



# 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.

18TH/19TH DECEMBER 2021, FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YR C

*Wishing all Parishioners, Visitors and Friends a  
Very Holy and Happy Christmas*

**PARISH PRIEST** Fr Joel Peart  
**PARISH SECRETARY:** Mary Peeris  
**SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE CHAIR:**  
Michelle Penson (0499 891 101)  
**PASTORAL ASSOCIATE:**  
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  
9:30am & 10:30am  
**RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION):**  
Sat 9:45-10:30am & 5:30-6pm  
**WEDDINGS:** By appointment  
**FIRST RECONCILIATION,  
FIRST COMMUNION, CONFIRMATION:**  
Parish Secretary (9457 1066)  
**LEGION OF MARY:** Weekly meeting  
Wed 10:30am from mid January  
at Francis Xavier Meeting room,  
Parish House. Pilgrim statue of  
Mary, Contact Sue 0449260206  
**ST JOHN'S WALKING GROUP:** 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.

Dear brothers and sisters,

It was a welcome surprise to hear late Wednesday morning the announcement restrictions on gatherings in places of worship were to be easing as of that night. It was only a couple of days earlier that a priest friend and I were lamenting the fact that there didn't seem to be any road map suggesting when we could gather in churches without having to segregate and do head counts. It was a great relief. This sentiment was conveyed by our Archbishop who wrote to parishes on Thursday morning;

*"We welcome this new provision for all people of faith to once again gather together for worship.*

*Just as on previous occasions, parity remains important, and we look forward to the time when all people can join together in various locations, and for the many activities that unite us fully as communities.*

*For Christians, as we approach this great season of hope and light that is Christmas, I encourage you to be places of invitation and welcome as we prepare to joyously celebrate the birth of our Saviour."*

I know there remains some lockouts and restrictions for certain members of our community in certain places, but I do hope that Christian homes are not included among them. I'm hearing more and more stories of people who are being uninvited to Christmas break ups and celebrations and even family members facing the prospect of spending Christmas alone because of their medical decision. No room at the inn you might say. Welcoming the three kings and their gifts but locking out the 'dirty' shepherds. Blimey.

People are of course free to invite or not invite whoever they want into their homes. The idea though that some out there will now be doing their Christmas shopping at the likes of JB-Hi Fi and Kmart amongst throngs of thousands with an unknown vaccination status, and yet have already decided not to have Uncle Jack at the dinner table next Saturday is pretty sad.

To those of you that are being shunned in any way next week, you're in good company. It was locked out in the cold and dark that salvation came into this world. May the peace and joy of Christmas be felt especially by you this year in the depths of your hearts, where it really matters.

With every blessing,  
Fr Joel.

**READERS AND MINISTERS OF COMMUNION FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES:** If you are a reader or minister of communion and would like to minister at either one of the Christmas Eve or Christmas Day masses please contact Elizabeth: elizabeth.williamson@cam.org.au

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)** Before Christmas: the Second Rite of Reconciliation will be celebrated at our parish Wednesday 22nd December at 7:30pm. We gather to pray and prepare ourselves as a community and then have time for individual reconciliation.

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE:** St John's parish office will be closed from Wednesday 22nd December to Monday 3rd January 2022. For any urgent requests, please email: heidelberg@cam.org.au Thank You.

**JESUS IS CHRISTMAS: A CAROLS SPECIAL:** You are warmly invite you to join in celebrating the joy of Christmas with our Archdiocesan Carols Special Jesus is Christmas, to be broadcast Monday 20 December at 7.30pm on Community TV Channel C31 (Channel 44 on digital TV) and streamed live on the Archdiocesan YouTube channel.

Presented in partnership with Mercy Health and VMCH, the one-hour carols special will feature Christmas favourites such as O Come, O Come, Emmanuel by the celebrated opera tenor Michael Petrucelli and O Holy Night by Wiradjuri soprano Shauntai Batzke and the Mia Sorella Trio. Other carols include the English medieval Christmas classic, Sing we to this merry company, and a special treat from our Filipino Chaplaincy Choir singing traditional Christmas hymns such as Noche Buena ('Christmas Eve') and Kumukutikutitap ('Sparkling lights').

**CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES:** are available in the pews. Money contributed to the Christmas Offering supports our parish priest, sick and retired priests, priests in poorer parishes and the ministry of the archbishop. Thank you for your generosity. These envelopes can be placed in the weekly collection baskets.

**GEMS OUTING HAMER HALL:** We The GEMS would like to thank Father Joel and parishioners for their kindness in covering the cost of the bus to take us to and from our outing. We thoroughly enjoyed the concert.

