



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

ASSISTANT PRIEST:

Fr. Kishore Reddy Gade Msfs

PARISH SECRETARY: Mary Peeris

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE:

Elizabeth Williamson (0447195553)

SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE CHAIR:

Michelle Penson (0499 891 101)

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)

ST JOHN'S HALL HIRE:

Contact parish office.

ST JOHN'S 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

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

Elizabeth Whiting (Acting Principal)

55 Cape St Heidelberg 3084

t: 9459 2963;

office@sjheidelberg.catholic.edu.au

18TH / 19TH MARCH, FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR A

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.*

Dear Friends,

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is traditionally and commonly called *Laetare Sunday*. The word "*Laetare*" means rejoice in Latin, and this idea is taken from the entrance-antiphon for today's Mass, which starts "Rejoice, O Jerusalem..." Falling roughly at the half-way point in the Lenten season, this is a Sunday when traditional Lenten austerity is relaxed, and we have a reminder of the joyous resurrection to come.

Signs of joy are allowed on this day, expressing our belief in the hope of the resurrection and to inspire us as we continue our Lenten commitments to prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Symbolizing joy, rose-coloured Mass vestments can be worn instead of purple, to indicate the contrast between *Laetare* and the other Sundays of Lent.

By describing the anointing of David as the second king of Israel, the first reading, taken from the first book of Samuel, illustrates how blind we are in our judgments and how much we need God's help.

In the second reading, St Paul reminds the Ephesians of their new responsibility as children of light: "You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of the light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth."

Jesus' giving of sight to a blind man, reported in today's Gospel, teaches us the necessity of opening the eyes of our mind by faith and warns us that those who assume they see the truth are often blind, while those who acknowledge their blindness are given clear vision. In this episode, the most unlikely person, namely the beggar born blind, receives the light of faith in Jesus, while the religion-oriented, law-educated Pharisees remain spiritually blind. "There are none so blind, as those who will not see."

To live as a Christian is to see, to have clear vision about God, about ourselves and about others. Today's Gospel reminds us that we are to live as children of the light, seeking what is good and right and true. Our Lenten prayers and sacrifices should serve to heal our blindness so that we can look at others, see them as children of God and love them as our own brothers and sisters saved by the death and Resurrection of Jesus.

Blessings,

Fr Vinh-Parish Priest

CHILD SAFETY: St John's Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all our children, young people and vulnerable adults. Children are to be supervised by a parent/guardian at all times in the church and when leaving the church for any reason.

ENTRANCE HYMN: ALL ARE WELCOME

Let us build a house where love is found in water,
wine and wheat a banquet hall on holy ground,
Where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
Is revealed in time and space, as we share in Christ
the feast that frees us.

All are welcome, all are welcome,
All are welcome in this place.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

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.

FIRST READING *1 Samuel 16:1. 6-7. 10-13*

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Psalms 22*

Response: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit.

R./

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort.

R./

You have prepared a banquet for me
In the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.

R./

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever.

R./

SECOND READING

Ephesians 5:8-14

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said: Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

John 9:1-41

Jesus As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, for him to have been born blind?' 'Neither he nor his parents sinned,' Jesus answered, 'he was born blind so that the works of God might be displayed in him.

'As long as the day lasts I must carry out the work of the one who sent me; the night will soon be here when no one can work. As long as I am in the world I am the light of the world.' Having said this, he spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.' So they said to him, 'Then how do your eyes come to be open?' 'The man called Jesus' he answered 'made a paste, daubed my eyes with it and said to me, "Go and wash at Siloam"; so I went, and when I washed I could see.' They asked, 'Where is he?' 'I don't know' he answered.

APOSTLES' CREED

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

However, the Jews would not believe that the man had been blind and had gained his sight, without first sending for his parents and asking them, 'Is this man really your son who you say was born blind? If so, how is it that he is now able to see?' His parents answered, 'We know he is our son and we know he was born blind, but we don't know how it is that he can see now, or who opened his eyes. He is old enough: let him speak for himself.' His parents spoke like this out of fear of the Jews, who had already agreed to expel from the synagogue anyone who should acknowledge Jesus as the Christ. This was why his parents said, 'He is old enough; ask him.'

So the Jews again sent for the man and said to him, 'Give glory to God! For our part, we know that this man is a sinner.' The man answered, 'I don't know if he is a sinner; I only know that I was blind and now I can see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He replied, 'I have told you once and you wouldn't listen. Why do you want to hear it all again? Do you want to become his disciples too?' At this they hurled abuse at him: 'You can be his disciple,' they said 'we are disciples of Moses: we know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this man, we don't know where he comes from.' The man replied, 'Now here is an astonishing thing! He has opened my eyes, and you don't know where he comes from! We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but God does listen to men who are devout and do his will. Ever since the world began it is unheard of for anyone to open the eyes of a man who was born blind; if this man were not from God, he couldn't do a thing.' 'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

Jesus said: 'It is for judgement that I have come into this world, so that those without sight may see and those with sight turn blind.' Hearing this, some Pharisees who were present said to him, 'We are not blind, surely?' Jesus replied: 'Blind? If you were, you would not be guilty, but since you say, "We see", your guilt remains.'

