



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.

## *6TH / 7TH JUNE 2020, TRINITY SUNDAY, YEAR A*

Dear Parishioners, Friends and Visitors,

Over the past few weeks, at our weekday Masses, the gospel readings were taken from the long farewell speech of Jesus at the Last Supper narrative according to the Gospel of John. This farewell speech covers four chapters in this Gospel! I do not pretend to be John the evangelist, even if I have spent the last seven years in his shadow, but it does seem that my farewell speech(es) are coming in a number of editions. Please bear with me. I would have dearly loved to share some of these thoughts with you in person, but our new friend Covid had other plans!

Up to a few months ago, if anyone asked me whether I had any intention of leaving the parish, I would have definitely answered with a clear NO! I was certainly enjoying my time at St John's, surrounded with a nice group of parishioners and friends, school staff and students, with my ministry at OLMC and Marcellin colleges and the hospitals. I believe that, apart from some hiccups that are part of life anyway, we had struck a good relationship and were enjoying each other's company. My intention was that, after I finished my first six-year term as parish priest in November 2021, I put my hand up for another term, taking me to 2027, before I had to consider moving to another parish. So what changed?

While my first love has always been, and still is, St John's and ministry in the parish, what many of you did not realise was that I had a second love which I rarely spoke about. Before my sudden appearance at St John's in October 2013, I had just spent six months in Manila and in Bataan, in the Philippines. I actually went back there in September 2015, and then with two groups in January of 2019 and 2020. I had always nurtured a love of working among the less fortunate among God's people. In 1980, as a deacon, I had already spent one full year in Karachi and in Faisalabad, in Pakistan, a ministry I totally enjoyed.

Last January, during my visit to the Philippines with some members of our parish, things finally fell into place, and as those who were with me can tell, I really enjoyed the space and could not resist requesting my superiors to consider assigning me to that mission. The parishioners who joined me in either of those trips can appreciate what draws me to that mission.

Through our Baptism, each of us is called to be a missionary and to witness to God's words and actions in our life. We are called to be missionaries in every situation we encounter. My ministry in the parishes in NSW and in Heidelberg was certainly missionary. I have always tried my best to live the good news with you. As a member of a missionary congregation, I feel drawn to minister among those who are less fortunate—this seems to be part of my DNA. My transfer to the mission in the Philippines gives me the opportunity to live out this part of my missionary vocation.

I understand that I have left myself open to be accused that I have cheated you by abandoning my first love and choosing to continue my journey with my second love, but I ask you to be kind to me and appreciate my desire to take up this new ministry. Once again I thank you all for your welcome, friendship and support. As I said in my message two months ago, I will always carry you with me in my heart!

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.*



**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.

## Happy 90th Birthday: Nance Russell

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

#### RECENTLY DECEASED:

**ANNIVERSARY:** Julianna Lim, Wendy Choo .

*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.***

**THANK YOU:** for the past ten years, Fran Gasior has been employed by St John's as a manager at the parish hall, looking after the hall bookings. While this has worked well for a number of years, as we went through a parish review of our staff over the past few months, together with the parish council and the finance committee it has been decided that the work previously done by Fran can now be carried out by the parish secretary. As a parish we are grateful for Fran's contribution and wish her well as she moves on into other ministries.

**THANK YOU ALSO:** to Pauline Griffiths who for a long time, together with Ann Wyatt, has carefully and generously looked after the church altar cloths and making sure the church looks clean and tidy for our Sunday celebrations. Pauline has requested permission to retire from this ministry. We thank Pauline for her generous contribution over the years.

**HELP NEEDED:** Pauline's retirement now raises the need for someone else to step in. We do need some dedicated people who spend some time each week to make sure that our prayer space is clean. While the carpet is vacuumed by a professional cleaner each week, there is always more work to be done: changing, washing and ironing the altar cloths, wiping down the pews, and other odd jobs as they arise. Can I please ask you to consider if you could make yourself available for this very important ministry please. Training will be provided! Thank you in advance.

**COVID CHURCH SERVICES AT ST JOHN'S:** We will continue to offer Church services on our Facebook page: [facebook.com/stjohnheidelberg](https://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.

**FOOD TRAIN:** a parishioner, a mother of four young children, is presently very sick and is requesting support with meals two or three times a week. If anyone can help with this act of charity, can you please contact the school secretary, Leanne Bradley, on 9459 2963. Your support will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

**LET US 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?

Greetings Parish and School Family

My final day with you at St John's will be Sunday 28th June. Unfortunately at this stage of restrictions we cannot celebrate properly as a family. The Mass on Sunday 28th June will be live-streamed at 10:30am and I invite you to join with me from your homes.

