



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 John Pereira

**PARISH SECRETARY:** Mary Peeris

**PASTORAL ASSOCIATE:**  
Elizabeth Williamson (0447195553)

**SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE CHAIR:**  
Michelle Penson (0499 891 101)

**ST JOHN'S PARISH OFFICE:**

52 Yarra Street Heidelberg 3084

t: 94571066 & 70643906

e: heidelberg@cam.org.au

w: pol.org.au/heidelberg

Facebook.com/stjohnheidelberg

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:**

Tuesday to Friday

9:30am to 2:30pm

**MASS TIMES:**

**Weekdays:** Tuesday to Saturday:  
9:15am

**Weekend:** Saturday Vigil 6pm  
Sunday 8:30am, 10:30am & 5pm

**ADORATION:** After Friday morning  
Mass with Benediction.

**EXPOSITION**

Wednesday 7.30pm

**RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION):**

Friday 9.45am (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.

**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

## 16TH/17TH DECEMBER, THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B

### 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.*

## CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME ST JOHN'S HEIDELBERG

Second Rite of Reconciliation:

7.00p.m Tuesday 19th December

4th Sunday of Advent

Saturday 23rd December: Vigil Mass 6pm

Sunday 24th December :

Masses 8.30am, 10.30am

Christmas Eve

Masses at 6:00pm, 9.00pm

Carols 8:30pm



Christmas Day: Monday 25th December -

Masses at: 8:30am, 10:30am

New Year's Day - Solemnity of Mary,  
The Holy Mother of God Mass 10.00a.m.

### GAUDETE SUNDAY

Dear Friends, The Third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called "Gaudete Sunday". Gaudete is the Latin word meaning "rejoice." Today's Mass begins with the opening antiphon: "Rejoice in the Lord always." In the past, when Advent was a season of penance, the celebrant of the liturgy used to wear vestments with the penitential colour of purple or violet. In order to remind the people that they were preparing for the very joyful occasion of the birth of Jesus, the celebrant wore rose-coloured vestments on the Third Sunday. Today we light the rose candle, and the priest may wear rose vestments, to express our joy in the coming of Jesus, our Saviour. The primary common theme running through today's readings is that of encouraging joy as we meet our need for the preparation required of us who await the rebirth of Jesus in our hearts and lives. The second common theme is that of bearing witness. The prophet Isaiah, Mary and John the Baptist all bear joyful witness to what God has done and will do for His people. (continued on page 4)

**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: REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS**

Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice.  
Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice.  
Rejoice rejoice and again I say rejoice  
Rejoice rejoice and again I say rejoice *(Thrice)*

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.  
Indeed, the Lord is near.

**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.  
have mercy on us.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

**FIRST READING**

*Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11*

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,  
for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to  
bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that  
are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom  
to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from  
the Lord.

'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my  
God, for he has clothed me in the garments of  
salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of  
integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like  
a bride adorned in her jewels. 'For as the earth  
makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds  
spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and  
praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

The word of the Lord.

*All reply: Thanks be to God.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

*Lk 1:46-50. 53-54.*

**Response:** My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul glorifies the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.  
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;  
henceforth all ages will call me blessed.

R./

The Almighty works marvels for me.

Holy his name!

His mercy is from age to age,  
on those who fear him.

R./

He fills the starving with good things,  
sends the rich away empty.

He protects Israel, his servant,  
remembering his mercy.

R./

**SECOND READING**

*1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for  
all things give thanks to God, because this is what  
God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of  
prophecy with contempt; think before you do  
anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every  
form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy;  
and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit,  
soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus  
Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

The word of the Lord.

*All reply: Thanks be to God.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

*John 1:6-8. 19-28*

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He  
came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light,  
so that everyone might believe through him. He was  
not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the  
Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask  
him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he  
declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well  
then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said.  
'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they  
said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an  
answer to those who sent us. What have you to say  
about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah  
prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:

Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and  
they put this further question to him, 'Why are you  
baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and  
not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water;  
but there stands among you – unknown to you – the

one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

The Gospel of the Lord.

*All reply: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

#### 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

#### MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

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

#### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.  
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

#### COMMUNION: O COME DIVINE MESSIAH

O come, divine Messiah!  
The world in silence waits the day  
When hope shall sing its triumph  
And sadness flee away.

#### Refrain:

Dear Savior, haste! Come, come to earth  
And show your face; Dispel the night  
and bid us hail the dawn of grace.  
O come, divine Messiah!  
The world in silence waits the day  
When hope shall sing its triumph  
And sadness flee away

O come, desired of nations,  
Whom priest and prophet long foretold,  
Come break the captive fetters,  
Redeem the long lost fold.