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

At the words that follow, up to and including the Virgin Mary, all bow.

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.
Amen

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.

COMMUNION HYMN: OPEN MY EYES

Open my eyes, Lord, Help me to see your face.
Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see.

Open my ears, Lord. Help me to hear your voice.
Open my ears, Lord. Help me to hear.

Open my Heart, Lord. Help me to love like you.
Open my heart, Lord. Help me to love.

I live within you, Deep in your heart, O Love.
I live within you. Rest now in me.

Be still and know that I am God
I am the Lord who healeth thee
In you O Lord I put my trust

*Thrice
Thrice
Thrice*

RECESSIONAL : TO YOU OUR HOLY GOD

To you, our holy God. we bring our praises strong.
We call on all to land and sing your joyful song.
Sing praise to God, who is the sovereign of all things.
O praise the Lord!

You rule with might and strength above the firmament
We call on all in heaven and earth to give assent.
Sing praise to god, who is the sovereign of all things,
O praise the Lord!

18 / 19 March	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5pm
Reader	Domenica Ashworth	Pietro Sciotto	Margaret Andrews	Mark Aiello
Communion	TBA	Christopher Ratnayake	Elizabeth Williamson	TBA
25 / 26 March	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5pm
Reader	Peter Penson	Michelle LeMaster	Elizabeth Williamson	Mary Kotefski
Communion	Michelle Penson	Margaret Bradley	TBA	Leela Cherubim

COLLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK ENDED 12TH MARCH 2023

ST JOHN'S PRESBYTERY CHEQUE- BSB 083-347 A/c 659225267			ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH - BSB 083-347 A/c 658806318		
Envelopes	Loose Collection	Bank Direct	Envelopes	Loose Collection	Bank Direct
82.30	1096.80	235.00	555.15	465.15	365.00

First Collection is for the support of our Parish Priest, Assistant Priest, the Archbishop, the sick and retired priests and priests in less fortunate areas around our Archdiocese of Melbourne (it is taken up after the prayers of the faithful).
Second Collection is for the support of our parish, its welfare and maintenance (it is taken up after Communion).

MORNING TEA : This Sunday 19th March following the 10.30am Mass will be available in the Francis Xavier Meeting Room. All our welcome.

SOLEMNITY FEAST OF ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY: Monday 20th March, Mass at 9.15am.

MASS WITH THE SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK: On Tuesday 21st March, we invite parishioners, especially the sick and the elderly, for Mass with the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick at the 9:15am.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Fridays at 7:00pm in Lent.

CATECHIST CLASSES 2023- APPLICATIONS CLOSE MARCH 24TH: Applications are now open for Catechist classes for the Sacraments of **Reconciliation** and **Confirmation**. These classes are for students in St John's Parish but do not attend St John's School. Enrolments for the Sacrament of Eucharist are full. Applications and payment forms are available from the parish office. These forms can be emailed back to heidelberg@cam.org.au

The following classes are offered:

Reconciliation - Minimum Year Three level

Confirmation - Minimum Year Six level who have already received First Reconciliation and First Eucharist.

This year, classes will on Thursdays from 4:15-5:00pm. We look forward to sharing this faith journey with you and your children. If you have any questions please contact Elizabeth on 94571066.



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER CELEBRATIONS

LENTEN SERVICE AND 2ND RITE OF RECONCILIATION: Monday 27th March at 7:00pm.

PALM SUNDAY: Saturday Vigil 1 April at 6:00pm, Sunday 2 April Masses at 8:30am, 10:30am, 5:00pm

HOLY THURSDAY: 6 April at 7.30pm
Mass of the Lord's Supper

GOOD FRIDAY: 7 April Stations of the Cross 10:30am, Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at 3.00pm

HOLY SATURDAY: 8 April Morning Prayer in the church at 9am; Easter Vigil 7.30pm.

EASTER SUNDAY 9 April, Masses at 8:30am & 10:30am
(Please note- No Evening Mass on Easter Sunday)

PALM SUNDAY PALMS AND GREENERY NEEDED: If anyone is able to supply a quantity of small pieces of palm or greenery for the various masses on Palm Sunday (weekend of April 1st and 2nd) could you please contact Mary at the Parish office during office hours.

PROJECT COMPASSION 2023: Thu lost his leg after stepping on a land mine in Vietnam. With the support of the Centre for Sustainable Rural Development, Thu can now earn extra income and care for his wife as she recovers from a stroke. Please donate through boxes / envelopes / 1800 024 413 / caritas.org.au/project-compassion

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

RECENTLY BAPTISED: Francesca Iacobaccio, Ingrid Birtley.

THE SICK: Val Wallis, Natalie Richardson, David Morck, Cath Kemp, Margaret Frigo, Sonia Robinson, Paula Staples, Marie Hankin, Vin Sier, Joan O'Donoghue.

ANNIVERSARY: Joseph Dickinson, Dominic Hoi Duong, Marina Vartuli.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Kathleen Kavanagh, Greg Fisher, Maria Mascarenhas, Richard Slater, Joseph Vartuli.

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