



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.

14th / 15th April

3rd Sunday of Easter, Yr B

Dear Parishioners, Visitors and Friends

Rejoice and be glad!

Jesus invites us to be holy (perfect) as God the Father is holy. In its document called 'Lumen Gentium, the Light of the Nations (1964),' speaking about the Church, the Second Vatican Council reminded us that we are ALL called to holiness. On the 18th March, Pope Francis has published another document entitled 'Gaudete et exultate, Rejoice and be glad,' speaking about this universal call to holiness.

Pope Francis wants to remind us that it is our duty to be holy. He also reminds us that holiness does not mean that we have to be special or perfect; to become holy all we have to do is to carry on doing the ordinary things of life in an extraordinary way. The perfection that Jesus speaks about is not perfectionism, but a constant effort to be the very best we can be.

If I am a parent, how can I be the best possible parent? If I am a student, what do I need to do to be the best student possible? If I have the gift of leadership, how can I offer the best leadership possible? Once, while he was playing, a young boy later declared by the Church a saint, was asked: 'What would you do if you were told you would be dying in the next hour?' The young boy replied, 'I would continue playing, because that is what God wants me to do right now! To play in the best way I can!'

We are not asked to try to be better than our sisters or brothers; holiness is not a competition. At the end there is a gold medal for each of us and it is awarded to us if we are perfect in our love, if we put our whole effort in whatever we are asked to do. If I am asked to wash the floor, my job is not to do a better job than anyone else, but to wash the floor to the best of my ability.

Pope Francis reminds us that there is nothing we can do to obtain salvation; salvation is a gift freely given by all of us by God. God wants us to be holy and to share in his divine life; he invites us to respond to his invitation by pushing ourselves to use our God-given gifts and abilities the best way we can. I need to be focused on my journey and not concerned with gossiping and judging my sisters and brothers. They have their own journey to follow.

You can find a copy of the pope's document on the parish web-site or parish facebook page. Anyone interested in buying a copy (\$10) please inform the parish office so we can order the necessary copies.

Fr Mario



PARISH RAFFLE: 120 Litre bar fridge full of drinks to the value of \$300. Bar fridge is padlocked and 150 keys are sold for \$10.00 each. The holder of the key that unlocks the padlock wins the bar fridge! Please buy your keys after weekend Masses. Try your luck with the padlock at the parish lunch on 17th June. Proceeds go to pay parish debt. Thank you to D & J Saccado who donated the bar fridge and Maureen and Rodney of Four Leaves Café, Greville Rd Rosanna, for donating the drinks.

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.*

ST JOHN'S GEMS CINEMA OUTING:

You are invited to join us on Tuesday 8th May at the Palace Cinema Balwyn for the 11:00am screening of 'The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie.' A writer forms an unexpected bond with the residents of Guernsey Island in the aftermath of World War II when she decides to write a book about their experiences during the war. Movie and lunch \$18; transport available. Bookings: Elizabeth 0447 195 553 or Jan 0423 478 504; close Tuesday 1st May.

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL SOUND

RECITAL: by the German Trio, Stefanie Sassenrath (Oboe), Sebastian Klein (Baritone) and Joachim Neugart (Organ); playing Brahms, Mahler, Poulenc, Bach and Schlee. Wednesday 18th April, from 6:45 to 7:45pm. Enquiries: michelle.ehlers@cam.org.au. Entrance fee: \$20.

MASS FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS: The Life, Marriage & Family Office warmly invites expectant mothers and their families to the Mass celebrated by Archbishop Hart at St Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday 27th May at 11:00am. Registrations www.cam.org.au/lifemarriagefamily/ / lmf@cam.org.au / 9287 5587. Registration close Friday 18th May. Expectant mothers who register will receive a small token of recognition.

HEALING MASS: Thursday 19th April at Our Lady Help of Christians, Henry Street, Eltham. The evening starts at 7:30pm with praise & worship followed by Mass, with the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. Prayer Ministry and supper after Mass. Information: Emilia 9435 7475 or Rose 9434 3962.

VINCENT PALLOTTI POWERED BY

INFINITE LOVE: a musical play by Fr Patrick Jackson sac, directed by Luciana Gagliardi. 4th and 5th May, 7:30pm to 9:00pm, at Hennessy Hall, 5 Doon Avenue, Glen Waverley. Booking: trybooking.com/URDB, Florence D'Costa 0433851662, Tibor Deheny 0417740449, Wayne Savedra 0405187178.

