



ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PARISH  
& PRIMARY SCHOOL

# ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PARISH

52 Yarra Street  
HEIDELBERG

We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which our parish stands, the Wurundjeri-Balluk clan of the Woi wurrung people in the Kulin Nation. We respectfully recognise elders, both past and present, and join in a silent prayer for healing of the pains caused by our ancestors.

St John's parish is a child-friendly community and we gratefully welcome young children and their families; we are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults in our midst.



17th / 18th March

5th Sunday in Lent, Yr B

Dear Parishioners, Friends and Visitors

## *The Church*

*Two weeks ago I shared some reflections on the Church as the body of all who believe in Christ; the Body of Christ with Christ at its head, and the People of God.*

*The Church is a divine and a human institution. Every human society or group of people require some type of organisational structure in order to be able to function. The Church as a human institution is organised into a large number of groupings which we call Diocese. Within each diocese a bishop is appointed as head, shepherd and pastor. Among the bishops, the Bishop of Rome, the Pope, is the head. The Pope, the descendant of Peter the apostle, is the Vicar of Christ.*

*Very often, when we speak of Church we tend to forget that in the first instance it is the Body of Christ, the body of all the baptised who believe in Christ. Instead we find it easier to think of the Church as the organisational structure, the pope, the bishops and the priests.*

*Another 'mistake' that we often fall into is to forget that our leaders are human beings just like each one of us. Often, out of respect, we tend to place our leaders onto a pedestal. This is not a healthy attitude both for our leaders and for ourselves as body. When we place our leaders on too high a pedestal and surround them with special dress and titles, we tend to find it difficult to talk to them and share with them what we really feel. Recently this relationship has often been referred to as 'clericalism.'*

*When we remind ourselves that our leaders are human, then we can relate to them as brothers and sisters, we realise that they too can sin, and we can also find it within ourselves to forgive them. We also need to remind ourselves that they need our prayers.*

Fr Mario

## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER CELEBRATIONS

### **PALM SUNDAY:**

Saturday 24 March, 6:00pm Blessing of the palms in front of parish house garages followed by procession and Mass;

Sunday 25 March, 8:30am Mass; 10:30am Blessing of the palms in front of parish house garages followed by procession and Mass; 5:00pm Mass

### **RECONCILIATION:**

Monday 26 March, 7:30pm

### **HOLY THURSDAY:**

29 March 7:30pm: Mass of the Lord's Supper and Washing of the Feet followed by Adoration in the parish hall. Evening Prayer at 10:00pm

### **GOOD FRIDAY:**

30 March, 11:00am: Stations of the Cross in the church and school grounds;  
3:00pm: Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at the OLMC Nalleijerring Centre

### **HOLY SATURDAY:**

31 March 9:00am: Morning Prayer;  
8:00pm: Easter Vigil

### **EASTER SUNDAY:**

1 April, Masses at 7:00am, 8:30am and 10:30am

(No Evening Mass on Easter Sunday)

**PARISH PRIEST:** Fr Mario Zammit

**PARISH SECRETARY:** Mary Peeris

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL CHAIR:**

Maureen Hegarty

**CHILD SAFETY OFFICER:**

Michelle Robertson m:0409 533 100

**SACRAMENT COORDINATOR:**

Sr Loreto Lynch rsm

**PARISH OFFICE:**

52 Yarra Street Heidelberg 3084

t: 9457 1066

e: heidelberg@cam.org.au

w: cam.org.au/heidelberg

facebook/stjohnheidelberg

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Mo, Tu, Th, Fr; 9:30am to 2:30pm

**MASS TIMES:**

**WEEKEND:** Saturday: 6:00pm

Sunday: 8:30am, 10:30am, 5:00pm

**AUSTIN HOSPITAL:**

3rd Sunday of the Month at 9:30am

**WEEKDAYS:** 9:15am

**RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION):**

Saturdays at 9:45am & 5:30pm

or by appointment

**BAPTISMS:** Sundays at 11:45am, by

appointment

**BAPTISM INFORMATION EVENING:**

Last Thursday of each month at

7:30pm in the parish house, except

Dec and Jan

**WEDDINGS:** By appointment

**ROSARY:** Monday to Saturday after

morning Mass

**EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED**

**SACRAMENT:**

Wednesday: 7:30pm - 9:00pm;

