



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.

ST JOHN'S PARISH OFFICE:

52 Yarra Street Heidelberg 3084

Phone: 94571066 & 70643906

Email: heidelberg@cam.org.au

Website: pol.org.au/heidelberg

Facebook.com/stjohnheidelberg

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)

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—10.15am (during
Adoration)

Sat 9:45 am & 5:30pm.—5.50p.m.

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

Ms Alison Dean Principal

30TH/31ST DECEMBER, HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY, 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.*

**Wishing all Parishioners, Visitors and Friends a
Very Happy New Year in 2024
Filled With God's Abundant Blessings!**

Dear Friends,

Today's celebration of the *Feast of the Holy Family* highlights the importance of family in our life. We know that Mary and Joseph's faithfulness to God enabled them to cooperate in God's plan for our salvation by accepting the responsibility to raise God's Son, Jesus.

Tomorrow, New Year's Day, we celebrate the *Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God*. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy and Peaceful New Year. I pray that the Lord Jesus and His Mother Mary may enrich your lives during the New Year with an abundance of God's blessings. Today's Feast of Mary, the Mother of God is a very appropriate way to begin a new year. This celebration reminds us that the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, is also our Heavenly Mother.

The solemnity shows the relationship of Jesus to Mary. It's a perfect example of how we should venerate Mary under all of her titles and is a good foundation for our understanding of Mary's place in Christology. The Church puts the feast of this solemnity on the first day of the New Year to emphasize the importance of Mary's role in the life of Christ and of the Church. We commemorate the various saints on different days of the year, but Mary is the most prominent of them all. She has a special role and mission given to her by God. As Mother of our Redeemer and of the redeemed, she reigns as Queen at the side of Christ the King. She is a powerful intercessor for all of our needs here on earth. In celebrating her special feast day, we acknowledge this great gift for the Church and world; we call on her to be actively involved in our daily life; we imitate her virtuous life as a great inspiration; and we cooperate with all the graces we get through her.

Mary, Mother of God. Pray for us.
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 ANTIPHON

The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
 have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
 receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
 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 *Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6. 12-14*

The Lord honours the father in his children,
and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons.

Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins,
he who honours his mother is like someone
amassing a fortune. Whoever respects his father will
be happy with children of his own, he shall be heard
on the day when he prays. Long life comes to him
who honours his father, he who sets his mother at
ease is showing obedience to the Lord. My son,
support your father in his old age, do not grieve him
during his life. Even if his mind should fail, show him
sympathy, do not despise him in your health and
strength; for kindness to a father shall not be
forgotten but will serve as reparation for your sins.

The word of the Lord.

All reply: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Psalm 104:1-6. 8-9*

Response: The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
O sing to him, sing his praise;
tell all his wonderful works!

R./

Be proud of his holy name,
let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.
Consider the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face.

R./

Remember the wonders he has done,
his miracles, the judgements he spoke.
O children of Abraham, his servant,
O sons of the Jacob he chose.

R./

He remembers his covenant for ever,
his promise for a thousand generations,
the covenant he made with Abraham,
the oath he swore to Isaac.

R./

SECOND READING

Colossians:12-21

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves
you and you should be clothed in sincere compassion,
in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience.
Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as
a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you
must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep
them together and complete them, put on love. And
may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because
it is for this that you were called together as parts of
one body. Always be thankful. Let the message of
Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach
each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom.
With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns
and inspired songs to God; and never say or do
anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving
thanks to God the Father through him. Wives, give
way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord.
Husbands, love your wives and treat them with
gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents
always, because that is what will please the Lord.
Parents, never drive your children to resentment or
you will make them feel frustrated.

The word of the Lord.

All reply: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our fathers through the
prophets; now He speaks to us through his Son
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 2:22-40

When the day came for them to be purified as laid
down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took
him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord –
observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord:
Every first-born male must be consecrated to the
Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance

with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

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

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess you
Resurrection until you come again.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among
us.



To our 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 work quietly behind the scenes, generously volunteering your time during our Christmas celebration and all through the year. Your willingness to give your time and service is greatly appreciated. Your support allows us to make our celebrations meaningful and lovely. Thank you!

30 /31 DEC	SAT 6:00PM	SUN 8:30AM	SUN 10:30AM	SUN 5PM
Reader	Sheila Serrao	Pietro Sciotto	Vernon Curtis	Annaliza
Communion	Elizabeth Williamson	Bobbie Bartkus	Margaret Bradley	Sally Tramontana
6 / 7 JAN	SAT 6:00PM	SUN 8:30AM	SUN 10:30AM	SUN 5PM
Reader	Peter Penson	Marguerite Ryan	Jacqueline Lewis	Leela Cherubim
Communion	Michelle Penson	Chris Ratnayke	Brian McIntosh	Elizabeth Williamson

COLLECTIONS FOR WEEK ENDED 24TH 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
\$276.30	\$980.00	N/A	\$644.00	\$636.15	N/A

New Year's Day - SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD Mass 10.00a.m. Please note the later mass time.

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 Wednesday 27 December 2023.

2. On behalf of the Priests' Retirement Foundations, the Priests' Remuneration Fund, the Archbishop, Father John 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 Father John sending cards and gifts. We really appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity.

FATHER VINH ON LEAVE Father Vinh will be on leave from Friday January 5th to Saturday January 20th.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE: St John's parish office is closed until 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). Thank You.

FAITHFUL LOVE

Today's feast of the Holy Family is about faithful love that looks after the most important people in our lives. We all know that fights and bitterness can wreck families for generations. If today's feast means anything it is not about romanticising how difficult family life can be these days. It is about naming that forgiveness, compassion and kindness are the blocks upon which Christian family life is built. Without these virtues family life crumbles.

The best way to honour today's feast is to do something about the faithful love it celebrates. I have often been with people on their deathbed when they speak about things they have left undone and would have liked to have achieved in their life. No one ever says that they wish they had spent more time at work. No one says they wish they had made more money. But many people say that they wish they had told those that they love, that they loved them. We shouldn't assume that our families know about our love for them if we haven't said it. If we show it, we should be able to say it. So write a letter, make a call or go and see them, but let's pluck up our courage and tell our families that we love them. It's too late once we're dead.

And the best news is that when we profess our love to our families we'll see that today's celebration is in fact a moveable feast. © Richard Leonard SJ

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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: Mary Ellen White, Shelia Kemp