWAKE!

We continue on our pilgrimage of faith! This Sunday we start another Church liturgical year. Time is a very important element in our life; we celebrate 'times and seasons,' birthdays and anniversaries. As we mark time we look back and examine the progress we have made. When we are young we measure our height and our academic achievements; as we get older we measure our growth and maturity in our relationships, at work and in our life with God. As we look backward and forward at the turn of another liturgical year, we may ask ourselves how we have matured in our life of faith.

The gospel this Sunday invites us to stay awake and be ready. Jesus quotes the story of Noah, in the book of Genesis, as a parable. Noah was told by God to prepare an ark in which to take shelter and escape the flood that was coming on the earth. Noah and his ark were a sign to the people of the time. As they watch Noah construct his ark, they are invited to wonder about the purpose of such a big boat. Instead they choose to carry on busying themselves with their daily chores, ignoring the 'signs of the times,' and are swept away by the flood.

The celebration of Christmas is another reminder for us that our God lives in our midst. Two thousand years ago he was 'incarnated' amongst us; God the Son took on human flesh and lived among us. Many people chose to ignore this 'sign of the times' and continued living their daily life as if nothing different was happening around them. The incarnation of God does not stop. God still lives with us, he takes onto himself our physical structures, our language, our culture. God walks our streets every day. We are invited to stay awake, be alert and be ready so that we can meet him and engage with him.

As we go around preparing for another celebration of this great event, like the people in Noah's day we can choose to busy ourselves buying gifts and organising parties and meals, missing the point of the occasion. Alternatively we can stand alert and watchful. We celebrate the Christ that is born every day in my life today, how do I welcome him?

One of the mistakes we can often do is to conveniently lock Jesus up in the church tabernacle behind the altar where we keep his Body in the Eucharist. There we can visit him and offer him worship and adoration in our own time and when it suits us. God walks in our streets, I meet him in the messiness of human relationships that do not follow traditional norms. We meet him in the poor and the homeless that walk our streets. He is in the illegal immigrant, refugee and asylum seeker who challenges our comfortable way of life.

Pope Francis invites us to worship in a church that is a field hospital and not a clean well organised museum, where things are kept safe, away and out of reach of visitors. Life in Bethlehem was messy, disorganised and untidy! Jesus lives in today's culture and if I want to see him and be his disciple I need to stay awake and be alert. I do not have the right to tell Jesus how to appear amongst us, but I have the duty to look out for him and welcome him every day!

.... Mario

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Mario Zammit
PARISH SECRETARY: Mary Peeris
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
CHAIR: Michelle Robertson
COUNCIL MEMBERS:
 Domenica Ashworth;
 Timothy Boyle
 Margaret Bradley
 Adrian Daly
 Moira Di Cesare
 Karen Frost
 Russell Lew-Kee
SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE CHAIR:
 Michelle Penson (0499 891 101)
PARISH PROGRAMME COORDINATORS:
 Jan McCaffrey (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.com/stjohnheidelberg
 Instagram.com/stjohn.heidelberg
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 Nov and Dec
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
 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, 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: There are many ways we can prepare ourselves for Christmas. 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 25th 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

ST JOHN'S WALKING GROUP: Monday 2nd December meeting outside the parish house at 10:00am to walk the Main Yarra Trail, Heidelberg and the Banyule Flats. We will have coffee in Heidelberg.

On 9th December, we travel to the city by train to do an alleyways walk, followed by lunch. To join contact Jan (0423 478 504). All welcome

GEMS 50+ (AND FRIENDS): Join us for a picnic on Tuesday 3rd December. BYO lunch. Tea and coffee provided. Meet at 12.00pm in the Francis Xavier meeting room. Visitors are always welcome; transport is available. Elizabeth (0447195553).

Morning Melodies 'Christmas Show': Tuesday 17th December: Lower Plenty Hotel, 4 Main Road, Lower Plenty. Includes tea/coffee, Devonshire tea, lunch and a complimentary beer, wine or soft drink. \$20. Doors open at 9:30am. Show starts at 10:30am. Bookings: Elizabeth (0447195553).

STEWARDSHIP (THANKSGIVING)
ENVELOPES: The January to April instalment of Stewardship Envelopes is ready to be picked up from the church porch. Envelopes in alphabetical order. Thank you for your generosity and support.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

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

ANNIVERSARIES: Kay Dennis, Mathew Mathew.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Sr Mary Stainsby rsm, Lynette Stark.

