



# 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.

## *24<sup>TH</sup> / 25<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2020, 30<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A*

*"Some people think football is a matter of life and death. I assure you, it's much more serious than that."  
- Billy Shankly*

After staying up rather late last Sunday week to watch the final round of the European PGA Championship, my Monday morning was pretty lazy. I was enjoying the anticipated peace and quiet when bit by bit it was broken into by traffic noise and screaming voices. It took me a few moments to work it out but then it struck me: the kids are back at school! Though I was a little less thankful at that moment, my spirits have been very much lifted having the students return to class this past fortnight. It has restored a sense of normality and brought the place to life.

I was keen to head over and visit the school at the nearest opportunity, whilst also appreciating the challenges both teachers and students were having in settling back in. After giving them that bit of grace, I'm glad to say that with Mrs. Stella's guidance I was able to visit all classes this past Thursday afternoon. The children were celebrating book week and also looking forward to the Grand Final, so they were dressed up either in some novel character or donning their favourite footy guernseys. Too much Richmond and Collingwood and not enough North Melbourne for mine, but no surprises there. Shout out to the brave blue and white faithful who are hanging in there and showing some support! Other aspects of my visit were more uplifting. Almost every class had a child ask how old I was. I told them truthfully that I was 38. In at least three of the classes a comment came back that I looked good for my age, or something to that effect. I'm now working with Maureen to find the names of those children to ensure they all receive a discount on their school fees...just kidding. In all seriousness, it was lovely to see so many happy faces and feel that support from the staff there. Hopefully we'll be able to visit regularly during my time at St John's, to support the school community in faith and be encouraged myself in seeing our young people flourish.

I was also asked several times as I went about the school who I would be barracking for in the big game. I'm genuinely not too sure. The people of Geelong have been enjoying themselves at pubs, parks and beaches for the past few weeks now, whilst we suffer here in lockdown. I wouldn't mind at least a portion of our city feeling some joy with a Richmond win. But perhaps they've had enough of that the past few years. I think it's one of those ones where you're not too sure who you're going for until they bounce the ball. Either was I hope it's a good, close game.

Bless,

Fr Joel.

### **ENCYCLICAL LETTER - FRATELLI TUTTI - AN OVERVIEW**

OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS ON FRATERNITY AND SOCIAL FRIENDSHIP

**Link:** [http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco\\_20201003\\_enciclica-fratelli-tutti.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20201003_enciclica-fratelli-tutti.html)

#### **CHAPTER 2: A STRANGER ON THE ROAD**

There is a stranger on the road, wounded and cast aside amid the dark clouds of a closed world. Faced with this reality, there are two attitudes we can take: we can pass by on the other side, or we can stop and be moved by pity. The type of person we are or the type of political, social, or religious movement we belong to will be determined by whether we embrace the injured stranger or abandon him. The Pope offers us the parable of the Good Samaritan as a ray of light in the darkness ( FT 56). The parable takes us back to an earlier question, "Where is your brother?" (Gen 4,9).

*Cont'd....*

**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

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**PARISH OFFICE:**

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3084

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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:** meeting on

Zoom All Welcome. contact Sue

mob 0499260206.

**PARISH PILGRIM STATUE OF MARY:**

Statue not in circulation until

further notice mob Sue

0499260206

**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.*

### **....CONT'D**

God leaves no room for an appeal to determinism or fatalism as a justification for our indifference. Instead, he encourages us to create a different culture, one in which we resolve our conflicts and care for one another ( FT 57) because we all have one Creator who is the defender of the rights of all.

We are moved and called to expand our hearts to embrace the foreigner. It is a call to fraternal love that extends from the oldest text of the Bible to the New Testament ( FT 61). Love does not care if a wounded brother or sister comes from one place or another. Love shatters chains and builds bridges; it enables us to create one great family, where all of us can feel at home. Love exudes compassion and dignity ( FT 62).The parable tells of the "abandoned" traveller lying injured on the road. Only one person stopped, approached the man, and cared for him personally; he spent his own money to provide for his needs; he gave him his time ( FT 63). A sick society is tempted to ignore others, look the other way, and pass by as if unaware of the reality. It doesn't want to be bothered by sentiment; it refuses to waste time with the problems of others. It is built on an indifference to pain ( FT 64). Pope Francis calls us to rediscover our vocation as citizens of our own nations and of the entire world. He summons us to be builders of a new social bond and to be aware that the existence of each and every individual is deeply tied to that of others: life is not simply time that passes; life is a time for interactions ( FT 66). We are called to rebuild our hurting world, to form a community of men and women who identify with the vulnerability of others, who reject a society of exclusion, and who act instead as neighbours, lifting up and rehabilitating the fallen for the sake of the common good ( FT 67).

