



ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PARISH
& PRIMARY SCHOOL

ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PARISH

52 Yarra Street
HEIDELBERG



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.

Central to the mission of St John's Parish is an unequivocal commitment to fostering the dignity and integrity of children and young people and providing them with a safe and supportive environment in which to flourish.

29TH/30TH AUGUST 2020, 22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE SAT IN DARKNESS HAVE SEEN A GREAT LIGHT..." (MATTHEW 4:16)

Recently the Archdiocese of Melbourne ran an Australian Catholic Youth Festival reunion. Some of you would recall that in December last year, Perth hosted the ACYF that saw thousands of young Catholics from around Australia gather together in faith to pray, learn and enjoy each other's company. I was fortunate enough to attend as a chaplain and we had a fantastic time.

Our archdiocese youth leaders thought it would be great whilst we are in this lockdown to connect virtually with the young pilgrims that attended the festival last year; to support them in prayer and to relive some of the great experiences shared a little over 6 months ago. It was very successful, with over 200 young people joining in for the online event.

As good as the reunion was, I want to take myself back to the time of the festival. They were better days. Warm weather, big crowds, smiling faces and being able to go to mass and then the pub with friends. Seems unthinkable! It really was a great city for the event. An unrestricted Perth in summer makes a locked-down Melbourne in winter feel like a Siberian exile.

At the festival, one initiative proved particularly successful. Pilgrims from Melbourne were invited to take an envelope addressed to one of the 232 parishes in our archdiocese and write to them, sharing with them some of their experiences at the event. My former parish received one of these letters, which I would like to share with you. It is often lamented how very few young Catholics seem engaged with the faith they were baptised in. This young girl shows us that not only is faith not dead amongst our youth, but in many instances is absolutely flourishing!

Dear Fr Peart and Parishioners,

I am writing this letter to thank you all for your contribution and service to the Holy Church. I am writing from ACYF in Perth. Seeing the vast number of young pilgrims, the Lord opened my eyes to the fact that this would not have been possible without the help and many prayers of dedicated clergy, religious, laity and parents.

I would like to assure you that your hard work does not go unnoticed and the mustard seed of faith that you cultivate in the hearts of the youth is indeed growing (as I have witnessed myself during my time at ACYF). It is truly a blessing to see – so much love and unity in Christ, especially in a world that seems so steeped in chaos and discord. In a world that seems void of Christ.

'You are a light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden' (Matt 5:14)

Once again, I would like to express my utmost gratitude to you for planting the seed and igniting the light of faith in the lives of the youth through your service in the church. I hope to visit your church one day!

In Christ.

God bless her! I hope that this letter, which reflects an experience that I know many had at ACYF, provides us all with some encouragement in a time when our spirits might be a little down. Christ is certainly alive among our young people, if we give them the chance to encounter Him.

Peace,

Fr Joel

PARISH PRIEST Fr Joel Peart
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:
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Facebook.com/stjohnheidelberg
Instagram.com/stjohn.heidelberg

OFFICE HOURS:
Tue - 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 PARISH
PRIMARY SCHOOL:**
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.*

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.

IN CARING FOR OTHERS IN STAGE 4 OF LOCKDOWN:

What interactions with others were significant to me today? What care and compassion did I show? What was going on in my head during these interactions? Was I truly present? What control do I have over the circumstances of these individuals? Did I do all that I could in this point in time? What can I do for tomorrow?

EMERGENCY APPEAL FOR LEBANON

Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) have launched a national emergency appeal for Lebanon following the deadly explosion in Beirut on August 4. The appeal has been approved and is endorsed by Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay of the Maronite Catholic Diocese of Australia and Bishop Robert Rabbat of the Melkite Catholic Eparchy of Australia and New Zealand. You can arrange an offering online at www.aidtochurch.org/lebanon

ACN is an international Catholic pastoral aid organization that I have donated to in the past, as they not only provide material need to those places where Christians are persecuted and people are affected by war and disaster, but support priests and religious in their work providing the sacraments and spiritual support to our brothers and sisters in faith.

