



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.

14TH / 15TH NOVEMBER 2020
33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

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

CHAPTER 5: A BETTER KIND OF POLITICS

A better kind of politics seeks the common and universal good; it is politics for and with the people. In other words, it is the people's politics, practicing social charity and pursuing human dignity. It can be carried out by men and women who, with political love, integrate the economy into a popular social, cultural, and political project. The development of a global community of fraternity based on the practice of social friendship on the part of peoples and nations requires a better kind of politics, a politics that truly serves the common good (FT 154). Such a politics is different from the populism that arises when leaders politically exploit a people's culture under an ideological banner for their own personal advantage or to continue their grip on power (FT 159). The truly "popular" thing is to provide everyone with the opportunity to nurture the seeds that God has planted in them (FT 162). Helping the poor means allowing them to lead dignified lives through work. There is no poverty worse than that which takes away work and the dignity of work (FT 162).

Charity is expressed in personal encounters, including those with a distant or forgotten brother or sister. There is a need for a greater spirit of fraternity, but also a more efficient worldwide organization to help resolve the problems plaguing the abandoned people who are suffering and dying in poor countries (FT 165). Education and upbringing, concern for others, a well-integrated view of life, and spiritual growth: all these are essential for quality human relationships (FT 167). We need a politics that puts human dignity back at the centre, and on that pillar we can build the alternative social structures we need (FT 168).

We must promote popular movements that invigorate governing structures with that torrent of moral energy that springs from including the excluded in the building of a common destiny. We must move beyond the idea of social policies as being for the poor but never with the poor (FT 169). There is a need for reform of the United Nations Organization, as well as of economic institutions and international finance, so that the concept of the family of nations can acquire real teeth. Justice is an essential condition for achieving the ideal of universal fraternity (FT 173).

Politics must not be subject to the economy, nor should the economy be subject to the dictates of an efficiency-driven paradigm of technocracy (FT 177). True statecraft is manifest when, in difficult times, we uphold high principles and think of the long-term common good (FT 178).

Pope Francis calls us to a social and political order whose soul is social charity. He urges us to rehabilitate politics as one of the loftiest forms of charity, inasmuch as it seeks the common good (FT 180). Such political charity is born of a social awareness that seeks the good of all people (FT 182). "Social love" makes it possible to advance towards a civilization of love, to which all of us can feel called. It is a force capable of inspiring new ways of approaching the problems of today's world, of profoundly renewing structures, social organizations and legal systems (FT 183) Charity needs the light of truth, the light of reason, and the light of faith (FT 185).

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:
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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.

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Politicians are called to tend to the needs of individuals and peoples (FT 188). Politicians are doers and builders with ambitious goals; they should possess a broad, realistic and pragmatic gaze that looks beyond their own borders (FT 188). They are called to make the sacrifices that foster encounter and to seek convergence on at least some issues (FT 190). Politics must also make room for a tender love of others, a love that draws near and becomes real. Tenderness is a movement that proceeds from the heart; it is the path of choice for the strongest, most courageous men and women (FT 194).

Politicians should ask themselves: "How much love did I put into my work?" "What did I do for the progress of our people?" "What mark did I leave on the life of society?" "What real bonds did I create?" "What positive forces did I unleash?" "How much social peace did I sow?" "What good did I achieve in the position that was entrusted to me?" (FT 197).

We Remember in our Prayers our Year 12 students who are 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.



REACHING BEYOND 2020: People of all trades and professions are being requested by communities abroad seeking to build the capacity of their organisations and the skills of their people. Restrictions this year have made communities' needs acute, but your assistance will help to develop self-reliance and sustainable solutions to poverty.

Palms Australia will provide you with thorough preparation to ensure your readiness as travel resumes, and support on assignment

See www.palms.org.au and talk to Roger on 0431 995 058, or email palms@palms.org.au

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

RECENTLY DECEASED: Sr Brigid Maloney Rsm.

ANNIVERSARY: Daniel Bolger and the Collier Family.

PRAYER FOR THE SICK: Pauline Hewatt, 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**.*



VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL: Christmas is approaching and our Parish would normally be asking for food and toy donations to provide Christmas hampers to our Vinnies community. This year, because of COVID-19, we are asking for parishioners and our school community to assist us with monetary donations. The money will be used to buy food and gift vouchers to be given to our vulnerable families. We are requesting that this be done by the 11th December, so we can deliver the vouchers in time for the recipients to shop for Christmas. Could you place your donations in an envelope, clearly marked "Vinnies Donation", and place it in the chute next to the front door of the Parish House, please. We thank you for your continuing support towards the St John's Vinnies Christmas appeal.

STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES: The next cycle of thanksgiving envelopes including monthly, quarterly and yearly envelopes for next year are ready to be picked up from the parish office, Tuesday to Friday between 9:30am to 2:30pm. Thank you for your generosity. Your continued contributions help the parish meet its financial commitments.

COVID-SAFE MASSES AT ST JOHN'S: Inside the church Tuesday to Friday at 9am, Saturday at 9am & Vigil mass at 6pm. Sunday 9am & 10am. Email at heidelberg@cam.org.au or call parish office Tuesday to Friday on 9457 1066 between 9:30am and 2:30pm to make a booking.

NOVEMBER MASSES: envelopes are available in the porch of the church and can be dropped off at the parish office, sacristy. Names of our departed loved ones will be placed on the altar and remembered at all Masses.

GOSPEL FOCUS – SUCH A TALENT!

In its original usage, a 'talent' was a measure of weight. It came to designate a weight measure of silver. One talent was roughly equivalent to a labourer's wages for 10 years. It was a huge amount of money! Due largely to the reference in this gospel parable the word eventually came to its more common meaning of a special natural ability. Although in its original use in the gospel, 'talent' meant nothing more than a large sum of money, it is a happy development of language that makes this scripture passage such a favourite of teachers and retreat providers!

RISK TAKING FOR GOD

As we approach the end of the Church's liturgical year, the focus remains upon the second coming of the Lord. Once again, the Gospel provides a parable (the Talents) instructing us how to live in view of that expectation.

The master in the parable is pleased with the enterprising first two servants. Having realised substantial gains on the amounts entrusted to them, they are welcomed "into the joy of their master"—that is, into the banquet of the Kingdom.

But the third servant, who simply hid his single talent in the ground, displeased his master because he didn't do what was expected, namely, trade with the money so that it would increase. He didn't even put the sum in the bank, where it would have at least accrued some interest. Paralysed by a fearful image that he has of his master (an image of God that the parable does not endorse but actually refutes), he sought security in giving back, in strict justice, the exact sum entrusted to him. This, however, was not what the master wanted. Hence the severe penalty.

The parable challenges believers not to rest content simply with not doing anything wrong so that God will not be able to find anything to punish. Such an attitude mistakes the nature of God and neglects what God really wants, which is an enterprising, even risk-taking, practice of the "weightier matters of the law": "justice, mercy and faith" (23:23). The gifts God has entrusted to us, like our minds and limbs, need active exercise if they are not to atrophy and wither.

Fr Brendan Byrne SJ



LIVING THE GOSPEL – BRING FORTH THE KINGDOM.

Like the original audience of Matthew's gospel, we can sometimes rely too much on God to bring about the Kingdom in our world. Like the lazy servant in the gospel, we can fall into the trap of handing the world back to God in exactly the same condition that we received it. We have to make a difference in the world! We are called to change the world and bring it closer to the realisation of the Kingdom. The only way that we can do that it is to live our lives as if the Kingdom is already here.

A perfect wife – who can find her? She is far beyond the price of pearls. Her husband’s heart has confidence in her, from her he will derive no little profit. Advantage and not hurt she brings him all the days of her life. She is always busy with wool and with flax, she does her work with eager hands. She sets her hands to the distaff, her fingers grasp the spindle. She holds out her hand to the poor, she opens her arms to the needy. Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty; the woman who is wise is the one to praise. Give her a share in what her hands have worked for, and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 127:1-5

RESPONSE: Happy are those who fear the Lord.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!

By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper.

R./

Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table.

R./

Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
in a happy Jerusalem
all the days of your life.

R./

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about ‘times and seasons’, since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, ‘How quiet and peaceful it is’ that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it.

But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;
my branches bear much fruit.

Alleluia!

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out. The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The man who had received two made two more in the same way. But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. “Sir”, he said “you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master’s happiness.” Next the man with the two talents came forward. “Sir,” he said “you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master’s happiness.” Last came forward the man who had the one talent. “Sir,” said he “I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back.” But his master answered him, “You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest. So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.”’

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.