



ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PARISH  
& PRIMARY SCHOOL

# ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PARISH

52 Yarra Street  
HEIDELBERG



**PARISH PRIEST** Fr Joel Peart

**PARISH SECRETARY:** Mary Peeris

**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: pol.org.au/heidelberg

Facebook.com/stjohnheidelberg

Instagram.com/stjohn.heidelberg

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Tues—Fri 9:30am to 2:30pm

**MASS TIMES:** No public masses  
at this time

**RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION):**

By appointment

**WEDDINGS:** By appointment

**FIRST RECONCILIATION,**

**FIRST COMMUNION, CONFIRMATION:**

Parish Secretary (9457 1066)

**LEGION OF MARY:** Not meeting at  
this time

**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 PRIMARY**

Maureen Stella (Principal)

55 Cape St Heidelberg 3084

t: 9459 2963;

office@sjheidelberg.catholic.edu.au

**HALL HIRE:**

Contact parish office during

hours.

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which our parish stands, the Wurundjeri-Balluk clan of the Woi wurrung people in the Kulin Nation.

St John's Parish is committed to fostering the dignity, encouragement and integrity of children and young people and providing them with a safe, supportive and enriching environment.

## 25TH / 26TH JULY 2020, 17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

### GLIMPSING THE KINGDOM

The two little parables, that of the Treasure discovered in the Field and the Pearl of Great Price, both depict a situation where a person finds something that they dearly want to possess. In one, a poor day laborer comes across treasure buried in a field—an unimaginable windfall! In the other, a merchant recognizes something he has been searching for all his business life: the perfect pearl! Neither, however, is able to gain immediate possession of what they have discovered. There is a gap between finding and possessing. But already the mere sight of what each have found frees them to 'sell all' so that they can finally get hold of it.

Jesus told the twin parables to illustrate a key feature of the Kingdom of Heaven. It is not something we possess right now; only in the future will it be fully realized in the world and in human lives. But those who have caught a glimpse of it from Jesus know that they have come upon a treasure that will fulfil their deepest desires. The discovery fills them with such joy as to put all other attractions in second place. In this sense they gain the freedom to 'sell all' in order, one day, to gain it.

Taken together, the parables contain a whole Christian spirituality—perhaps best illustrated in the life of St. Francis of Assisi. His commitment to radical poverty was not a hard moral imposition. It was something flowing in complete freedom from the "treasure" of God's love that he, in supreme degree, had glimpsed.

*Fr Brendan Byrne SJ*

**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.

**NEW SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE MEMBER REQUIRED:** After four years on the committee and helping to establish parish policies and practices, Moira di Cesare has stepped down. We sincerely thank Moira for her service in this role. We are looking for a new member to continue this important work and ensure our parish remains a place where all are included and can prosper. If interested, please contact Fr Joel at the Parish House or Michelle Penson on 0499 891 101.

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

**PRAYER FOR THE SICK:** Colin Bolger, Giovanni Mirabella.

*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*

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

God is in his holy place,  
God who unites those who dwell in his house;  
he himself gives might and strength to his people.

## FIRST READING

1 Kings 3:5.7-12

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 118:57. 72. 76-77. 127-130.

**Response:** Lord, I love your commands.

My part, I have resolved, O Lord,  
is to obey your word.  
The law from your mouth means more to me  
than silver and gold.

R./

Let your love be ready to console me  
by your promise to your servant.  
Let your love come to me and I shall live  
for your law is my delight.

R./

That is why I love your commands  
more than finest gold.  
That is why I rule my life by your precepts:  
I hate false ways.

R./

Your will is wonderful indeed;  
therefore I obey it.  
The unfolding of your word gives light  
and teaches the simple.

R./

## SECOND READING

Romans 8:28-30

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;  
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

Matthew 13:44-52

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'



## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and never forget all his benefits.

or

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.  
Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God.