



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.

6TH/7TH FEBRUARY 2021

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

*I am writing to all our Bishops, Fathers, Deacons and good people of the Archdiocese of Melbourne regarding the **Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Bill 2020**.*

As I wrote to you in December, the Bill infringes directly on matters that are personal and private, including conversations between parents and children, within families, pastoral and professional care to informed adults, and to prayer. As I said before Christmas, the State has no interest in how I pray, who I pray to, and what I pray for.

It is just all too strange for a law to be stating what kinds of prayer are legal and what are not.

I have maintained a commitment to engaging constructively with the government about this proposed legislation. I warmly welcome any legislation to protect people from harm, but sadly this Bill does a whole lot of other things as well, and we have to be forthright and clear, as well as charitable.

Many faith groups and leaders have been drawing public attention to the issues in this Bill which could be brought to the Legislative Council this week. I have joined with all the Victorian Catholic Bishops to express our solidarity with people of good will who have legitimate problems with the Bill, including faith leaders, parents and other professionals.

Please see attached a public letter the Victorian Bishops have co-written with the Islamic Council of Victoria, as we seek to stand alongside our brothers and sisters who have given voice to their considered and fair concerns with the Bill. We are praying for a constructive way forward to open up with all members of the Victorian Parliament.

Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus,

Archbishop Peter A Comensoli

(The attachment can also be found at

<https://melbournecatholic.org/faith-leaders-write-to-premier-over-conversion-therapy-bill>)



Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne

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East Melbourne Vic 8002 Australia

Tel: +61 3 9926 5612 Email: archbishop@cam.org.au

PARISH PRIEST Fr Joel Peart
PARISH SECRETARY: Mary Peeris
PASTORAL PASTORAL COUNCIL CHAIR: Michelle Robertson
COUNCIL MEMBERS:
 Domenica Ashworth;
 Timothy Boyle
 Margaret Bradley
 Moira Di Cesare
 Karen Frost
 Russell Lew-Kee
SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE CHAIR:
 Michelle Penson (0499 891 101)
PASTORAL WORKER:
 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
OFFICE HOURS:
 Tues—Fri 9:30am to 2:30pm
MASS TIMES: Tues to Sat: 9:15am
 & Sat Vigil 6pm, Sun: 8:30am, &
 10:30am & Sunday 5pm.
RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION):
 by appointment, Sat 9:30-10am
WEDDINGS: By appointment
**FIRST RECONCILIATION,
 FIRST COMMUNION, CONFIRMATION:**
 Parish Secretary (9457 1066)
LEGION OF MARY, Weekly
 meeting Wed. 10.30am at
 Francis Xavier Meeting room,
 Parish House. Parish Pilgrim
 statue of Mary:, Contact Sue
 0449260206
ST JOHN'S WALKING GROUP: our
 regular Monday morning walks
 leaving from outside the Church
 in Yarra Street at 9.30am. To
 register please contact Jan on
 0423478504.
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
 office 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.*

The Hon Daniel Andrews MP
 Premier of Victoria
 Parliament House
 Spring St
 East Melbourne VIC 3002



Dear Premier

We write on behalf of the Muslim and Catholic communities in Victoria in solidarity with other people of faith, expressing profound concern over the Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Bill 2020.

Every day we are working alongside our fellow Victorians to celebrate our diversity, care for the vulnerable and serve one another. We value our freedom to do so responsibly, by supporting and caring for people in their searching and questioning, with honesty, attentiveness, and compassion.

Unfortunately, this Bill doesn't just ban out-dated and insidious practices of coercion and harm, which we firmly reject. The bill also criminalises conversation between children and parents, interferes with sound professional advice, and silences ministers of religion from providing personal attention for individuals freely seeking pastoral care for complex personal situations. It includes ill-conceived concepts of faith and conversation, vague definitions, and scientifically and medically flawed approaches. It places arbitrary limitations on parents, families and people of faith. People change for all kinds of reasons, and should feel free to do so, whether it be on matters of personal identity, gender, sexuality, family association, or religion. Contrary to its intent, this Bill obstructs people's freedom by limiting, restricting and removing options for their good, thereby creating undesirable possibilities of harm.

