



# 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.

## *29TH FEBRUARY / 1ST MARCH 2020—1ST SUNDAY IN LENT, YEAR A*

*Between 6th and the 27th October of last year, Pope Francis convoked a regional synod for the bishops of the Pan-Amazon region 'to identify new paths for the evangelisation of God's people in that region,' specifically the indigenous peoples who are 'often forgotten and without the prospect of a serene future.' After each of these synods, the pope issues a reflection on the synod discussions. On 2nd February, Pope Francis issued his Post-Synodal Exhortation called Querida Amazonia—Beloved Amazonia. The full text of this papal document can be found on our parish web site and facebook page, or at the Vatican web site, Vatican.va.*

*The pope's exhortation is not only addressed to the people living in the nine countries that make up the Amazon region, but to the whole world. His wish is to help awaken our affection and concern for this land which is 'ours,' and to invite us all to value it and acknowledge it as a sacred mystery. (5) This is not the first time Pope Francis has spoken about our responsibility towards the world and the environment. In May 2015 he wrote an encyclical 'Laudato Si',' speaking about the care of our common home. Both documents are very important reading for all Christians!*

*In our contemporary world, we have landed in a situation where we cannot risk speaking about the environment without being accused of being political! The discourse about the environment has been claimed by policy makers and it is perceived that any comment made about this topic means that one is taking sides with one political colour or another. This is indeed a very sad state we find ourselves into. Yes, indeed, the environment, and any discourse which effects our life as humans, is political, because human beings are political beings, but this does not mean that one has to align herself or himself with one political ideology.*

*Many commentators would point out that Church leaders should not meddle with party politics; I totally agree with this statement. It is not the role of any Church leader to endorse or condemn any particular political ideology; the role of Church leaders is to guide the Church in the light of the word of God. Indeed, the Church leaders are only a small part of the Church. The Church, the People of God, the Body of Christ, is made up of all who believe. We are all created in the image and likeness of God and we all have a duty to ensure that the environment around us is safe for us to enjoy, and for our own children to grow up in.*

*The environment is not, and should never be a political football. Decisions on the environment should not be based on the amount of votes one policy will gain or lose. Discussion and decisions about the environment should be above any shape of party politics.*

*As baptised members of the Body of Christ we believe that the world we live in is ultimately created by God for us to enjoy, not to abuse. We are created, in the image and likeness of God, as part of this beautiful world we call home. The world itself is in God's image and likeness, and we are called to join God in his creation. As co-creators we are required to respect, enhance and protect our God-given home. We do this, not only because we believe in God, but also because we are invited to love and respect those around us and the future of humanity, our own children!*

...Mario mssp

**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@sjohnheidelberg.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

### **GOSPELS OF HOLY WEEK AND**

**EASTER:** by Fr F. Moloney sdb, 16th to 19th March, Don Bosco Retreat Centre, Lysterfield. Cost \$430 all inclusive (retreat, meals, accommodation, etc). Information and registration: Candy 9752 2432 or dbrclysterfield@gmail.com

**COME AND LISTEN:** world-renowned liturgical scholar and author Dom A. Reid speaking on Praying the Sacred Liturgy and Engaging the Mass. Thursday nights, 27<sup>th</sup> February and 5<sup>th</sup> March, 8:00-9:30pm, St Thomas parish house, 251 Diamond Ck Rd, Nth Greensborough. Enquiries: Emilia 0418120902 / Sandra 9434 7553.

**MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND:** 17th to 19th April, from 7:00pm Friday to 5:00pm Sunday. Accommodation and meals provided. Information and bookings: Mercy & James 0409 183 676 / vicbookings@wwme.org.au / wwme.org.au

### **SICK AND HOMEBOUND**

**PARISHIONERS:** Please let us know about them? Contact Elizabeth (0447195553) with the information.

**TRUST UNDER TEST:** Both scripture and the lives of the saints suggest that when people are called by God for some purpose they soon go through a period of test. In hearing and following God's call they may experience a great sense of affirmation and freedom. But then comes a 'desert' experience, often prolonged, in which they learn far more deeply what it is to be a human being in close relationship to God. Stripped of the usual props and comforts, and with all illusions unmasked, they come to feel their own human powerlessness and utter dependence upon God. Only so can they become effective instruments and channels of God's grace in the world

Each of the first three evangelists portrays Jesus undergoing such an experience of test following his baptismal reception of the Spirit. Matthew's account has strong echoes of the experience of Israel recorded in Deuteronomy, chapters 6-8. During their forty-year wandering in the desert the people could expect God to give them food (the *manna*), protection from enemies, and eventual entrance into the Promised Land. But they were not to put God to the test by trying to force the divine hand.

The three temptations put to Jesus all contrive to get to him to do precisely this: force God's hand in these same areas: food, protection, and possession of the land (understood now as involving lordship of the entire world). Dismissing each suggestion with a word from Scripture, Jesus sets the direction of his life irrevocably. He will carry out his messianic task in complete trust, obedience and unselfish love.

Brendan Byrne sj

## **PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

**RECENTLY MARRIED:** David De Loris with Ashlee Smith.

**THE SICK:** Sally Hodgson, Alan Castles, James Artinopoulos, Doreen Booth, Charles Garraid, Giovanni Mirabella, Vita Nativo, Matais Navajas, Brett Ralph, Naoise Wheeler, Mary-Teresa Wright.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Maurice Crameri.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Dennis O'Connell, Aileen Scarlett.