Thursday: 9:40am - 11:00am,

Friday: 8:00am - 9:00am

**LECTIO DIVINA:** Every second and

fourth Monday of the month at

7:00pm, in the parish house

**LEGION OF MARY:** Every Tuesday

night at 7:00pm in the parish house;

contact Sue 9459 8604

**PARISH PILGRIM STATUE OF MARY:**

To have the statue of Mary in your

home for one week contact Marj

McBroom m: 0414 289 304

**ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PARISH PRIMARY:**

**PRINCIPAL:** Maureen Stella

**ADDRESS:**

55 Cape St Heidelberg 3084

t: 9459 2963;

office@sjheidelberg.catholic.edu.au

**HALL HIRE:**

Fran Gasior: m:0417972317

10:00am-5:00pm; Mon-Fri only

**NEW PARISHIONERS WELCOME:**

Please contact parish office to

introduce yourself

## **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.*

### **RECEPTIVITY- A HOLY WEEK REFLECTION**

#### **FROM A FEMININE PERSPECTIVE:**

Would you like to take a couple of hours out of your busy schedule to join others in reflection and conversation to help prepare your minds and hearts for the events and rituals of Holy Week? We hope that we can offer stimulating insights into the concept of receptivity, traditionally seen as a particularly feminine quality. Saturday, 24th March (10:00am-12noon) at: Kildara Centre, Malvern. Contact: Andrea (95489432 / [avenier@bigpond.com](mailto:avenier@bigpond.com)) by Wednesday, 21st March for details (supported by the Grail in Australia).

#### **CALLED TO WELCOME AND PROTECT:**

On Palm Sunday, 25th March. 1:00pm Prayer Service at St Patrick's Cathedral, 1:40pm Depart Cathedral to join Walk for Justice for Refugees, at the State Library of Victoria. Organised by the office for Justice and Peace, Melbourne Catholic office.

#### **ST JOHN'S SOCIAL GROUP:**

We invite you to join us in the Francis Xavier meeting room at 10:00am on Tuesday 20th March for a cuppa and chat and to have fun playing the card game, 500. Have fun, make new friends, extend yourself. It will be great to see you. Elizabeth 0447 195 553, Jan 0423 478 504

### **TEAM PALLOTTI:**

Presents a Musical Play written by Father Patrick Jackson, SAC directed by Luciana Gagliardi. Vincent Pallotti Powered by Infinite Love; 4th and 5th May from 7:30pm to 9:00pm at Saint Christopher's Parish, Syndal, Hennessy Hall, 5 Doon Avenue, Glen Waverley, [www.Trybooking.com/URDB](http://www.Trybooking.com/URDB). Contact: Florence D'Costa (0433851662), Tibor Deheny (0417740449), Wayne Savedra (0405187178).

### **IMAGINING A SPIRITUALLY EXPANSIVE**

**WORLD:** requires that we are edge people looking outwards to what might be and looking inwards to the creative capacities latent and potent within each one of us. This Summit invites you to stand at that edge and dream together with Margaret Silf as we imagine and explore how we can participate in God's expansive world. At Stirling Theological College, 44-60 Jacksons Rd, Mulgrave VIC 3170. Friday night plenary with Margaret Silf from 7:00 to 9:30pm, \$35. Full Summit: Friday night 7:00 to 9:30pm Saturday and Sunday 9:00am to 5:00pm \$290. Information: [kardia.com.au/summit/](http://kardia.com.au/summit/); booking: <https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=327828&bof=1>

## **PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

**RECENTLY BAPTISED:** Matilda Dunn-Vaughan, Harvey Manti, Stephanie Maiolo, Hamish, Evie & Ruby Hamilton.

**THE SICK:** Lauren Black, Patricia Mulholland, Brendan O'Kane, Patricia Wong, Bob Hyland, Erin Nevill.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Phyllis Clifford, Sebastiano Tramontana.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Paul Frank, Angela Oddo, Joyce Jakubic.

