



ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PARISH
& PRIMARY SCHOOL

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 FEBRUARY 2020—PRESENTATION OF THE LORD, YEAR A

A TIME TO APPRECIATE AND BLESS CHILDREN IN OUR PARISH .

Dear parishioners, visitors and friends,

The People of God, like society, is made up of people from different walks of life. We gather as one Body of Christ to worship and thank God for his many gifts.

In Christ we are all sisters and brothers, children of God, and we have a duty towards each other, to look out and reach out for one another. Some community members are vulnerable and depend on our attention and concern for them.

As the People of God we have a duty to ensure that our community is safe for all who participate in our gatherings. Children, young adults, people with disability and the elderly are all vulnerable and require our attention.

This Sunday, as we also celebrate the feast of the Presentation of the child Jesus in the Temple, forty days after his birth, we take the opportunity to consider how we can best become a safeguarding and welcoming community to children and vulnerable adults.

Today we bless children in our community, to express our commitment to always create a safe space where they can grow and develop as committed Christians. We welcome and thank parents who continue to bring their young children to our parish family. We recognise that it is not always easy to come to church with young children who find it difficult to sit still for longer than two minutes. These children are a very important part of our Church and as a community we welcome them.

It is the duty of each of us to ensure our community is safe for everyone who participates in our gatherings. We do have a Safeguarding Committee in our parish, made up of Michelle Penson, Adrian Daly and Moira Di Cesare. They do have an important role in assisting us in our duty towards children and vulnerable adults, but it is the duty of each one of us to ensure that everyone is safe and welcome.

I thank all parishioners who offer to look after parishioners who need transport to and from the church and also to parishioners who visit the sick and the homebound. This ministry is also part of our commitment to create a welcoming community. Thank you.

... Mario mssp

*"Parents must not worry about their young children disrupting Church services, as a baby's cry is a 'beautiful homily,' said Pope Francis. Speaking as he baptised 32 children in the Sistine Chapel on Sunday 12th January, Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Francis pointed out that children are 'choral,' and if one is making a noise 'they all begin, and a concert will take place.' (Note taken from **The Tablet**, 18 Jan 2020, p. 23)*

We the parishioners of St John's Heidelberg commit ourselves as a community in which our children, young people and vulnerable adults are nurtured and have a voice that is heard. May we treasure them, be vigilant and fearless in protecting them from harm, and live as a community ensuring that the well-being and safety of all children is at the forefront of all we do and each decision we make.

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Mario Zammit mssp

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

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

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.*

GEMS 50+ (GREGARIOUS ENERGETIC MEMBERS OF ST JOHN'S): Our first gathering for 2020 will be this Tuesday, 4th February at the Old England Hotel for lunch at 12:30pm. Join us to catch up with each other's news following our Christmas/New Year break. New members are always welcome. Come regularly or once in a while. Bring a friend if you like. Transport available. Contact: Elizabeth 0447195553. A copy of the first quarter GEM activities to take home is available at the church porch.

UPCOMING OUTING: Banyule Waste Education Centre, Tuesday 11th February, 10:00am to 12:00pm, at 307-325 Waterdale Rd, Bellfield. Do you wonder about what happens to your recycling when it is collected from your street? The session at the Bellfield Operations Centre explains what happens and includes a tour of the recycling facility. Contact Elizabeth: 0447195553.

HEIDELCARE: meeting at 7:30pm on Monday 3rd February, in the Francis Xavier meeting room at the parish house. All welcome

TAP AND GIVE: thank you to parishioners and visitors who are using our new facility to contribute to our weekly collections. Each time you tap your card, you donate \$5 to the parish. Two thirds of this goes to the parish collection and a third to the presbytery collection. Thanks.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2020: for candidates **NOT** attending St John's Parish School: Reconciliation 12th November (Year 3 and over), Eucharist 13th June (Year 4 and over) and Confirmation 2nd August (Year 6 and over). Enrolments for all sacraments close on Monday 2nd March. For application forms and information contact elizabeth.williamson@cam.org.au.

ST JOHN'S WALKING GROUP: On Monday 3rd February St John's Walking Group will depart from Yarra Street, outside the parish house at 10:00am to walk part of the Main Yarra Trail from Heidelberg. We will walk for about an hour then have coffee. For information or to register contact Jan on 0423 478 504.

