



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 Vinh Nguyen

**PARISH SECRETARY:** Mary Peeris

**PASTORAL ASSOCIATE:**

Elizabeth Williamson (0447195553)

**SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE CHAIR:**

Michelle Penson (0499 891 101)

**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 &

5pm

**ADORATION:** After Friday morning

Mass with Benediction.

**EXPOSITION:** Wednesday 7.30pm-

8.30pm

**RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION):**

Friday 8.45am & during Adoration,

Sat 9:45 am & 5:30pm

**WEDDING, BAPTISM, FIRST**

**RECONCILIATION, FIRST COMMUNION,**

**CONFIRMATION:**

Parish Secretary (9457 1066)

**LEGION OF MARY:** Meet every

Wednesdays at 10.30am at parish

house in the Francis Xavier Room.

All Welcome. Fatima Statue

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.

## 7TH/8TH JANUARY 2023, THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

### FAREWELL TO POPE EMERITUS BENEDICT XVI: 'HUMBLE WORKER IN THE VINEYARD OF THE LORD'

Dear Friends,

On the last day of the year 2022, the world and particularly Catholics received a very sad news that 'Former Pope Benedict XVI died in Vatican monastery aged 95.' In the past week, world leaders, religious leaders, Catholics and people all around the world have reacted at the news, mourned and paid respects to former Pope Benedict XVI.



In his homily at the traditional celebration of Vespers and recitation of the *Te Deum* in St Peter's Basilica on New Year's Eve, Pope Francis remembered his predecessor, recalling his great kindness, witness of faith and prayer, he said, "And speaking of kindness, at this moment, my thought naturally goes to dear Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI who left us this morning. We are moved as we recall him as such a noble person, so kind. And we feel such gratitude in our hearts: gratitude to God for having given him to the Church and to the world; gratitude to him for all the good he accomplished, and above all, for his witness of faith and prayer, especially in these last years of his recollected life. Only God knows the value and the power of his intercession, of the sacrifices he offered for the good of the Church."

Cardinal Blase Cupich the Archbishop of Chicago described Pope Benedict XVI as a "brilliant mind" who "made witnessing to the Gospel's call to-live-in-humble-service-to-all his priority."

Responding to the death of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli has written to the People of God in Melbourne: "On this last day of the year, it is with deep sadness that we hear the news of the death of His Holiness, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. We unite with all the People of God in praying for the eternal rest of his soul and entrust him to the tender loving mercy of the Father. May the Lord he trusted in now welcome him home."

Let us together remember and pray for the late Holy Father. May he rest in gracious and gentle peace.

Fr Vinh-Parish Priest

### *Thank you from Fr Vinh Nguyen:*

1. To everyone who assisted with the Christmas celebrations. These included the musicians and singers, readers, commentators, altar servers, communion ministers (at Mass and to the sick), collectors, flower and sacristy helpers, church cleaners, counters and many of you who worked quietly behind the scenes for the celebrations including our celebration of the Feast of St John-our Parish Patron Saint on Tuesday, 27 December 2022.
2. On behalf of the Priests' Retirement Foundations, the Priests' Remuneration Fund, the Archbishop, and myself, I thank all who contributed, or will contribute, to the Christmas Offerings.
3. Thank you to the parishioners who were personally kind to me and staff sending cards and gifts. I really appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity.

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come;  
and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

## FIRST READING

*Isaiah 60:1-6*

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come,  
the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night  
still covers the earth and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises and above you his  
glory appears. The nations come to your light and  
kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling  
and coming towards you, your sons from far away  
and your daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart  
throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will  
flow to you, the wealth of the nations come to you;  
camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of  
Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come,  
bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of  
the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13.*

**Response:** Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

O God, give your judgement to the king,  
to a king's son your justice,  
that he may judge your people in justice  
and your poor in right judgement. R./

In his days justice shall flourish  
and peace till the moon fails.  
He shall rule from sea to sea,  
from the Great River to earth's bounds. R./

The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts  
shall pay him tribute.  
The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts.  
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,  
all nations shall serve him. R./

For he shall save the poor when they cry  
and the needy who are helpless.  
He will have pity on the weak  
and save the lives of the poor. R./

## SECOND READING

*Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6*

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted  
by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it  
was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of  
the mystery. This mystery that has now been

revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and  
prophets was unknown to any men in past  
generations; it means that pagans now share the  
same inheritance, that they are parts of the same  
body, and that the same promise has been made to  
them, in Jesus Christ, through the gospel.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!  
We have seen his star in the East;  
and have come to adore the Lord.  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

*Matthew 2:1-12*

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea  
during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came  
to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king  
of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose  
and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod  
heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of  
Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and  
the scribes of the people, and enquired of them  
where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in  
Judaea,' they told him 'for this is what the prophet  
wrote: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you  
are by no means least among the leaders of Judah,  
for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd  
my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see  
him privately. He asked them the exact date on which  
the star had appeared, and sent them on to  
Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he  
said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so  
that I too may go and do him homage.' Having  
listened to what the king had to say, they set out.  
And there in front of them was the star they had seen  
rising; it went forward, and halted over the place  
where the child was. The sight of the star filled them  
with delight, and going into the house they saw the  
child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees  
they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures,  
they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and  
myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go  
back to Herod, and returned to their own country by  
a different way.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

We have seen his star in the East,  
and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

**THE SICK:** Vicky Huffman, Sonia Robinson, Paula Staples, Marie Hankin, Vin Sier, Agnes Fernandez, David Morck, Alan Briges, Mary Stella, Margaret Thomas, Judy Catlow, Joan O'Donoghue, Aileen Powell, Helen Griffiths, Noah Thorley.

**ANNIVERSARY:** Maureen O'Brien, Michael Francis Lucy, Claire Penno, Anaishe Mpfu.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Pope Emeritus Benedict.

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