The decision to include or exclude those lying wounded along the roadside can serve as a criterion for judging every economic, political, social and religious project ( FT 69). The story of the Good Samaritan is constantly being repeated. We can see this clearly as social and political inertia is turning many parts of our world into a desolate byway, even as domestic and international disputes and the theft of opportunities are leaving great numbers of the marginalized stranded on the roadside. Today, we can begin again: Pope Francis calls us to take an active part in healing and renewing our troubled societies. We must foster what is good and place ourselves at its service ( FT 77). We can start from below and, case by case, act at the most concrete and local levels ( FT78). Difficulties are opportunities for growth, not excuses for a glum resignation. We are called to unite as a family that is stronger than the sum of its individual members. For the whole is greater than the part, but it is also greater than the sum of its parts ( FT 78). Reconciliation will give us new life and set us all free from fear ( FT 78). Finally, Jesus transforms the form of the question by asking what it means to be a "neighbour" to others. He calls us to be neighbours to everyone, even to those who are distant ( FT 81). We are called to practice a universal love that is able to overcome historical prejudices, cultural barriers, and petty interests ( FT 82). It is important that catechesis and preaching speak more directly and clearly about the social meaning of existence, the fraternal dimension of spirituality, our conviction of the inalienable dignity of each person, and our reasons for loving and accepting all our brothers and sisters ( FT 86). Only in this way will we be able to conceive and give birth to an open world, sweeping away all the dark clouds of our tightly closed world.

***HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY NANCY KENNEDY & HAPPY BIRTHDAY FR TED TEAL***

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

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

***We Remember in our Prayers our Year 12 students who will be sitting for their VCE exams.  
As a community we journey with you in prayer.***

God, we ask that they especially feel your closeness during the time.

Give them calm hearts and quiet confidence in the knowledge that you hold them in the palm of your hand.

Bless them with keen understanding and retentive memory. Give them the ability to grasp things correctly.

Point out the beginning, direct their progress and help them in the completion of each of their responses.

Holy Spirit, send them your gifts of wisdom and knowledge. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

**OUTDOOR MASSES:** Tuesday to Saturday at 9am, Sundays 9am & 10am in the memorial garden maze. Email at [heidelberg@cam.org.au](mailto:heidelberg@cam.org.au) to make a booking.

**SAFEGUARDING E-BOOK:** The eSafety Commissioner has recently published a free e-book resource 'Online safety for grandparents and carers' which provides advice about online safety issues that children and young people may experience. This resource provides "key advice about online safety issues that can affect children and young people" including practical tips to help grandparents and carers to talk about these issues with children and young people and manage them. Helpful topics include: setting up devices safely; managing time online; preventing unsafe contact from strangers as well as a guide to some of the most popular sites and apps. Grandparents and carers can order a hard copy or download view the resource online at <https://www.esafety.gov.au/seniors/online-safety-grandparents-carers>

**FAREWELL & THANK YOU TO FR MARIO:** Dear members of the St. John's community, as many of you will want to show appreciation for all that Mario has given to our community we thought we'd organize a group gift. Easier for everyone to pay online and sign the card and we can give one great gift! There's no obligation but if you'd like to contribute, we'll present the gift voucher to Mario in late November. Link to contribute <https://www.grouptoegether.com/FarewellFrMario> Alternatively If you wish to contribute by cheque/cash they can be dropped off at the Parish office or please contact Michelle Penson on 0499891101.