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.*

30 Nov/ 1 Dec	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Anita Metcalf	Marguerite Ryan	Joanne Martinez	Matthew Sanders
2 nd Reader	Peter Penson	Jack Naden	Elizabeth Williamson	Mark Aiello
Communion	Michelle Penson	Chris Ratnayake	Nigel Mant	Leo Cosio
	Jan Mc Caffrey	Pauline Griffiths	Marni Mant	Charito Cosio
	Domenica Ashworth	Margaret Bradley	Mary Furlan	Leela Cherubim
	Maria Basilone	Bobbie Bartkus	TBA	TBA
7 Dec / 8 Dec	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Jan Mc Caffrey	Claire Newsome	Michelle Robertson	Peter Penson
2 nd Reader	Moiria Di Cesare	Michael Leonard	Bob Dowling	Leela Cherubim
Communion	Sue Lew-Kee	Oliver Kmita	Liz Sier	Sally Tramontana
	Emma Chang	Jerzy Kmita	Vin Sier	Mark Aiello
	Jeanette O'Sullivan	Jack Naden	Ann Domaingue	Matthew Sanders
	Marco Di Cesare	Fiona Curry	Geraldine Manuel	Olivia Sanders
Counters	1 Dec: Vincent Chung, Bill Barnes, Peter O'Donoghue & 8 Dec: Stephen Devenish, Nicole Pellizzaro, Thomas Bechelli.			
Collection Weekly Average for October				
Parish		Presbytery	HEIDELCARE : 0490 254 928	
Stewardship	\$3085.28	Stewardship	\$723.08	
Loose	\$698.62	Loose	\$350.00	Morning Tea, 1st December: Wendy & Barbara
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 1st December. All welcome. Gold coin donation to cover expenses of sausage sizzle, appreciated.

HEIDELCARE CHRISTMAS BREAKUP: Short meeting followed by supper 7:30pm, this Monday 2nd December. In the Francis Xavier meeting room at the parish house. Everyone welcome—come for a cuppa and a chat!

JOURNEYING IN HOPE: 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. A light supper will be served after Mass.

MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSION APPEAL: on the 7/8 December in support of the mission fund of the Melbourne archdiocese. Donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible.

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.

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



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 this **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.

REQUEST FOR HELP: a parishioner living in Rosanna is requesting help to come to our Sunday 10:30am Mass. Anyone who can kindly offer transport to and from the church please contact the parish office.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2020 FOR THOSE NOT ATTENDING ST JOHN'S PARISH SCHOOL: Reconciliation in November (Year 3), Eucharist 13th June (Year 4) and Confirmation 2nd August (Year 6). Enrolment **is now open**. For application forms and further information email elizabeth.williamson@cam.org.au. Applications for all sacraments close Monday 2nd March 2020.

DO YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO CAN'T GET TO MASS ANY LONGER? Would they like to be visited and perhaps have communion taken to them? Contact Elizabeth 0447195553.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills. All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.' He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war. O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord. light of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 121:1-2.4-5.6-9

TOGETHER: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

LEFT SIDE

I rejoiced when I heard them say:

'Let us go to God's house.'

And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

RIGHT SIDE

It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord.
For Israel's law it is, there to praise the Lord's name.
There were set the thrones of judgement
of the house of David

LEFT SIDE

For the peace of Jerusalem pray:

'Peace be to your homes!

May peace reign in your walls,
in your palaces, peace!'

RIGHT SIDE (PRIEST'S SIDE)

For love of my brethren and friends

I say: 'Peace upon you!'

For love of the house of the Lord I will ask for your good.

TOGETHER: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

SECOND READING

Romans 13:11-14

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under the cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 24:37-44

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

READINESS FOR THE LORD

Advent is the time when the Church longs for the coming of the Lord. We believe, of course, that the Messiah has already, in the person of Jesus, been born at Bethlehem. But the state of our world makes us acutely conscious of just how 'unfinished' the business of salvation is. So, with the early believers who keenly awaited Jesus' second coming, we can still identify with the expressions of hope for salvation expressed by the people of the Old Testament. In today's First Reading the prophet Isaiah gives us a vision of peace based on nations setting aside their desire to wage war.

Paul urges the Christians in Rome to live like people expecting an important visitor. Though it is still 'dark'—in the sense that salvation is not complete—they rise early, to have all ready for him when he comes.

Jesus develops this theme of readiness in the gospel, employing a favourite image: the prudent householder. Jesus does not want to suggest that God deliberately waits to catch us out. The image makes the simple point that, since one never knows when a burglar will strike, prudent householders do not allow themselves to be distracted by all kinds of activities. They keep a sharp ear and a keen eye for anything unusual. Christian life similarly involves keeping a sharp ear and a keen eye for the coming of the Lord—and not just for his coming at the end of time but for all the various way and guises in which he comes into our lives every day.

Fr Brendan Byrne sj