*Names on the sick list remain for six weeks, unless otherwise advised.*

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

|   |  |                      |                    |                                |
|---|--|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>17/18 Mar</b>  | <b>Sat 6:00pm</b>  | <b>Sun 8:30am</b>    | <b>Sun 10:30am</b> | <b>Sun 5:00pm</b>              |
| 1st Reader  | Michael Leonard  | Peter Penson         | Claire Newsome     | Guiseppe Amoroso               |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader  | Anita Metcalf  | Ronnie Maloney       | Grace Lew-Kee      | Leela Cherubim                 |
| Communion   | Jeanette O'Sullivan  | Ngoc Thi Minh Tran   | Sue Lew-Kee        | Catie Nesbitt                  |
|   | Maria Basilone   | Elizabeth Williamson | Maureen Howard     | Leo Cosio                      |
|   | Donna Richardson   | Mary Harty           | Nigel Mant         | Charito Cosio                  |
|   | Emma Chang   | Pauline Griffiths    | Marni Mant         | TBA                            |
| <b>24/25 Mar</b>  | <b>Sat 6:00pm</b>  | <b>Sun 8:30am</b>    | <b>Sun 10:30am</b> | <b>Sun 5:00pm</b>              |
| 1st Reader  | Sue Lew-Kee  | Mary Harty           | Karen Frost        | Johanna Nesbitt                |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader  | Maddy Lew-Kee  | Michael Leonard      | Bob Dowling        | Mary Kotefski                  |
| Narrator  | Domenica Ashworth  | Bernadette Nzenza    | Robyn Laurie       | Peter Penson                   |
| Other Voices  | Barbara Barnes   | Marguerite Ryan      | Adrian Daly        | Rosemary Vecchies              |
| Communion   | Bill Barnes  | Alice Wong           | Leo Hernandez      | Margaret Hansen                |
|   | Lorraine Mascarenhas   | Fiona Curry          | Yannick Jonas      | Jenny Hollaway                 |
|   | Noel Micallef  | Val Wallis           | Doris Schembri     | Michelle Penson                |
|   | Leela Cherubim   | TBA                  | Beena Dilip        | TBA                            |
| Counters  | <b>18 March:</b> Graeme Foote, Michael Tilley. & <b>25 March:</b> Tim Booth, Nigel Mant, Shane Byrnes. |                      |                    |                                |
| <b>Collection Weekly Average for February</b>   |  |                      |                    | <b>Heidelcare Co-Ordinator</b> |
| Parish  |  | Presbytery           |                    | March : Rosemary 9459 0729     |
| Stewardship   | \$3005.88  | Stewardship          | \$633.87           | April : Cath 9459 9420         |
| Loose   | \$776.34   | Loose                | \$402.50           |                                |
| <b>Thank you</b> for supporting St John's financially. Please advise if your credit card is lost/stolen or the expiry date has changed. |  |                      |                    |                                |

**AUSTIN MASS:** this Sunday 18th March. Volunteers please meet at 8:30am for 9:30am Mass. Parishioners are also invited to participate in this Mass to minister to the sick by their presence.

**CHILD SAFETY TRAINING SESSIONS:** for general parish volunteers not part of any parish group: this Sunday 18th March **from 2:00 to 4:00pm** at the Francis Xavier meeting room in the parish house. All Welcome!

**GOLD COIN COLLECTION:** The February Collection was \$813.10. Next Gold Coin Collection: 24 & 25 March.

**HOLY THURSDAY, WASHING OF THE FEET:** Part of the Holy Thursday celebration includes the washing of the feet of twelve parishioners. Anyone who would like to participate in this celebration please put down your name on the sheet in the foyer or speak to Fr Mario.

