



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.

2ND / 3RD MAY 2020, FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR A

Dear Parishioners, Friends and Visitors,

'Unless a wheat grain falls into the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain!'

Last Saturday we celebrated ANZAC Day. I did not share anything about this in last Saturday's newsletter. Allow me to share with you my reflection at morning Mass on Saturday. Sorry for being late with this!

As a grateful nation, we stop to remember all those who have given up their life for the rest of us. It is interesting that we do this as we continue to celebrate Easter time. The gospel today reminds us of the great quote from Jesus about the grain of wheat that needs to give up its life and die in the ground, for new life to grow (cf John 12:24). On a spiritual level we understand this as referring to our life in the fullness of God's presence, after we conclude our pilgrim journey here on earth. In the context of today's commemoration it also reminds us of the new life that grows after the sacrifices of many of our sisters and brothers who died at the service of our country.

The original ANZAC story has become part of our psyche as a nation. It is considered by many as the event that, in a real way, gave birth to the nation. The event where we 'came of age.' But along the decades many other men and women have joined the ranks of the first ANZACs and have fallen in war in order to restore justice and peace. Many others returned back home to their families, broken people. We often hear the stories of the many who came back from war, changed, never to be the same again. They too sacrificed their life and we thank them. They went to war so that we can be safe. I hope that as a nation we continue to look after them and respect them.

For us in Victoria, this ANZAC Day is also marked by the death of four Victoria Police members who were killed on their line of duty. They did not go to war, but they were killed as they carried out their daily work. They too laid down their lives for us.

I would also like to remember all our nurses and doctors who this year are fighting a different war. They too are risking their own health and their lives so that we can get a better life.

It is from these sacrifices that new life grows. Perhaps we would argue: why do people have to give up their lives for justice and peace? Jesus gives us the answer: He came to proclaim the one Truth, but the world we live in struggles with Truth and is constantly trying to create its own truth. Anyone who is courageous enough to stand up for what is true and what is just, will also find himself in the way of the 'way of the world.'

Today we remember them all.

Lest we forget their sacrifices.

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@sjheidelberg.catholic.edu.au

HALL HIRE:

Contact parish office during hours.

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.*

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER: My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. *Amen.*

PRAYER TO MARY: O Mary, You shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the foot of the cross, were united with Jesus' suffering, and persevered in your faith.

'Protectress of the Roman people,' you know our needs, and we know that you will provide, so that, as at Cana in Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us. For he took upon himself our suffering, and burdened himself with our sorrows to bring us, through the cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. *Amen.*

We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God; Do not despise our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from every danger, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.

Dear brothers and sisters, through the Paschal Mystery we have been buried with Christ in Baptism, so that we may walk with him in newness of life. And so, now that our Lenten observance is concluded, let us renew the promises of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and his works and promised to serve God in the holy Catholic Church.

Do you reject sin so as to live in the freedom of God's children? I do

Do you reject the glamour of evil and refuse to be mastered by sin? I do

Do you reject Satan, father of sin and prince of darkness? I do

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth? I do

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died and was buried, rose from the dead and is now seated at the right hand of the Father? I do

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting? I do

God, the all-powerful Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and forgiven all our sins. May he also keep us faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ for ever and ever. *Amen.*

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

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.

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.***

COVID CHURCH SERVICES AT ST JOHN'S: We will continue to offer Church services on our Facebook page: facebook.com/stjohnheidelberg. As this is a public page anyone can follow these services, even without a personal Facebook profile. Live streaming: Mass at 9:15am on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday; Rosary and adoration at 5:00pm on Sunday, Monday, Thursday and Friday; Saturday evening: Rosary and adoration at 5:30pm followed by Vigil Mass at 6:00pm; Sunday: Mass at 8:30am. Please join us in prayer.

CHURCH DONATIONS: Dear Parishioners, thank you for continuing to support the parish even during this time of physical isolation and reduced activity in the church. Here are some details you may need to help with your contributions: parish bank account details are Account name: St John's Catholic Parish, BSB: 633 000 Account Number: 138400957. Kindly indicate your thanksgiving number and parish or presby in the reference section. If you do not have a thanksgiving number please include your family name. You can also use the facility on the parish web page, bottom left hand side, or on the parish Facebook page. Please use the comments section to include your details. Thank you for your generosity.

PROJECT COMPASSION CONTRIBUTIONS: You can also drop off your Project Compassion contributions to the parish office and we will forward them on.

PLEASE CONTINUE LOOKING OUT FOR EACH OTHER: Is there anyone you are aware of that is sick or needs help? Can you offer to do shopping for them? Can you keep in touch especially with those who are lonely and isolated?

A REFLECTION ON MOTHERHOOD: "I write this from the perspective of a grandmother and the wisdom of years. I dedicate it to the stories of the women I love—stories full of imperfection and pain, stories that push grace as far as it will go.

As Mother's day approached one year, several women spoke to me about the ambivalence they felt about this Hallmark holiday. Strong contributing women whose lives have not included raising children can feel excluded and diminished. Women who have experienced tragedy around reproduction feel fresh grief. Women who have been mothers are deeply aware of how far life falls from the ideal and may not want a spotlight shining on their efforts. Everyone is prepared to be disappointed.

I think back to a conversation over iced tea and cheesecake. We were sitting at lunch when my friend casually mentioned that she and her husband were thinking of starting a family. "We're taking a poll," she said. "Do you think I should have a baby?" I wanted to say, "It is not like deciding to cut off your hair, you know." And I wanted to say, "It might not be entirely your choice." But instead, I carefully said, "It will change your life." "I know," she said. "No more sleeping in on the weekend, no more spontaneous getaways ... it will wreck my body." But, that is not what I meant at all. I looked at my young friend, trying to decide what to tell her. I wanted her to know what she will never learn in childbirth classes. I wanted to tell her that the physical wounds of child bearing heal, but that becoming a mother will leave her with an emotional wound so raw that she will be forever vulnerable. (Continue reading this beautiful reflection on our parish web site.)

JESUS: SHEPHERD AND GATE

To appreciate 'shepherd' image in today's gospel, we have to understand something of pastoral practice in Palestine at the time of Jesus. Sheep from various flocks would be penned up at night in communal sheepfolds. Though they were all mixed up together overnight, at daybreak, when the time came for them to be led out to pasture, each shepherd could rely on the fact that the sheep of his flock would recognise his voice, separate themselves from the rest, and willingly follow him through the gate of the sheepfold.

Jesus contrasts a 'good shepherd' like this, whose relationship with the sheep rests on care and mutual knowledge, with others who come only to steal, harass and bring about the loss of sheep that do not belong to them.

The image acquires a fresh dimension when Jesus goes on to identify himself with the 'gate' of the sheepfold. If the sheep are to flourish, they cannot remain all day within the sheepfold; they have to go out and find pasture. Yet, if they do not return to the fold at night, they will be at risk. So daily they have to come and go through the gate. The gate is their means of access to both protection and growth.

As 'gate' Jesus performs this function for the community. It is only through continual interaction with himself that its members find life and growth. In this sense he 'has come that they may have life and have it to the full'

FIRST READING Acts of the Apostles 2:14,36-41

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.'

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 15:1-2.5.7-11

R./ The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.

Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit.

R./

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.

If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.

You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort.

R./

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.

My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.

R./

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever.

R./

SECOND READING 1 Peter 2:20-25

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty.

This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;

I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 10: 1-10

Two Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again: 'I tell you most solemnly, I am the gate of the sheepfold. All others who have come are thieves and brigands; but the sheep took no notice of them.

I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will be safe: he will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.'

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.