



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.

16TH / 17TH MAY 2020, SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR A

Dear Parishioners, Friends and Visitors,

***"Jesus got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him."* (John 13:4-5)**

As I prepare myself emotionally to leave the St John's parish family community, I have been looking back at our journey over the past seven years.

When speaking about the Church, St Paul compares it to the Body of Christ, with Christ as its head and all of us as different members of this body. Each one of us has an important role to play and the body only functions when we each play our part. Within this Body, I, in my role as priest, am asked to take a leadership position. This leadership position expresses itself especially in my role as teacher in the community. As part of our training we study different fields in theology, giving us the tools to be able to communicate God's Word to the rest of the Body.

Within this Body of Christ, the model of leadership is one of servant leadership. My role is to 'wash the feet' of the rest of the community. This model is especially taken from the Last Supper scene in the gospel according to John. Jesus stands up from the table, takes off his clothes, and kneels in front of each of his disciples, washing their feet. When Jesus takes off his clothes, he stands in front of the disciples wearing a loin cloth, dressed as a slave. Washing the feet was a job reserved for slaves; a Jewish slave could not be asked to wash the feet of his master!. At a time when people wore sandals or walked barefoot on dusty unsealed roads, one can only imagine what the disciples' feet looked like. I hope and pray that over my time with you, I have washed your feet to the best of my ability. I ask you to forgive me for the times I did not do this carefully and lovingly enough.

We re-enact this image of service every Holy Thursday as we wash the feet of a number of members from our community. Some commentators have suggested that it is appropriate for the priest also to sit down and have his feet washed by members of the community. While the priest ministers to the members of the Body, the members too need to minister to their priest. I am grateful for the way many of you ministered to me by your friendship, support and prayers over the past seven years. I appreciate each email, phone call, card and conversation I have had with all of you.

Life in the parish community is very similar to life in the family, and I recommend you at the beautiful way you have welcomed me, looked after me, and friended me. I will continue praying for you all as we now part ways.

Some parishioners have asked me to share my personal email address. The best way to reach me will be: mario.zammit@hotmail.com

Thank you.

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Jo-Anne Tierney.

ANNIVERSARY: Alexander Dickson, Joseph Papazacharia.

*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.***

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?

MEDITATION & MINDFULNESS: Reflection event via Zoom, Saturday 30th May, 10:00am to 1:00pm. Facilitated by Carol Dyer, this event offers participants theory and practice in meditation and mindfulness. Join us for an opportunity to broaden your ways of accessing your inner world and listening to what God is inviting you to at this time. Cost \$20. Bookings and payment via Trybooking at <https://www.trybooking.com/BJNSJ>. For more information, contact holsc@bigpond.com or tel 9890 1101.

SAFEGUARDING PRAYER: 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 CONTRIBUTIONS: Thank you to all who have continued to support the parish through this time. You can also give your contribution by using the link on the parish web site (bottom left) or by using our parish bank account details are Account name: St John's Catholic Parish, BSB: 633 000 Account Number: 138400957. Please indicate purpose of donation in the comments sections. Thanks.

EASING OF COVID RESTRICTIONS: It is very positive to hear that as a country we seem to have made it through the COVID tunnel to the other end. We are finally trying to get used to what may be the new 'normal.' As we have been told repeatedly, we still have to be very careful with the way we behave and watch the progress of this pandemic. We sincerely hope we can soon be able to claim our life back!

There have been some relaxation with regards to the number of people that can be in the same place together. It is positive to see that we can celebrate weddings with ten guests, funerals with twenty mourners, and baptisms where ten people can come together. While positive, this still puts great restrictions to the way we can be together.

At this stage, although one is technically able to celebrate Mass with ten people present, yet, after carefully considering all the options available, I have decided that at this stage we are not in a position to change any of our procedures. Mass is a banquet, a joyful celebration for the whole people of God and to limit this joyful feast to ten people, arbitrarily excluding any others, does not seem fair to me. We will continue to monitor the situation giving due regard to further relaxations as they arise.

While coming together as a People of God is a very important moment in the life of the Body of Christ, something we cannot do at present, we need to remind ourselves that this is not the only way we can live our faith. Faith starts in the home, which is the basic unit of the Church. We need to continue to practice coming together as a 'family Church.' Within this context it is important that we encounter and get to know the Word of God. The suggestion is that at least once a week, preferably on a Sunday, the whole family comes together to read the Word of God, especially the gospel reading chosen for that Sunday, and then pray using that text. We can stop and reflect on what the Word of God means to us in our life, even at this strange time. We are then invited to formulate our own private prayers. What is it I would like to talk to God about? How do I praise him for his many gifts? How do I express my concerns to God?

As a parish we will continue to live-stream the Mass on the parish Facebook page (facebook.com/stjohnheidelberg). As stated before, this is a public page that can be viewed by anyone, even if you do not normally use Facebook. (When Facebook asks you to 'log in' or 'sign in' please choose 'not now,' and the box will disappear and then you can take part in the celebration.) I totally understand that this is not the same as being physically present in the Church, but at this stage, this is the best option we have available for us.

Masses are live-streamed at 9:15am on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Sunday Vigil Mass on Saturday at 6:00pm and on Sunday at 8:30am. In the evenings Adoration and Rosary is live-streamed at 5:00pm every Monday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday, and at 5:30pm on Saturdays (before Mass).

During this time we also continue to pray and to look out for people who are lonely in their homes and who might need neighbourly support. Some people may require assistance with shopping while others will greatly benefit from a friendly phone call. This is where the Eucharist we participate in really comes to life, when we look out and recognise Jesus in those who are in need around us. Let us pray that we will soon be able to come together physically to continue our journey of discipleship.

FIRST READING

Acts of the Apostles 8:5-8. 14-17

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 65:1-7.16.20

Response: Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Cry out with joy to God all the earth,
O sing to the glory of his name.

O render him glorious praise.

Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds!

R./

'Before you all the earth shall bow;
shall sing to you, sing to your name!'

Come and see the works of God,
tremendous his deeds among men.

R./

He turned the sea into dry land,
they passed through the river dry-shod.

Let our joy then be in him;
he rules for ever by his might.

R./

Come and hear, all who fear God.

I will tell what he did for my soul:

Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer
nor withhold his love from me.

R./

Response: Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

SECOND READING

1 Peter 3:15-18

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 14:15-21

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you. In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you. Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

JESUS' ABIDING PRESENCE

In the gospel for last week Jesus reflected on two understandings of his 'going away' and 'return:' first, his going away in death and his re-appearance three days later as risen Lord; second, his more final departure to the Father, to return only at the end of time. The section from Jesus' instruction that we hear today focuses upon the much longer period of absence involved in his 'going away' in this second sense.

As far as the non-believing world is concerned, Jesus will simply seem to have ceased to exist. We who believe, however, will continue 'see' him with the eyes of faith and 'will live' in the experience of his presence. In loving the Lord and keeping his commandments, we participate in the mutual love that unites Father and Son. This means that, while deprived of the comfort of Jesus' physical presence, we should not feel 'orphaned.'

In this connection Jesus speaks of 'another Paraclete' whom he will ask the Father to give. A 'paraclete' is someone who stands beside a person in time of difficulty, a supportive and encouraging presence. We might think, for example, of a highly respected person who might accompany us to court and act as a character witness on our behalf. Though Jesus will no longer be physically present to carry out this role, the community will have 'another paraclete' in the shape of the Holy Spirit.

In the face of the world's hostility and doubt, the 'Spirit of truth' will offer reassurance that what we believe and seek to live by is the most profound truth.

Fr Brendan Byrne sj