**WE ARE HERE FOR YOU:** If you or someone you know is unable to attend Mass due to ill health or for any other reason, we would be more than happy to bring Communion to you at home. Please do not hesitate to call Elizabeth 0447195553. A time to suit you can be arranged. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

### CHRISTMAS EVE:

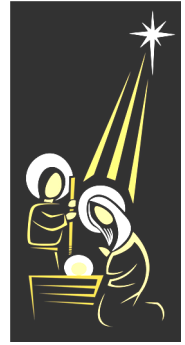
Friday, 24th December,  
Mass at 6:00pm, 9pm

### MIDNIGHT MASS:

starting at 11:30pm with Carols

### CHRISTMAS DAY:

Saturday, 25th December  
Masses at 8:30am, 9:30am  
& 10:30am



**WEDNESDAY HOLY HOUR:** In the month we have introduced a Holy Hour at the parish, to be held every Wednesday night from 6-7pm, finishing with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. I am available for the sacrament of confession as well during that time. It was an initiative that I have thought of doing for a while, and when some parishioners suggested it recently, we didn't hesitate to oblige. It's a nice opportunity mid-week to spend some time with the Lord in silent prayer and, if need be, be reconciled to God. Feel free to spread the word abroad!

Thanks,

Fr Joel.

***MAY THE WONDER OF THE FIRST CHRISTMAS, THE JOY OF GOD'S ABUNDANT BLESSINGS AND THE PEACE OF JESUS' PRESENCE BE WITH YOU ALWAYS. HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL PARISHIONERS AND TO YOUR LOVED ONES.***



### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

**THE SICK:** Patricia Wong, Sepfianto Arifin, Margaret Ryan, Aileen Powell, Jerzy Baczkowicz.

**ANNIVERSARY:** Adeline Sharkey, Maureen O'Brien.

*Please submit any items for the newsletter, including sick, recently deceased and anniversaries, by **Thursday morning** latest. Thank you.*

## ENTRANCE : HOLY VIRGIN, BY GOD'S DECREE

Holy Virgin, By God's Decree,  
You Were Called Eternally;  
That He Could Give His Son To Our Race.  
Mary, We Praise You, Hail, Full Of Grace.

Ave, Ave, Ave, Maria.

By Your Faith And Loving Accord,  
As The Handmaid Of The Lord,  
You Undertook God's Plan To Embrace.  
Mary We Thank You, Hail, Full Of Grace.

Ave, Ave, Ave, Maria.

## COMMUNION: THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

The Lord is my Shepherd, and I want to follow,  
wherever he leads me, wherever he goes.  
Over the mountains, the waters and by-ways,  
valleys and highways he's waiting for me.

### Refrain

I want to go to meet him there, to lay myself down in  
his love.

The Lord is my shepherd, and I want to follow,  
wherever he leads me, wherever he goes.

And while on the journey to where we are going,  
he promised to be there to help us along.  
And over the mountains we'll walk on together,  
to know all the wonders he's given to me.

### Refrain.

## RECESSIONAL : CITY OF GOD

Awake from your slumber! Arise from your sleep!  
A new day is dawning for all those who weep.  
The people in darkness have seen a great light.  
The Lord of our longing has conquered the night.

### Refrain

Let us build the city of God.  
May our tears be turned into dancing!  
For the Lord, our light and our love,  
has turned the night into day!

We are sons of the morning; we are daughters of day.  
The One who has loved us has brightened our way.  
The Lord of all kindness has called us to be  
a light for his people to set their hearts free.

### Refrain.

## CONFITEOR

I confess to almighty God and to you,  
my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned,  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,

*(And, striking their breast, they say:)*

through my fault, through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;

*(Then they continue:)*

therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints, and you,  
my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

## NICENE CREED

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,

*(At the words that follow, up to and including and  
became man, all bow.)*

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin  
Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory

to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come.

Amen.



## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,  
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;  
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

## FIRST READING

Micah 5:1-4

The Lord says this: You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old. The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19.

**Response:** Lord, make us turn to you;  
let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O Shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
shine forth from your cherubim throne.

O Lord, rouse up your might,

O Lord, come to our help.

R./

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
look down from heaven and see.

Visit this vine and protect it,

the vine your right hand has planted.

R./

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,  
the man you have given your strength.

And we shall never forsake you again:

give us life that we may call upon your name . R./

## SECOND READING

Hebrews 10:5-10

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world: You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:

may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-45

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;  
and his name will be called Emmanuel.



## 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 here, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

## QR SCAN CHURCH ATTENDANCE