VISIT OF BETHLEHEM UNIVERSITY VICE CHANCELLOR: Come and hear Brother Peter Bray speak about life in Bethlehem and the amazing ministry of the only Catholic University in Palestine and its challenge to educate a new generation of Christian and Muslim leaders in a land ravaged by injustice, occupation and oppression. Sunday 23rd February, 6:00pm at The Cunningham Centre (opposite St. Bernadette's School) 53 Stanley St, Ivanhoe. Please RSVP to Parish Office 9499 1515 or Ivanhoe@cam.org.au All Welcome!

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

THE SICK: Mary-Teresa Wright, Gordon Eng, Giovanni Mirabella, Vita Nativo.

ANNIVERSARIES: Margaret O'Dwyer, Ronald Silva.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Colleen Bradley.

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.*

1 Feb / 2 Feb	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Peter Penson	Claire Newsome	Marguerite Ryan	Leela Cherubim
2 nd Reader	Jan McCaffery	Pietro Sciotto	Maureen Stella	Mary Kotefski
Communion	Emma Chang	Margaret Bradley	Tim Boyle	Matthew Sanders
	Adrian Daly	Stanly Devasia	Yannick Jonas	Olivia Sanders
	Lorraine Mascarenhas	Pauline Griffiths	Sue Lew-Kee	TBA
	Michelle Penson	Alice Wong	Geraldine Manuel	TBA
	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Moira Di Cesare	Michael Leonard	Michelle Robertson	Des O'Brien
2 nd Reader	Madi Lew-Kee	Barbara Barnes	Elizabeth Williamson	Matthew Sanders
Communion	Maria Basilone	Bill Barnes	Ann Domaingue	Charito Cosio
	Marco Di Cesare	Bobbie Bartkus	Doris Schembri	Leo Cosio
	Sue Lew-Kee	Jerzy Kmita	Liz Sier	Catie Nesbitt
	Lorraine Mascarenhas	Oliver Kmita	Vin Sier	TBA
Counters	2 Feb: Stephen Devenish, Nicole Pelizzaro, Thomas Bechelli; 9 Feb: Leo Cosio, Leo Hernandez, Yannick Jonas			
Collection Weekly Average for January			Morning Tea: Barbara & Liz	
Parish		Presbytery		HEIDELCARE : 0490 254 928
Stewardship	\$3,953.13	Stewardship	\$709.29	
Loose	\$726.95	Loose	\$375.00	
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 AND SAUSAGE SIZZLE: available after 10:30am Mass. Join us as we continue celebrating life in our parish. (Gold coin donation for sausage sizzle please).

BUSH FIRE APPEAL: Thank you for your contribution. A total of \$1949.10 was collected and given to the St Vincent de Paul Bushfire appeal.

THIS SUNDAY 2ND FEBRUARY: This weekend as we celebrate the feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple we bless school children, young children in our parish, and the staff of our parish primary school. We will also talk about how we can better safeguard children and vulnerable adults in our community.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION: Are urgently needed to minister during our weekend Masses. A training workshop for new ministers of Communion is planned for on Monday 10th February at 7:00pm in the parish church. All parishioners, including students in year 12 of high school, can participate in this important ministry in our weekly liturgies.

PHILIP: New Life Course presented by the Melbourne Catholic School of Evangelisation. Six Tuesday evenings from 8:00 to 9:00pm, at Loyola College, Youth Ministry Lounge, Watsonia, starting 18th February. An opportunity to deepen relationship with God and a desire to share that with others. \$30.00 (for six sessions), \$25.00 concession. Register by 14th February. Bookings and enquiries: Sr Nelia Llanto, sjbp 0411 361 081 / email: llanton@loyola.vic.edu.au or Rose Rendina 0411 650 339.

2020 STRENGTH IN WEAKNESS CONFERENCE: Saturday 15th February, 9:00am – 6:30pm, 400 City Road, Southbank (Planetshakers Centre). A day of prayer and renewal for all Christians. Guest speakers: Archbishop Comensoli, Archbishop Prowse, Fr Augustine Vallooran, Lenyce Willason, Fr Ken Barker & Lalith Perera. For information & free registration visit www.strengtheninweakness.com.au

LENT: The season of Lent this year starts on Wednesday 26th February. We celebrate with the placing of ashes on our foreheads during our Masses at 9:15am, 2:15pm (primary school), 7:30pm. If you have any olive branches or palms from last year's Palm Sunday celebration, you are invited to place it in the St Vincent de Paul collection basket in the church foyer, to be burnt in preparation for Ash Wednesday.

