



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

**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 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  
55 Cape St Heidelberg 3084  
t: 9459 2963;  
office@sjheidelberg.catholic.edu.au

*9TH / 10TH MARCH, 4TH SUNDAY IN LENT, 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.*

**FRANCIS' FOCUS**

Pope Francis points out that Jesus' answer to Nicodemus in today's Gospel 'disrupts our image of God'. From Jesus' reference to both Father and Son, the Pope says, we learn that God – Father, Son, and Spirit – is 'a God of communion'.

Moreover, we are invited to share in this 'communion of love'! As the Pope suggests, we can recall this invitation every time we make the sign of the cross. 'By tracing the cross on our body,' he says, 'we remind ourselves how much God loved us, to the point of giving his life for us; and we repeat to ourselves that his love envelops us completely, from top to bottom, from left to right, like an embrace that never abandons us.'

As receivers of such love, we are called to also become sharers of it. As well as reminding ourselves that we are loved, the Pope says, when making the sign of the cross we also 'commit ourselves to bear witness to God-as-love, creating communion in his name.'

Flowing from this wonderful image the Pope asks us to reflect: 'do we bear witness to God-as-love? ... do our communities bear witness to this? ... Do we always leave the door open, do we know how to welcome everyone – and I emphasise, everyone – as brothers and sisters?'

After all, the Crucified One was sent 'not to condemn the world' but to save it. A person can condemn themselves only by closing the door to themselves or others, refusing to believe in God's love. Nobody who approaches the door, however tentatively, can be guilty of making that mistake.

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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: 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**                      *2 Chronicles 36:14-16. 19-23*

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks

Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."

The word of the Lord.

*All reply: Thanks be to God.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

*Psalm 136.*

*Response: Let my tongue be silenced, if ever I forget you!*

By the rivers of Babylon  
there we sat and wept,  
remembering Zion;  
on the poplars that grew there  
we hung our harps.

R./

For it was there that they asked us,  
our captors, for songs,  
our oppressors, for joy.  
'Sing to us,' they said,  
'one of Zion's songs.'

R./

O how could we sing  
the song of the Lord  
on alien soil?  
If I forget you, Jerusalem,  
let my right hand wither!

R./

O let my tongue  
cleave to my mouth  
if I remember you not,  
if I prize not Jerusalem  
above all my joys! .

R./

**SECOND READING**

*Ephesians 2:4-10*

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

The word of the Lord.

*All reply: Thanks be to God.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,  
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.  
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

**GOSPEL**

*John 3:14-21*

Jesus said to Nicodemus: The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son.

On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**APOSTLES' CREED**

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.

**MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION**

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

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, to praise the name of the Lord.

**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.**

**GIVE THANKS**

Give thanks with a grateful heart.  
Give thanks to the Holy one  
Give thanks because he's given  
Jesus Christ his Son.

**Twice**

And now let the weak say, "I am strong"  
Let the poor say, "I am rich  
Because of what the Lord has done for us"

**Twice**

**RECESSIONAL : NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD**

Now thank we all our God  
with heart and hands and voices;  
Who wondrous things hath done!  
In whom his world rejoices.  
Who from our mothers' arms,  
Hath blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love,  
and still is ours today.

O may this gracious God  
through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts  
And blessed peace to cheer us,  
Preserve us in his grace,  
And guide us in distress,  
And free us from all sin,  
Till heaven we possess.

**A Prayer to Saint Joseph**

*Glorious Saint Joseph, whose power makes the impossible possible, come to my aid in these times of anguish and difficulty.*

*Take under your protection the serious and troubling situations that I commend to you, that they may have a happy outcome.*

*My beloved father, all my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power. Amen.*



9 / 10 MARCH	SAT 6:00PM	SUN 8:30AM	SUN 10:30AM	SUN 5PM
Reader	Pamela Smith	Pietro Sciotto	Christine Soosairaj	Mary Kotefski
Communion	Elizabeth Williamson	Marni Mant	Brian McIntosh	Olivia Musitano
			Liz Sier	
16 / 17 MARCH	SAT 6:00PM	SUN 8:30AM	SUN 10:30AM	SUN 5PM
Reader	Margherita Bechelli	Michelle LeMaster	Peter Greenham	Annaliza
Communion	Lorraine Mascarenhas	Chris Ratnayake	Margaret Bradley	Sally Tramontana
			Mary Furlan	

MORNING TEA 17TH MARCH: Kate & Marnie

### COLLECTIONS FOR WEEK ENDED 3RD MARCH 2024

**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

*(It is taken up after Homily)*

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.

*(It is taken up after Prayers of Faithful)*

ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH - BSB 083-347 A/c 658806318

Envelopes	Loose Collection	Bank Direct	Envelopes	Loose Collection	Bank Direct
\$454.40	\$1,222.65	\$337.00	\$834.00	\$671.30	\$1,698.00

**MORNING TEA:** Next Sunday 17th March following the 10.30am Mass will be available in the Parish Hall. All are welcome to celebrate St Patrick's day.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** Each Friday during Lent, at 7.00pm in the church.

**MERCY MELBOURNE TUESDAY MARCH 19<sup>TH</sup>:** Mercy Melbourne is an initiative that invites parishes in the Archdiocese of Melbourne to open their doors in welcome for a special evening of prayer and Confessions. It is an opportunity for all Catholics to experience the grace of the Sacrament of Reconciliation as we prepare for the passion, death and resurrection of Our Lord.

Our programme here at St John's on 19th March is as follows:

6.00pm – 7.00pm. : Adoration & Confession

7.00pm : Mass & Holy Anointing of the sick

8.00pm - 9.00pm : Adoration & Confession

*(Note: No 9.15am Mass on 19th March)*

**CHRISM MASS: (MASS OF THE HOLY OILS):** There will be **No 9.15am Mass on Wednesday, 20th March** as priests will attend the Chrism Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral at 10.30am. Parishioners are warmly invited to attend this Chrism Mass.



### HOLY WEEK AND EASTER CELEBRATIONS

#### LENTEN RECONCILIATION:

Tuesday 19 March 6pm to 9pm

**PALM SUNDAY:** Saturday Vigil 23rd March at 6:00pm, Sunday 24 March Masses at 8:30am, 10:30am, 5:00pm

**HOLY THURSDAY:** 28th March at 7.30pm  
Mass of the Lord's Supper

**GOOD FRIDAY:** 29 March Stations of the Cross 10:30am  
Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at 3.00pm

**HOLY SATURDAY:** 30th March Morning Prayer in the church at 9am; Easter Vigil 7.30pm.

**EASTER SUNDAY** 31st March, Masses at 8:30am & 10:30am

*(Please note- No Evening Mass on Easter Sunday)*

#### ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOL - PREP 2025 SCHOOL TOURS:

Tuesday, 12 March at 9.15am

Monday, 25 March at 9.15am

Wednesday, 27 March at 5:00pm

*Please call 9459 2963 to make a booking.*

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

**THE SICK:** Jacques Coomans, Frank Viola, 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:** Livio Scenna, Arthur Budge, Michele Ginevra.

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