Ref:

O come in peace and meekness,  
And lowly will your cradle be;  
All clothed in human weakness  
Shall we your Godhead see.

Ref:

#### RECESSIONAL: HAIL MARY

Hail Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with you.  
Blessed are you among women  
and blest is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners now  
and at the hour of death.  
Amen.

#### Refrain

Gentle woman, quiet light,  
morning star, so strong and bright,  
gentle Mother, peaceful dove,  
teach us wisdom; teach us love.

You were chosen by the Father;  
you were chosen for the Son.  
You were chosen from all women  
and for woman, shining one.

Ref.

Blessed are you among women,  
blest in turn all women, too.  
Blessed they with peaceful spirits.  
Blessed they with gentle hearts.

Ref.



16/17 DEC	SAT 6:00PM	SUN 8:30AM	SUN 10:30AM	SUN 5PM
Reader	Peter Penson	John McGrath	Margaret Andrews	Annaliza
Communion	Michelle Penson	Pietro Sciotto	Mary Furlan	Sally Tranmontana
23 / 24 DEC	SAT 6:00PM	SUN 8:30AM	SUN 10:30AM	CHRISTMAS EVE
Reader	Pamela Smith	Marnie Keenan	Christine Soosairaj	6.00p.m. Peter/Elizabeth
Communion	Lorraine Mascarenhas	Chris Ratnayake	Brian McIntosh	9.00p.m Shelia/ Barbara

**MORNING TEA, 17th December: Barbara**

**COLLECTIONS FOR WEEK ENDED 10TH DECEMBER 2023**

<b>First Collection</b> is for the support of our Parish Priest, the Archbishop, the sick & retired priests, priests in less fortunate areas around Archdiocese of Melbourne <i>(It is taken up after Homily)</i> ST JOHN'S PRESBYTERY CHEQUE- BSB 083-347 A/c 659225267			<b>Second Collection</b> is for the support of our Church, its operating expenses, staff wages, church & ground maintenance etc. <i>(It is taken up after Prayers of Faithful)</i> ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH - BSB 083-347 A/c 658806318		
<b>Envelopes</b>	<b>Loose Collection</b>	<b>Bank Direct</b>	<b>Envelopes</b>	<b>Loose Collection</b>	<b>Bank Direct</b>
\$345.95	\$808.30	N/A	\$874.00	\$504.85	N/A

### GAUDETE SUNDAY (CONTINUED)

Today's Gospel tells us that John the Baptist came as a witness to testify to the Light. The coming of Jesus, the Light, into the world is cause for rejoicing as he removes darkness from the world. We should be glad and rejoice also because, like John the Baptist, we, too, are chosen to bear witness to Christ Jesus, the Light of the world. We are to reflect Jesus' Light in our lives so that we may radiate it and illuminate the dark lives of others around us. The joyful message of today's liturgy is clear. The salvation we await with rejoicing will liberate both the individual and the community, and its special focus will be the poor and lowly.

St Paul advises us to *"Be happy at all times"* by leading blameless, holy, and thankful lives guided by the Holy Spirit, because Christ is faithful to his promise that he will come again to reward us.

May the season of Advent be the season of grace, hope and joy for each of us.

God bless,

Fr Vinh-Parish Priest

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL ANNUAL CHRISTMAS APPEAL:** St Vincent de Paul is hoping to bring some Christmas joy to the 108 families that we help through the year. If you can donate it would be very much appreciated. Envelopes available in the Foyer. Thank you.

envelopes (in the church porch) can be placed in the collection bags or left at Parish Office next week. Thank you to all for the ongoing support we receive throughout the year. Happy and Holy Christmas season to all. Vinnies Heidelberg.

**MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSION APPEAL:** Thank you for your donations of \$537.75 to this appeal.

**MORNING TEA:** This Sunday 17th December following the 10.30am Mass will be available in the Parish Hall. All are welcome.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION) BEFORE CHRISTMAS:** the Second Rite of Reconciliation will be celebrated at our parish on **Tuesday 19th December at 7:00pm.**

**CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES:** are available in the porch. 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.

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE:** St John's parish office will be closed from Wednesday 20th December to Thursday 4th January 2024. For any urgent requests, please email: heidelberg@cam.org.au or leave a message on the parish answering machine (9457 1066—press 3 to leave a message). Thank You.

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

**RECENTLY BAPTISED:** Hudson Remy Bouette

**THE SICK:** Bill Barnes, Kevin Andrews, Margaret Sinclair, Joan O'Donoghue, Samantha Byran, Frank Dempsey, Davis Morck, Caterina Chincarni, Domenica Ashworth, Sean O'Leary, Val Wallis

**ANNIVERSARY:**

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Agnes Fernandez, Jillian Holzer (nee Sharkey)