



ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PARISH

52 Yarra Street
HEIDELBERG



ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PARISH
& PRIMARY SCHOOL

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.

5TH/6TH SEPTEMBER 2020, 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

Happy *Father's* Day

SATAN AND THE SUNSHINE COAST

I read a rather disturbing news article during the week. According to a Noosa Today article, the state of Queensland is about to host its first public Black Mass, hosted by the Noosa Temple of Satan. I've been to Noosa once before and it's a great spot. Beautiful beach and Noosa Springs is one of the best golf courses I've ever played. (Not a huge fan of paying \$30 for breakfast on Hastings Street, but that comes with the territory)

The organiser (who I won't care to name) is a self proclaimed political activist who heads a group that seeks to achieve a number of things by partaking in the occult. One of them is to encourage "political awareness" and "combating religious authorities in politics". So he's a political activist using religion to have religion banned from politics. Interesting.

What else they seek to promote was not at all surprising to me, though I was surprised at how brazenly honest they were. They would like to see "greater access to reproductive health (read: abortion) and euthanasia and the decriminalization of illegal drug use..." This is where this group actually gets it right. They know that to further the cause of killing the most vulnerable in society - the child in the womb and the sick and elderly - they should invoke the devil. The father of lies. The prince of darkness.

The event is taking place on Halloween and apparently is sold out. One woman in the comments section expressed her disappointment that she missed out on a ticket, but reassured us all that "the kids and I will be watching on the live stream". It seems Satanists think that putting their masses up on the Internet is a good idea as well!

Jokes aside, this is all rather sad. It is one thing to be led into temptation and sin out of our weakness, but to seek the power of evil to promote and encourage it is a category of its own. St Paul tells us that we aren't ultimately battling flesh and blood in the moral life here but against nothing less than the spiritual forces of evil (Ephesians 6:12). So we fight spiritual things spiritually. My plan is to pray the rosary at the same time this event begins on October 31. That while evil is being courted in one part of the Eastern seaboard of our country, elsewhere the one who crushes the head of the ancient serpent will be invoked!

Bless,

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:
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:
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.*

We remember and pray for fathers in our community.
We also pray for those who would have loved to father children.

BLESSING PRAYER FOR FATHERS

*Lord God, who is Father of all,
send your blessing down on these men who are fathers.
For those who in the night worry for their child,
grant them your comfort.
For those who in the day work and struggle to provide for their child,
send them your strength.
For those who mourn a child, hold them in your love.
For those who play, laugh, sing and dance with their child,
you share in their joy.
Lord God, who is Father of all,
walk with these fathers, in the light times and the dark.
Bless them, and may they each be a living symbol
of your fatherly love;
a symbol to their children and all who they encounter.
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.*

*Families may like to use the above blessing on Father's Day
as they gather together for a meal.
Children could extend their right hand towards their father/grandfather as
the blessing is prayed.*

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>

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.***

GEMS AND FRIENDS: Praying and thinking of you all and admiring your stoic attitude in this difficult time. You may remember a few weeks prior to our last gathering we had started a raffle. It was decided to draw it and the results were as follows: 1st prize Maureen, 2nd Carmela and 3rd Pauline. Thank you to the Bortolin family for providing the first prize. Prizes will be delivered shortly.

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

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.

WINNING PEOPLE BACK

In the Gospel for today we hear a short extract from an instruction Jesus gives his disciples on community life within the Church. Jesus recognizes that the Church is not going to be a community of the perfect. Allowance has to be made for dealing with moral lapses and dissensions that inevitably occur in a community still on the way to the Kingdom.

The procedure that Jesus lays down reveals his sense of the Church as the family of God. Correction should as far as possible be carried out in private. Only if that proves unsuccessful should a carefully staged progression of increasingly public procedures be set in place. The goal is not simply to win, but to “win back” the “brother or sister”, to preserve as far as possible the dignity of the errant person and enhance everyone’s sense of being a respected member of the “family”.

If, despite all, the process fails, there is nothing to be done but to treat the person as an outsider to the community. There comes a point beyond which a community can no longer tolerate members who consistently defy its core values.

To set someone outside the community is no light matter. The Church needs to know that its decisions in this regard enjoy heavenly sanction. Hence Jesus’ assurance that the “binding and loosing” authority conferred personally upon Peter in regard to interpretations of the law (16:19), is also enjoyed by the local community with respect to the exclusion or non-exclusion of errant members. As risen Lord, Jesus remains “Emmanuel,” “God with us” s”

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

Facing the Issue

It can be very difficult when we feel that someone has hurt us to actually go and speak to them about how we are feeling. It is so much easier to revel in our hurt or seek payback for the hurt. Sometimes we feel that we might ruin a friendship by speaking to our friend about a way in which they have hurt us. But a hurt that goes unaddressed will continue to hurt and will probably be repeated. This week’s gospel reminds us of the need to challenge our friends when they hurt us but it also reminds us that when we have hurt others we need to be challenged about it and called to account for our actions.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 33:7-9

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 94:1-2.6-9. R.

Response: O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

O Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.

Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord.

R./

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand.

R./

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.'
R./

SECOND READING

Romans 13:8-10

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.
do.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Like the deer that yearns for running streams,
so my soul is yearning for you, my God;
my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

or

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will not walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life.