PALMS VOLUNTEERS: Communities in Myanmar, PNG, Samoa, Timor Leste, Kiribati and Kenya seek volunteers to mentor locals and build capacity. Palms do not do quick fixes, but immerse themselves in overseas communities for long-term skill exchange. If you have teaching, medical, business, admin or trade skills, share them with our global family! Come to the Palms Info Session: Saturday 5th May 10:30am Ross House, Jenny Florence Room 247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne. www.palms.org.au/volunteer or 0295605333

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

RECENTLY BAPTISED: Sebastian Ciutto, Charlotte James, Florence Teasdale, Ada Zobec.
THE SICK: Lauren Black, Bob Hyland, Catherine Livera, Patricia Mulholland, Erin Nevill, Brendan O'Kane, Patricia Wong.
ANNIVERSARIES: Frank, Patricia & Anthony Betts, Jack Frost, Mariakutty John, Vera O'Callaghan, Edgar Tate-Loverly, Timothy Joseph White.
RECENTLY DECEASED: Margaret Porter, Marjorie Wilson.

*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.*

14 Apr / 15 Apr	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Zen Zebrowski	Ronnie Maloney	Harsha Dilip	Mary Kotefski
2 nd Reader	John James	Claire Newsome	Joanne Martinez	Rosemary Vecchies
Communion	Marco Di Cesare	Peter O'Donoghue	Leo Hernandez	Sally Tramontana
	Domenica Ashworth	Ngoc Thi Minh Tran	Doris Schembri	Des O'Brien
	Emma Chang	Mary Harty	Nigel Mant	Johanna Nesbitt
	Maria Basilone	TBA	Marni Mant	Jenny Hollaway
21 Apr / 22 Apr	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Anita Metcalf	Marguerite Ryan	Sue Lew-Kee	Bernadette Nzenza
2 nd Reader	Domenica Ashworth	Mary Harty	Grace Lew-Kee	Margaret Andrews
Communion	Michelle Penson	Fiona Curry	Maureen Howard	Johanna Nesbitt
	Lorraine Mascarenhas	Pauline Griffiths	Yannick Jonas	Leo Cosio
	Noel Micallef	Val Wallis	Beena Dilip	Charito Cosio
	Leela Cherubim	Stanly Devasia	Leonore Giliberto	TBA
Counters	15 Apr: Des O'Brien, Peter Peyton, Percival Makin & 22 Apr: Garry Sproules, Janice McGrath, Giuseppe Amoroso.			
Collection Weekly Average for March			Heidelcare Co-Ordinator	
Parish		Presbytery		April : Cath 9459 9420
Stewardship	\$3427.18	Stewardship	\$637.84	May : Val 9458 2981
Loose	\$733.83	Loose	\$370.00	
Thank you for supporting St John's financially. Please advise if your credit card is lost/stolen or the expiry date has changed.				

AUSTIN MASS: Sunday 15th April. Volunteers please meet at 8:30am for 9:30am Mass at the chapel. Parishioners are invited to participate in this Mass to minister to the sick by their presence. Thank you.

WORKSHOP FOR NEW EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION: on Thursday 26th April at 7:00pm in the church. In order to be able to continue with our ministry of offering the cup at the time of Communion we urgently need more ministers to come forward. Parishioners from Year 12 in high school and older are welcome to be Ministers of Communion. Please do consider taking part in this ministry; talk to Fr Mario about this important ministry in our liturgy.

ST JOHN'S GEMS: Tuesday 17th April; we will be having fun with art, week collage and paper mosaics, and playing games such as Scrabble. Make new friends, have fun and enjoy a chat. All welcome. Elizabeth 0447 195 553, Jan 0423 478 504.

ANZAC DAY: Wednesday April 25th. All invited to the Francis Xavier meeting room in the parish house for a cuppa and ANZAC biscuits after the 9:15am Mass. Entry from meeting room doors at back of the parish house.

STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES: The next instalment is ready to be picked up from the porch of the church. The envelopes are in alphabetical order. Thank you for your generosity. Your continued contributions help the parish meet all its financial commitments.

PROJECT COMPASSION: Please place your boxes and envelopes with your contributions for Caritas Australia in the basket at the church organ in the front of the church.

HOLY WATER: you can collect newly blessed Holy Water from the Baptism Font. Holy water bottles (\$5 each) are available from the sacristy. A prayer of blessing is also available in the porch.

PHILIPPINES MISSION IMMERSION TRIP: We plan to visit the parish in Bataan. Tentative date January 2019. The initial group will be made up of ten people over the age of 18. Cost, excluding spending money, is around \$2,000, including travel, food and lodging. Anyone interested please email heidelberg@cam.org.au or contact Fr Mario.