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK:** Thursday 22nd March, Mass with the sacrament of the Sick at 11:30am, followed by a light lunch at Francis Xavier meeting room in the parish house, hosted by the Year 6 students. Parishioners in need of transport please contact the office as soon as possible. The anointing of the sick will also be celebrated at the 9:15am Mass.

**PREGNANCY COUNSELLING AUSTRALIA:** looking for volunteers with good listening skills, non-judgmental, respectful and compassionate, warm and friendly, available and flexible. Work from home four hours per week. Contact: Lois Dean (0411 391 720 / admin@pregnancycounsellingaustralia.com.au)

**Palm Sunday:** On Palm Sunday parishioners are invited to bring with them palm and olive branches or any other suitable greenery. These will be blessed before the Mass as we celebrate the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. It would be greatly appreciated if you could bring some extra pieces for parishioners who do not have access to suitable greenery.

**COLLECTIONS FOR THE THREE DAYS OF EASTER:** The collection on Holy Thursday is for St Vincent de Paul Conference and the collections on Good Friday are for the Catholics in the Holy Land and for the parish expenses. Easter offering envelopes will also be available. Thank you.

**PROJECT COMPASSION:** Ditosa (12) in Mozambique is cared for by her grandmother after her parents died of AIDS related illnesses. Thanks to Caritas Australia's support, Ditosa has now graduated from school with plans for university. Please donate to Project Compassion 2018 and help young women like Ditosa to grow up with an education, confidence and hope, providing them with a just future. Project Compassion boxes and envelopes can be returned to the parish on Holy Thursday and Sundays of Easter.

**HOT CROSS BUN ORDERS:** Warringal Bakers Delight will donate \$2 from every 6-pack of Hot Cross Buns to St Johns Netball Club. Order envelopes available at the parish office or at the church porch. Orders with correct money due back to the parish office no later than 10:00am Tuesday 20th March. Buns to be collected from the parish meeting room on Tuesday 27th March from 3:00pm to 4:00pm. Thank You.

**FIRST READING**

Jeremiah 31:31-34

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, ‘Learn to know the Lord!’ No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Ps 50:3-4. 12-15. R. v.12

(R.) Create a clean heart in me, O God.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.  
In your compassion blot out my offence.  
O wash me more and more from my guilt.  
and cleanse me from my sin. (R.)
2. A pure heart create for me, O God,  
put a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. (R.)
3. Give me again the joy of your help;  
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,  
that I may teach transgressors your ways  
and sinners may return to you. (R.)

**SECOND READING**

Hebrew 5:7-9

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Jn 12:26

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!  
If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord;  
and where I am, my servant will also be.  
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

**GOSPEL**

John 12:20-33

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, ‘Sir, we should like to see Jesus.’ Philip went

to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

‘Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!’ A voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’ People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, ‘It was an angel speaking to him.’ Jesus answered, ‘It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours. ‘Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.’ By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

**CONFRONTING SIN TO FIND LIFE**

Jesus’ mysterious statement at the beginning of today’s Gospel that the Son of Man must be “lifted up” alludes to an episode during the Exodus wandering of Israel (Num 21:4-9). Finding themselves in the wilderness without food or water, the Israelites grumble against the Lord and against Moses. As a result they are punished with a plague of poisonous snakes.

But God who sent the punishment has also provided a remedy: the erection of a bronze figure of the snake in question. Looking upon this figure acts for the Israelites as a life-giving antidote to the poison.

The Gospel finds here a pointer to the coming “lifting up” of the Son of Man upon the cross. As the Israelites found salvation and life by directly confronting what was afflicting them, so those who “look upon” the Crucified One with faith, seeing him as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (1:29), will find eternal life.

The following sentence (3:16) wonderfully discloses the extremity of God’s love. While desirous that we appreciate the evil and destructiveness of sin by confronting it in the cross, God’s whole intent in regard to the world is not to condemn but to save and communicate life.

Judgment, then, is not so much something to be executed in the future. Judgment is something that believers already undergo when they expose their lives to the searching but saving light that Christ, as “true Light”, brings into the world. It is to this kind of “judgment” that Lent invites us each year.

Fr Brendan Byrne sj