PRAYER DURING LENT: Scripture prayer sessions will be offered during the time of Lent, a time to read, pray and reflect on God's word for us. If you are interested in participating, please contact the parish office on 94571066 or heidelberg@cam.org.au

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: will be held on 27th February at the Francis Xavier meeting room, in the parish house, at 7:30pm. During this meeting we will discuss our Annual Financial Report and the report for the Plenary Council. All welcome.

PARISH NURSING HOMES: Catholics living at The Views, (corner of Waiora street and Lower Plenty road) and Clevedon Terrace (Upper Heidelberg Road) are visited weekly by members of the parish offering them friendship, prayerful support, and the sacrament of Communion. Parishioners who would like to participate in this ministry, please contact the parish office. Training will be provided.

READERS AT OUR WEEKEND MASSES: parishioners who proclaim the Word of God at our Masses are needed. This is another important ministry as we lend our voice to God's word for us today. Parishioners from year six of primary school onwards are welcome for this ministry. Training will be provided.

HOME MASSES: Celebrating Mass at home or with a group of friends and neighbours is a very meaningful way of expressing faith and building community. To participate contact the parish office 9457 1066 or Jan 0423 478504.

FIRST READING

Malachi 3:1-4

The Lord God says this: Look, I am going to send my messenger to prepare a way before me. And the Lord you are seeking will suddenly enter his temple; and the angel of the covenant whom you are longing for, yes, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. Who will be able to resist the day of his coming? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he is like the refiner's fire and the fuller's alkali. He will take his seat as refiner and purifier; he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and then they will make the offering to the Lord as it should be made. The offering of Judah and Jerusalem will then be welcomed by the Lord as in former days, as in the years of old.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 23:7-10

TOGETHER: Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!**LEFT SIDE:**

O gates, lift up your heads; grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory!

RIGHT SIDE:

Who is the king of glory? The Lord, the mighty, the valiant,
the Lord, the valiant in war.

LEFT SIDE:

O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory!

RIGHT SIDE:

Who is he, the king of glory? He, the Lord of armies,
he is the king of glory.

TOGETHER: Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!**SECOND READING**

Hebrews 2:14-18

Since all the children share the same blood and flesh, Jesus too shared equally in it, so that by his death he could take away all the power of the devil, who had power over death, and set free all those who had been held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. For it was not the angels that he took to himself; he took to himself descent from Abraham. It was essential that he should in this way become completely like his brothers so that he could be a compassionate and trustworthy high priest of God's religion, able to atone for human sins. That is, because he has himself been through temptation he is able to help others who are tempted.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia This is the light of revelation to the nations, and the glory of your people Israel. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 2:22-40

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ

of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God, and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

According to the Jewish law (Exod 13:1; 13:11-16), all first-born males, animal and human, belonged to the Lord and had to be 'redeemed,' that is, bought back from the Lord through a sum paid to the temple. Accordingly, as told in the gospel, Mary and Joseph bring their first-born child to the temple to 'buy' him back from God with the simple offering prescribed for the poor.

Led by the Spirit, however, the holy old man Simeon recognises in the child, one who belongs to God in a unique way: one who is, in fact, the supreme gift of God to Israel and to the world as a whole.

Simeon has longed for this moment. He will not live to see the salvation that the child will bring. But he can 'depart in peace.' He knows that the God who is fulfilling the ancient promises to his people, will also be faithful to him.

Simeon is thus the patron of the elderly who do not fret or worry about how their life has gone but simply entrust it to the mercy and faithfulness of God who understands, forgives, and heals all things.

A word for Mary too. She too will have to let go of her child, surrender him to the difficult messianic role that lies before him. Conflict and pain will not be absent, neither from her nor from him. In this too she is the patron of all mothers—all parents in fact—who must surrender the children they have nurtured to the adult lives that lie before them.

Fr Brendan Byrne sj