I invite your generosity here, both by your material support but also prayer for the people of Lebanon at this time.

Peace,
Fr Joel

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ELIZABETH WILLIAMSON

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

PRAYER FOR THE SICK: Pauline Hewatt, Colin Bolger, Giovanni Mirabella, Patrick Morel, Sandra Ashton, Sam Palmieri.

*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.***

THE SPIRITUAL ROSARY PILGRIMAGE: This is an invitation to take part in a pilgrimage through the events of Jesus life through the scriptures with Mary by your side...and all from your home. Throughout this online event you will be led by some fantastic Catechists and speakers with names such Dr Scott Hahn, Jason Evert, Fr Donald Calloway and Christopher West included in the line-up. The pilgrimage starts on September 8, the birthday of Mary, and concludes on October 7 which is the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. You can register online at <https://www.parousiamedia.com/the-spiritual-rosary-pilgrimage/>. You might also join the Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/237167150722245>

CATECHIST CLASSES 2020: All classes for, Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation have been cancelled for 2020.

SIGNIFICANT BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES: If you or a loved one are celebrating a significant birthday (18th, 21st, 30th, 40th...) or a wedding anniversary please let us know at the parish office (Heidelberg@cam.org.au) so we can celebrate and pray for you as a community.

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.

THE COST OF FOLLOWING JESUS

In last week's Gospel, Peter expressed his God-given insight concerning Jesus' identity as "the Christ, the Son of the living God". He received a blessing in response and appointment as the "rock foundation" of the Church that Jesus will "build". But when Jesus goes on to tell his disciples, in today's Gospel, that he is destined to go to Jerusalem to suffer and die, Peter, who had so conspicuously got it right, equally conspicuously stumbles at the truth Jesus now reveals: the more closely, as "(beloved) Son" Jesus is related to God, the more closely he is aligned to the divine will to enter into the pain and suffering of the world, to heal it from within.

Peter's protest is subtle. The suggestion, "Lord, this sort of thing is not for you!" echoes Satan's temptation earlier on (4:8-9) to lure Jesus away from his God-given path by proposing an easy route to rulership of the world. Hence the sharpness of Jesus' rebuke to Peter: "Get behind me, Satan!"

Peter's very understandable human desire to preserve the Master from suffering actually aligns him with the demonic in a way that would thwart Jesus' entire mission to save the world.

Jesus goes on to speak more generally to all the disciples, describing the conditions for any who want to follow him. It is human to want to avoid suffering and preserve those we love from it. But evil cannot be defeated without cost and confrontation. Joining Jesus in his mission will mean taking up one's own cross and, in various ways, losing life, in order to find it.

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.

LIVING THE GOSPEL

HAVE YOU GOT WHAT IT TAKES?

For some people, to be a Christian is a 'soft option' – they see being Christian as being a bit 'fluffy'. This week's gospel is a reminder of the real challenge of being a Christian. Jesus reminds us that to be one of his followers we must be prepared to pick up our cross – whatever our particular cross might be – and still follow his example. To be a Christian means that we don't fall in a heap when difficulty comes our way; we take up the burden – our cross – and continue to look forward with hope. To live like Jesus is no easy option.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 20:7-9

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced; you have overpowered me: you were the stronger. I am a daily laughing-stock everybody's butt. Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!' The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long. I used to say, I will not think about him, I will not speak in his name any more. Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my hear imprisoned in my bones. The effort to restrain it wearied me, I could not bear it.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 62:2-6. 8-9.

Response: My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God, for you I long;

for you my soul is thirsting.

My body pines for you

like a dry, weary land without water.

R./

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.

For your love is better than life,

my lips will speak your praise.

R./

So I will bless you all my life,

in your name I will lift up my hands.

My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,

my mouth shall praise you with joy.

R./

For you have been my help;

in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.

My soul clings to you;

your right hand holds me fast.

R./

SECOND READING

Romans 12:1-2

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 16:21-27

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'



COMMUNION ANTIPHON

How great is the goodness, Lord,
that you keep for those who fear you.

or

Blessed are the peacemakers,

for they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.