



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: FrJohn 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)

23RD/24TH DECEMBER, FOURTH 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

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

Monday 25th December - Christmas Day
Masses at: 8:30am, 10:30am

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



"LET WHAT YOU SAID BE DONE"

On this final Sunday of Advent the Church moves our gaze to the Annunciation. The whole scene hinges around one word: 'Yes.' Mary's fiat sets in motion the entire Christian drama. In his film Jesus of Nazareth Franco Zeffirelli pictures the Annunciation this way: Mary is asleep at night when a gust of wind opens a high window. Afraid at all the commotion Mary gets up and starts to pray. As she prays, we see her face change and her body bend over. With tears in her eyes, Mary looks up through the window to the moonlit sky and simply says, 'Yes'. The swirling wind dies down at once.

In recent years successive popes have reminded us that the best devotion to Mary is one that leads us to do what she did: say 'yes' to Jesus. Mary is not a stop on our journey of faith; she is a guidepost that always sends us on to Christ. Mary does not save us, for we believe she needed to be saved by Christ as well. That's why she could say yes in the first place. Mary recognised the gift and the giver and became the bearer of God for the world.

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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: 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.

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.

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 *2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16*

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent'. Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I

will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

The word of the Lord.

All reply: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Psalm 88:2-5. 27. 29*

Response: For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that
your truth is firmly established as the heavens. **R./**

'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your dynasty for ever
and set up your throne through all ages.' **R./**

He will say to me: 'You are my father,
my God, the rock who saves me.'
I will keep my love for him always;
for him my covenant shall endure. **R./**

SECOND READING *Romans 16:25-27*

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

All reply: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Luke 1:26-38*

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the

virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

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

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

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

Ref.

RECESSIONAL: IMMACULATE MARY

Immaculate Mary we praise God in you:
His power and His mercy,
His grace given to you,
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria!
Ave, Ave, Ave, Maria!
Predestined for Christ by eternal decree,
God willed you both virgin and mother to be.
Ave, Ave, Ave, Maria!
Ave, Ave, Ave, Maria!



23 / 24 DEC	SAT 6:00PM	SUN 8:30AM	SUN 10:30AM	CHRISTMAS EVE
Reader	Pamela Smith	Marnie Keenan	Margaret Andrews	6.00p.m. Peter/Elizabeth
Communion	Lorraine Mascarenhas	Chris Ratnayake	Brian McIntosh	9.00p.m Shelia/ Barbara
30 /31 DEC	SAT 6:00PM	SUN 8:30AM	SUN 10:30AM	SUN 5PM
Reader	Sheila Serrao	Pietro Sciotto	TBA	Annaliza
Communion	TBA	Bobbie Bartkus	Margaret Bradley	TBA

COLLECTIONS FOR WEEK ENDED 17TH DECEMBER 2023

First Collection 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			Second Collection 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		
Envelopes	Loose Collection	Bank Direct	Envelopes	Loose Collection	Bank Direct
\$317.95	\$617.95	N/A	\$549	\$459.10	N/A

'Let What You Said Be Done' (continued)

In this final week of Advent let's keep reminding ourselves of this simple but life-changing fact: Jesus saves us. Jesus saves us from death. Jesus saves us from living lives devoid of purpose and meaning and Jesus saves us from ourselves.

We don't save ourselves. We cannot earn salvation by good works or prayers or penance. And, as difficult as it is to hear, we cannot save anyone else. That includes our children, spouse, grandchildren, parents or friends.

Our prayers, good works and faith are the responses we make to the salvation of Christ we claim here and now. And how we live is the way by which those we love will find the gift of God's salvation for themselves.

In the midst of this frantic final week before Christmas when so many other things can distract us from what this grace-filled feast is really all about, let's take a moment to join Mary in accepting into our lives and hearts the greatest of all gifts – our undeserved salvation, Jesus Christ the Lord. © Richard Leonard SJ

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES FOR NEARBY

PARISHES at St Martin's Rosanna/Macleod and St Pius Heidelberg West can be found on the notice board in the church foyer.

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.

FEAST OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST: On Wednesday, December 27th we celebrate the feast of our Patron Saint, St John. Join us at the 9.15a.m. mass if you are able and following mass in the Francis Xavier Room for Morning Tea. All welcome.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL 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. Donation envelopes (in the church porch) can be placed in the collection bags or left at the Parish office. Thank you to all for the ongoing support we receive throughout the year. A happy and holy Christmas to all. Vinnies Heidelberg.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

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: Elizabeth Dickinson

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