ST JOHN'S ANNUAL FAMILY PARISH LUNCH: Sunday 17th June at 12noon in the parish hall. All St John's families & friends are welcome. BYO drinks and, in our time-honoured tradition, a small dessert to share. Parish raffle and a door prize to be won on the day. Children's activities include movie & ice cream. Supervision is not provided for children on the day and we ask that you are mindful of where your children are at all times during the luncheon. Children's entertainment provided. Bookings on www.trybooking.com/366075 / Maureen Hegarty 0423877736 / leave your name on the sheet in porch. Adults \$26, children \$10, preschoolers free. We look forward to celebrating this event with you.

THANKSGIVING MASS: on Sunday 27th May as a parish we thank all those who have in any way offered ministry to our parish community. (*readers, ministers of Communion, altar servers, music ministry, church cleaners, those who prepare flowers, sacristans, Austin volunteers, money collectors and counters, parish council and finance committee members, Vinnies, Heidelcare and many, many more who generously give of their time and talent.*) 10:30am Mass will be a Mass of thanksgiving followed by a sausage sizzle at the parish hall. For catering purposes kindly put down name and number on sheet in church porch or contact the parish office 9457 1066 / heidelberg@cam.org.au

FIRST READING: Acts of the Apostles (3:13-15. 17-19)

Peter said to the people: 'You are Israelites, and it is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, who has glorified his servant Jesus, the same Jesus you handed over and then disowned in the presence of Pilate, after Pilate had decided to release him. It was you who accused the Holy One, the Just One, you who demanded the reprieve of a murderer while you killed the prince of life. God, however, raised him from the dead, and to that fact we are the witnesses.

'Now I know, brothers, that neither you nor your leaders had any idea what you were really doing; this was the way God carried out what he had foretold, when he said through all his prophets that his Christ would suffer. Now you must repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 4:2. 4. 7. 9. R. v.7)

(R.) Lord, let your face shine on us.

When I call, answer me, O God of justice;
from anguish you released me,
have mercy and hear me! (R.)

It is the Lord who grants favours
to those whom he loves;
the Lord hears me whenever I call him. (R.)

'What can bring us happiness?' many say.
Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord. (R.)

I will lie down in peace and sleep comes at once,
for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety. (R.)

SECOND READING: First letter of St John (2:1-5)

I am writing this, my children, to stop you sinning; but if anyone should sin, we have our advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, who is just; he is the sacrifice that takes our sins away, and not only ours, but the whole world's. We can be sure that we know God only by keeping his commandments. Anyone who says, 'I know him,' and does not keep his commandments, is a liar, refusing to admit the truth. But when anyone does obey what he has said, God's love comes to perfection in him.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (See Luke 24:32)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us:
make our hearts burn with love when you speak.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Gospel according to Luke (24:35-48)

The disciples told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread.

They were still talking about all this when Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you!' In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he said, 'Why are you so agitated, and

why are these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet; yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have.' And as he said this he showed them his hands and feet. Their joy was so great that they could not believe it, and they stood dumbfounded; so he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate before their eyes.

Then he told them, 'This is what I meant when I said, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms, has to be fulfilled.' He then opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.'

In the way typical of the resurrection appearances across all four Gospels, the risen Lord meets the disciples exactly where they are emotionally: fearful, agitated, slow to believe, thinking that what they are seeing is a ghost. Jesus takes considerable pains to overcome their disbelief by making clear the full physical reality of his presence. He urges them to see and touch him, and eats a piece of fish before their eyes (vv. 38-42). Luke dramatises here – perhaps in an overly realistic way – what Paul also insists upon, writing to the Corinthians (1 Cor 15:35-49): you cannot believe in the resurrection without believing that it involved – both for Jesus and for believers after him – full bodily existence.

But simply recognising the risen Lord is not enough. As the scene moves to a second stage (vv. 43-49), Jesus repeats for those present the scriptural catechesis concerning the Messiah given to the two disciples on the road (24:25-27). Full faith in the resurrection comes about when people grasp that all that has happened to him – his suffering, his death and now his resurrection – fulfils all that had been written about the Messiah (literally 'about me') in the Scriptures (v. 44).

All this involved a very considerable transformation of conventional expectation about the Messiah – especially, as stated in the final sentence, that the Messiah would suffer and that his central role would not be the restoration of the fortunes of Israel but the reconciliation of the entire world with God. The disciples have now been made 'witnesses' of all this. Soon, empowered with the Spirit, they will be sent out to spread this joyful message to the nations.

As we already learned in the First Reading, coming to see 'how it all fits together' – not only in respect to Jesus but also in our own lives – is so much part of arriving at that 'knowledge of salvation' (Luke 1:77) which the Scriptures, especially the Gospel of Luke, aim to convey.

Fr Brendan Byrne sj