*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.*

29 Feb/ 1 Mar	<b>Sat 6:00pm</b>	<b>Sun 8:30am</b>	<b>Sun 10:30am</b>	<b>Sun 5:00pm</b>
1st Reader	Peter Penson	Barbara Barnes	Michelle Robertson	Leela Cherubim
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader	Moira Di Cesare	Claire Newsome	Michael Leonard	Mark Aiello
Communion	Adrian Daly	Bill Barnes	Geraldine Manuel	Jenny Hollaway
	Marco Di Cesare	Fiona Curry	Doris Schembri	Des O'Brien
	Jan Mc Caffrey	Jerzy Kmita	TBA	TBA
	Michelle Penson	Oliver Kmita	TBA	TBA
7 Mar/ 8 Mar	<b>Sat 6:00pm</b>	<b>Sun 8:30am</b>	<b>Sun 10:30am</b>	<b>Sun 5:00pm</b>
1st Reader	Madi Lew-Kee	Jack Naden	Bob Dowling	Matthew Sanders
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader	Grace Lew-Kee	Michael Leonard	Joanne Martinez	Peter Penson
Communion	Maria Basilone	Margaret Bradley	Tim Boyle	Charito Cosio
	Emma Chang	Pauline Griffiths	Ann Domaingue	Leo Cosio
	Lorraine Mascarenhas	Chris Ratnayake	Mary Furlan	Michelle Penson
	Donna Richardson	Alice Wong	Brian Mc Intosh	TBA
Counters	<b>1 Mar:</b> Garry Sproules, Janice McGrath, Giuseppe Amoroso & <b>8 Mar:</b> Graeme Foote, Michael Tilley.			
<b>Collection Weekly Average for January</b>				
Parish		Presbytery		<b>HEIDELCARE : 0490 254 928</b>
Stewardship	\$3,953.13	Stewardship	\$709.29	
Loose	\$726.95	Loose	\$375.00	<b>MORNING TEA, 1st March:</b> Carmel & 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:** Please join us after 10:30am Mass for a cuppa and a chat. This Sunday 1st March. All welcome

**PROJECT COMPASSION:** Lent is a time of fasting and helping out the poor. We help those less fortunate through Caritas Australia. Please take home a donation box or a set of envelopes. Boxes and envelopes will be returned on Holy Thursday and after Easter. Tax-receipts available.

**PRAYER DURING LENT:** Monday evenings during Lent at 7:00pm in the parish house. Parishioners invited to join us for an opportunity to pray, prepare and reflect during Lent. Fr Mario will lead the evenings. Our theme for next Monday is 'Be Opened ... to Listen.' Everyone is welcome even if you did not put your name down to attend.

**THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2020:** at St John's parish church on Friday 6th March at 10:30am, followed by morning tea in the Francis Xavier meeting room, in the parish house. Members of other local Christian Churches will be joining us. The prayer service this year will focus on the people of Zimbabwe. Fr Kenneth Macharaga, from Zimbabwe, is our guest speaker. All welcome.

**PARISH COMMUNITY DINNER:** Wine and Pizza night on Saturday 7th March at 7:00pm, after Mass in the Francis Xavier meeting room in the parish house. Join us for a simple meal to build community. For catering purposes please add your name to the list in the church porch or ring the parish office (94571066). We'd love you to come. Put some names to the faces you see each weekend! Donation at the door.

**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 is provided.

**WAY OF THE CROSS:** As we prepare for the passion and death of Jesus, we pray together the Stations of the Cross, every Friday at 7:30pm.

**SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP:** A meeting was held on Thursday 20th February to gauge interest in establishing a Social Justice Group at St John's. It was attended by five parishioners with five apologies. This was a positive response and it was decided to form such a group. An important part of the meeting was making the distinction between **Charity** (social service) and **Social Justice** (social change). The group will meet again on Thursday 5th March, all are welcome to attend. Contact: Elizabeth 0447195553

**GEMS 50+** Tuesday 3rd March, movie and lunch; Palace Cinema Balwyn 231 Whitehorse Rd Balwyn. 'A Beautiful Day in the Neighbourhood,' \$20. Booking essential—contact Elizabeth 0447195553

**ST JOHN'S WALKING GROUP:** Every Monday, except for public holidays, we meet outside the Parish House at 10am to walk, explore, chat and drink coffee. You are more than welcome to join us. For more information please contact Jan on 0423 478 504.

**CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS FORMATION:** Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a weekly religious formation program for 3-6 year old children. 'The Atrium' is a unique hands-on environment filled with sensorially rich materials for children's faith formation. The materials are focused on scripture and liturgy and based on the Montessori Method of Education. Sessions run on Thursday mornings at St Pius X in Heidelberg West. Contact Julie 0404 658701

**LET THE HEART LISTEN:** 15-week programme Thursday mornings, starting 27th February, for people involved in listening to and supporting others. Includes: principles of listening and discernment, facilitated group participation, guided reflection etc. Facilitated by Carole Carmody rsm, at Heart of Life, 296 Glenferrie Road, Malvern. Cost \$680. Information: info@heartoflife.melbourne or 9890 1101.

**FIRST READING**

Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

**TOGETHER:** Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

**LEFT SIDE:**

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.  
In your compassion blot out my offence.  
O wash me more and more from my guilt  
and cleanse me from my sin.

**RIGHT SIDE:**

My offences truly I know them;  
my sin is always before me.  
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;  
what is evil in your sight I have done.

**LEFT SIDE:**

A pure heart create for me, O God,  
put a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

**RIGHT SIDE:**

Give me again the joy of your help;  
with a spirit of fervour sustain me.  
O Lord, open my lips  
and my mouth shall declare your praise.

**TOGETHER:** Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

**SECOND READING**

Romans 5:12-19

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!  
No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

**GOSPEL**

Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says: He will put you in his angels' charge, and they will support you on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.' Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.' Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.