*Thank you. Parish Pastoral Council*

**'MEDITATION & MINDFULNESS':** On Zoom Saturday 7 Nov 2020, 10am-1pm. Facilitated by Carol Dyer (B.A. (Psych), Transpersonal & Experiential Psychotherapy Level 5 (Trainer), Cert. Spiritual Direction). It provides an opportunity to broaden your ways of accessing your inner world and listening to what God is inviting you to at this time. There will be some input to enable participants to learn some theory of meditation and mindfulness practices as well as time away from the Zoom screen for meditation and mindfulness practise. Cost \$25. Bookings and payment via Trybooking at <https://www.trybooking.com/663916> Information contact [holsc@bigpond.com](mailto:holsc@bigpond.com), tel 98901101.

**54-DAY ROSARY NOVENA FOR AUSTRALIA AND VICTORIA:** You are invited to pray for God's peace and blessing upon Australia and in particular, upon Victoria from 8th October to 30th November. The 15 decades of the Rosary will be prayed each morning from 7.15am to 8.30am on Zoom. Welcome to join in anytime during the period using Link <https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/93483011034?pwd=NOZNMUd1Rk9xRVNWWURWZzFYZFh6UT09> Meeting ID: 93483011034 Password: 206443 more information contact Sue on 0449 260 206.

**SEEKING ACCOMMODATION:** Michelle, a young Catholic girl from the US and currently studying at Melbourne University, is seeking accommodation here in Melbourne. An independent spare room or flat would be ideal. A medical condition makes climbing flights of stairs challenging, so something on the ground floor would be preferable. Michelle enjoys horseriding, cooking and training for triathlons. She was very involved at her home parish in Gainsville Florida and hopes to contribute to parish life here when the opportunity arises. If you are able to assist, please contact me at the presbytery or via the parish email. With thanks, *Fr Joel*.

#### **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 – COMPASSION**

Jesus' words call us to love our neighbour as ourselves. We are called to treat others as we would like to be treated ourselves. To be able to do this, we need to picture ourselves in their place – experiencing all that they are experiencing; not imposing our own values and circumstances. To see ourselves in the place of another is the key to responding with compassion. The origin of the word 'compassion' means experiencing with. If we are able to truly 'experience with' another person perhaps then we can genuinely recognise and respond to their needs.

**FIRST READING**

Exodus 22:20-26

The Lord said to Moses, ‘Tell the sons of Israel this, “You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

“If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

“If you take another’s cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity.”

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Psalm 17:2-4. 47. 51.

**RESPONSE:** I love you, Lord, my strength.

I love you, Lord, my strength,  
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.  
My God is the rock where I take refuge;  
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.  
The Lord is worthy of all praise:  
when I call I am saved from my foes

R./

Long life to the Lord, my rock!  
Praised be the God who saves me.  
He has given great victories to his king  
and shown his love for his anointed.

R./

**SECOND READING**

1 Thessalonians 1: 5-10

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

**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**

Matthew 22:34-40

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, ‘Master, which is the greatest commandment of the law?’ Jesus said, ‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.’

**THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT**

When faced with the question in today’s Gospel concerning which of the commandments of the law is the greatest, Jesus has no hesitation in uniting two commandments already found in the scriptures of Israel.

The command to love God with all one’s heart and soul and mind comes from Deuteronomy (6:4-5). It is a command that every Israelite is summoned to recite each morning on rising (the “Schema” prayer). So the Christian tradition has inherited from Israel the truth that God is worthy of love, worship and dedication of life simply for God’s sake alone. Love is the supreme factor in the relationship that God desires to have with us.

The second command, “to love one’s neighbour as oneself”, occurs in Lev 19:18. It is “like” the first because it flows from the nature of Israel’s God, who has identified so intimately with the situation of human beings. To love God with all one’s heart and soul and mind is to love those whom God loves: one’s fellow human beings, especially the vulnerable and the poor.

Down the ages there have been many interpretations as to what loving one’s neighbour as oneself might mean. Primarily it would seem to mean putting oneself—at least imaginatively—in the neighbour’s shoes and asking how would I like to be treated in their situation. Better still, perhaps, it means taking pains to find out from the neighbour what exactly their desire might be. All effective works of charity and justice begin from a similar base: from com-*passion* (“feeling with”) in the deepest sense of that term.

*Fr Brendan Byrne SJ*