If a simpler, clearer bill had been tabled, with adequate consultation, then we would be able to give full support to a focused and practical way to protect people from harm.

Other faith communities, religious representatives and organisations have contacted you and the Attorney General to seek resolution to these difficulties. With this letter we stand with them and look for respectful engagement.

At present the Bill appears to target people of faith in an unprecedented way, puts limits on ordinary conversations in families, and legislates for what prayer is legal and what prayer is not. Various amendments can be made to rescue the Bill from taking Victoria into strange new territory, in which prayerful advice and guidance, freely sought by one adult from another, is criminalised. We are working together as faith leaders to offer a constructive opportunity to prevent such a step from taking place, and seek your active support.

Specifically, we seek an urgent 'pause' on the Bill and a meeting with yourself and the Attorney General, and ask for transparent and comprehensive consultation. We make this request publicly and respectfully, always open to dialogue and to finding a constructive resolution.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Mohamed Mohideen,
 President, on behalf of the Islamic Council of Victoria

Most Reverends Greg Bennet, Paul Bird CSsR, Peter A Comensoli, Terence Curtin, Shane Mackinlay,
 Bosco Puthur, Peter Stasiuk CSsR, Antoine-Charbel Tarabay
 on behalf of Catholic Dioceses and Eparchies of Victoria

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

RECENTLY BAPTISED: Christian Minutolo.
THE SICK: Mary Teresa Wright, James Artinopoulos, Philomena Misale and Brett Ralph, Elizabeth Finn, Pauline Hewatt, Giovanni Mirabella.
ANNIVERSARIES: Caterina Misale.

*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** latest. Thank you.*

6 Feb / 7 Feb	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Moira Di Cesare	Garry Sproules	Michelle Robertson	Leela Cherubim
2 nd Reader	Domenica Ashworth	Barbara Barnes	Joanne Martinez	-
Communion	Emma Chang	Oliver Kmita	Liz Sier	Leo Cosio
13 Feb / 14 Feb	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Emma Chang	Ronnie Maloney	Bob Dowling	TBA
2 nd Reader	Peter Penson	Wendy Hernandez	Elizabeth Williamson	-
Communion	Michelle Penson	Leo Hernandez	Tim Boyle	Charito Cosio
MORNING TEA: 7th February - Francoise & Maria				

MORNING TEA: in the parish hall this Sunday, February 7th, following the 10.30a.m. mass. Please join fellow parishioners for a cuppa and a chat.

SACRAMENT PROGRAMME FOR THOSE STUDENTS NOT ATTENDING ST JOHN'S SCHOOL: Applications are now open for the following: Reconciliation - Year 3, 2021, Eucharist - Year 4, 2021, Confirmation - Year 6, 2021. Please contact Elizabeth, elizabeth.williamson@cam.org.au for an application form or to make an inquiry. Application close on Friday February 26th.

GEMS (GREGARIOUS ENERGETIC MEMBERS OF ST JOHN'S): A parish group for the more mature members of St John's 50+ It was wonderful to be back together as a group last week after 322 days since we last met. Our next gathering is on Tuesday, February 9th at 10.00a.m. New members are most welcome. Transport available. Elizabeth 0447195553.

SOCIAL JUSTICE: In February last year we formed a Social Justice Group but sadly owing to COVID19 we could only meet twice. All interested in exploring and acting on the Social Justice needs of our parish are invited to meet on Wednesday 24th February at 7pm in the Francis Xavier meeting room. If you are interested please contact Jan on 0423 478 504.

