



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.

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: Enquires, Contact

Sue 0449260206

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.

ST JOHN'S WALKING GROUP: Owing to the current rate of infections of COVID19 St John's Walking Group will not be gathering until further notice. Thank you to all walkers. Who had joined us in the past and to others who have shown interest in joining the group. We hope to see you in the not too distant future. For further information contact Jan 0423 478504.

22ND/23RD JANUARY,

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C

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.*



Happy Australia Day!

With Christ our head and cornerstone,
We'll build our Nation's might.

Whose way and truth and light alone
Can guide our path aright.

Our lives, a sacrifice of love, reflect our Master's care.
With faces turned to heaven above, Advance Australia fair.

THE "YEAR OF ACCEPTANCE"

At the beginning of his Gospel, Luke addresses a certain "Theophilus", for whom the work is written. "Theophilus", which means "lover of God", may not be the name of a real person but a symbolic "stand-in" for the kind of reader Luke has in mind: someone who has received basic instruction but who needs to be confirmed in their Christian identity and conviction of the faith.

This Luke intends to provide—not only for readers of his own day but for ours as well. From this beginning of Luke's work, today's Gospel takes us immediately to the Jesus' home-town Nazareth, where he launches his public ministry with a prophetic manifesto in the guise of a Sabbath sermon.

What a remarkably short sermon it is! Jesus reads a longish text from Isaiah, then simply proclaims: "Today, this text is being fulfilled even as you listen". End of sermon! Jesus doesn't need to say any more. Providing the "script" for his ministry, the text itself contains so much: good news for the poor, freedom for captives, sight for the blind, a "year of the Lord's favour" (or "acceptance").

The "year of acceptance" proclaims a time of unconditional release from all "debt" of sin. This "year" will prevail throughout the personal ministry of Jesus. Then, following his death, resurrection, and ascension, the Spirit will empower the Church at Pentecost to proclaim it to the end of time.

We still live within the scope of that "year". The great "Today ..." of his brief sermon should resound in every sermon today.

Fr Brendan Byrne sj

WEDNESDAY HOLY HOUR: Please note that there will be NO Holy Hour and confessions this Wednesday evening the 26th of February. We will resume again the following week, February 2. Appreciate your understanding.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O sing a new song to the Lord;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
In his presence are majesty and splendour,
strength and honour in his holy place.

FIRST READING

Nehemiah 8:2-6. 8-10

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law. Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people – since he stood higher than all the people – Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered Amen! Amen!; then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read. Then Nehemiah – His Excellency – and Ezra, priest and scribe (and the Levites who were instructing the people) said to all the people, ‘This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep’. For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law. He then said, ‘Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the man who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.’

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 18:8-10. 15.

Response: Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul.

The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
it gives wisdom to the simple.

R./

The precepts of the Lord are right,
they gladden the heart.

The command of the Lord is clear,
it gives light to the eyes.

R./

The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding for ever.

The decrees of the Lord are truth
and all of them just.

R./

May the spoken words of my mouth,
the thoughts of my heart,
win favour in your sight, O Lord,
my rescuer, my rock!

R./

SECOND READING

1 Cor 12:12-14, 27

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink. Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts. Now you together are Christ’s body; but each of you is a different part of it.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor
and freedom to prisoners.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 1:1-4. 4:14-21

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received. Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him. He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written: The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord’s year of favour. He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, ‘This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.’

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Look toward the Lord and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

RECENTLY BAPTISED: Melina Milkovic.

THE SICK: Carol Walsh, Sylvia Found, Patricia Wong, Sepfianto Arifin, Margaret Ryan, Aileen Powell.

ANNIVERSARY: Lesley Laurie (née Edgar), Nick Stella.

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