I hope that as things settle back to normal, it will be possible for me to visit you in the parish for a farewell celebration together later in the year.

Due to borders being closed I do not have a firm date when I will be going to commence my ministry in the Philippines. In the interim I will be staying at Hoppers Crossing North Parish, and on retreat. (My email address will be [mario.zammit@hotmail.com](mailto:mario.zammit@hotmail.com)).

Fr Joel Peart, presently at Brunswick Parish, will be your new Parish Priest here at St John's. He will start on 1st July and I wish him well in his new ministry with you all.

Your friend and priest,  
Mario mssp

**COVID-SAFE MASSES AT ST JOHN'S:** At present we are still not having public Masses at St John's. Hopefully things will change in the near future. As we wait, we can use this time to prepare ourselves for coming back. We are being told that we will be needed to take names and numbers of people attending, ensure COVID distancing and, most importantly, clean the church after each Mass. This will certainly take a lot of effort and we need people to take on these responsibilities. Can I please ask you to see how you can help and please contact the parish office with your details. You can either ring the parish office (94571066) or email ([heidelberg@cam.org.au](mailto:heidelberg@cam.org.au)). We can then try to make a roster of helpers for each Mass. Thank you.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** This week Marist brothers have announced that Marco Di Cesare, a parishioner at St John's, has been appointed principal at Marcellin College in Bulleen, starting January 2021. Marco comes to Marcellin from Caroline Chisolm college in Braybrook where he has been a very successful principal for a number of years. He also has a long history of association with the Marists. We congratulate Marco for his new appointment. As a parish we also thank Mark Murphy, who concluded his principalship at Marcellin in December 2019, and John Hickey who has been acting principal this year.

**ST JOHN'S PARISH SCHOOL REPORT:** This is the second week back to school after COVID. I have visited years Prep, one and two again this week and they are very excited to continue with their learning. It is so beautiful to see our parish school once again populated with excited smiling and energetic faces. Thank you also to teachers and parents for their role in education.

**FIRST READING**

Exodus 34:4-6.8-9

With the two tablets of stone in his hands, Moses went up the mountain of Sinai in the early morning as the Lord had commanded him. And the Lord descended in the form of a cloud, and Moses stood with him there.

He called on the name of the Lord. The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, 'Lord, Lord, a God of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in kindness and faithfulness.' And Moses bowed down to the ground at once and worshipped. 'If I have indeed won your favour, Lord,' he said, 'let my Lord come with us, I beg. True, they are a headstrong people, but forgive us our faults and our sins, and adopt us as your heritage.'

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Psalm 3:52-56

You are blest, Lord God of our fathers.

**Response:** Glory and praise for ever!

Blest your glorious holy name.

**Response:** Glory and praise for ever!

You are blest in the temple of your glory.

**Response:** Glory and praise for ever!

You are blest on the throne of your kingdom.

**Response:** Glory and praise for ever!

You are blest who gaze into the depths.

**Response:** Glory and praise for ever!

You are blest in the firmament of heaven.

**Response:** Glory and praise for ever!

**SECOND READING**

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Brothers, we wish you happiness; try to grow perfect; help one another. Be united; live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.

Greet one another with the holy kiss. All the saints send you greetings.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: to God who is, who was, and who is to come.

Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

John 3:16-18

Jesus said to Nicodemus, 'God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son.'

**GOD OF LOVE**

The Church invites us to sit back, as it were, and reflect upon the God who has been revealed in the full sweep of the Paschal mystery.

The doctrine of the Trinity can so easily seem to be an arid theological puzzle. For the early Christians it was nothing of the kind. They held firmly to the Jewish tenet that there was only one God. Yet, as they reflected upon what they had experienced in all the events surrounding the person of Jesus Christ and the subsequent gift of the Spirit, they could only conclude that they had been addressed and drawn into a divine communion of love.

Today's feast, then, celebrates the nearness, rather than the remoteness, of God.

Each of the readings explores this in some way. But the Gospel, drawn from the concluding section of Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus, most clearly brings out the continuity between the act of Christ in the paschal mystery and redemptive love of the Father.

The Father sent the Son, not to 'judge' (condemn) the world, but to rescue it from its captivity to sin and death, and draw human beings into the communion of life and love that is the Godhead.

Judgment is not so much a future prospect. It is something that human beings determine for themselves here and now through the way they respond to the revelation of God that comes to us through life of Jesus and the grace of the Holy Spirit.

*Fr Brendan Byrne sj*