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS IN ST JOHN'S PARISH MAGAZINE: The Eyrie comes out quarterly and reaches all school families and parishioners on line as well as glossy hard copies. Single Advertisements \$75 per issue or advertise in each of our 4 issues for only \$200 per year. Phone Michelle on 0499891101 or email parish office: heidelberg@cam.org.au

DO YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO CAN'T GET TO MASS ANY LONGER? Would they like to be visited and perhaps have communion taken to them? Contact: Elizabeth 0447195553

VOLUNTEERS FOR SUNDAY MASSES: At each Sunday Mass volunteers are needed to go on rosters, to support parishioners in entering their information into the QR system, to be collectors (four are needed for each Mass), clean the seats after each Mass. Any help will be very much appreciated - we are all in this together. To volunteer please contact during office hours Tuesday to Friday, 9:30am to 2:30pm the Parish office on 94571066 or email at heidelberg@cam.org.au

LOOKING AHEAD

Tuesday February 16th : Shrove Tuesday 9.15a.m. mass followed by pancakes and a cuppa in the Francis Xavier Meeting Room

Wednesday February 17th : Ash Wednesday Mass times: 9.15a.m. and 7.00p.m.

Friday February 19th: Stations of the Cross 7.00p.m

Saturday February 20th: Sacrament of Confirmation for Year 6, 2020 St John's School students. St John's Church.

Sunday February 21st : First Sunday of Lent

Thursday February 25th Parish Annual Meeting 7.30p.m. Francis Xavier Meeting Room.

Friday February 26th: Applications close for Sacrament Programme

Stations of the Cross 7.00p.m

Sunday February 28th: Second Sunday of Lent

CONSECRATE YOURSELF TO ST JOSEPH : Join us on Zoom to begin the 33-Day Preparation for Total Consecration to St. Joseph. Starts Monday, 15th February, daily on Zoom at 8.30 pm - Meeting ID 934 8301 1034 / Passcode 206443 Consecration Day Friday, 19 March, 2021

The book Consecration to St. Joseph - The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father by Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC contains the daily readings of the 33 days. Reading it will change your life. You may do the daily readings on your own if you are unable to join on Zoom. Enquires or copies Sue 0449260206 or Caroline Fernandez 0423 838 756/ smtcsf@gmail.com

PALMS AUSTRALIA: Low-income communities want to share your skills to help develop self-reliance and sustainable solutions to poverty. The call is to all trades and professions to assist build the ability of their people and the capacity of their organisations. To properly prepare for a 2022 placement and to find out more visit Ross House, Mezzanine-Sue Healy Room 247 Flinders Lane, MELBOURNE. Saturday 20 February @ 10:00am palms.org.au

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 heidelberg@cam.org.au so we can celebrate and pray for you as a community

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O come, let us worship God
and bow low before the God who made us,
for he is the Lord our God.

FIRST READING

Job 7:1-4. 6-7

Job began to speak: Is not man's life on earth nothing more than pressed service, his time no better than hired drudgery? Like the slave, sighing for the shade, or the workman with no thought but his wages, months of delusion I have assigned to me, nothing for my own but nights of grief. Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be day?' Risen I think, 'How slowly evening comes!' Restlessly I fret till twilight falls. Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days have passed, and vanished, leaving no hope behind. Remember that my life is but a breath, and that my eyes will never again see joy.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 146:1-6

RESPONSE: Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

Praise the Lord for he is good;
sing to our God for he is loving:
to him our praise is due

R./

The Lord builds up Jerusalem
and brings back Israel's exiles,
he heals the broken-hearted,
he binds up all their wounds.
He fixes the number of the stars;
he calls each one by its name.

R./

Our Lord is great and almighty;
his wisdom can never be measured.
The Lord raises the lowly;
he humbles the wicked to the dust.

R./

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 9:16-19. 22-23

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it is a duty which has been laid on me; I should be punished if I did not preach it! If I had chosen this work myself, I might have been paid for it, but as I have not, it is a responsibility which has been put into my hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is this: in my preaching, to be able to offer the Good News free, and not insist on the rights which the gospel gives me. So though I am not a slave of any man I have made myself the slave of everyone so as to win as many as I could. For the weak I made myself weak. I made myself all things to all men in order to save some at any cost; and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel, to have a share in its blessings.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
He bore our sickness,
and endured our suffering.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mark 1:29-39

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.



COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy,
his wonders for the children of men,
for he satisfies the thirsty soul,
and the hungry he fills with good things.