



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.

*1ST / 2ND SEPTEMBER - 22ND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B*

## Happy Father's Day

We remember and pray for fathers in our community.

We also pray for those who would have loved to father children.

We are invited to light a candle in memory of absent fathers.

### **Prayer for Fathers**

*Blessed are you, Lord and Father of all life,  
who has given to us the gift of the father of our family.*

*Today, we honour him, and we thank you for the numerous good  
things that are ours because of him.*

*May we, the members of his family, assist him in his  
holy duties as a parent with our respect,  
our obedience and our deep affection.*

*Bless him, Lord, with happiness and good health,  
with peace and with good fortune. This blessing and all graces, we  
pray, descend upon the father of our family:*

*in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

*Amen.*

*Families may like to use the above blessing on Father's Day as they gather together for a meal. Children could extend their right hand towards their father/grandfather as the blessing is prayed.*

**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.*

## **NOTICES FROM OUTSIDE THE PARISH:**

### **ARCHBISHOPS CATHOLIC MAN**

#### **BREAKFAST SERIES:** 13th September.

Guest speaker our new Archbishop, Peter A. Comensoli speaking about: 'Being a man; a man of God!' at CQ Club 113 - 123 Queen Street Melbourne. Cost \$45. From 7:00am to 9:00am sharp. Enquiries Michael Bohan 0439 172 465. This is an opportunity for men to gather and be encouraged and inspired in their faith.

#### **Discovering Prayer through the Labyrinth:**

The labyrinth becomes a spiritual journey on many levels, leading the person inward to their own centre, and then back out into the world. Come join us at Heart of Life Spirituality Centre in Box Hill on Saturday, 15th September from 10:00am to 4:00pm. Cost \$60.00 (BYO Lunch). Enquiries and bookings can be made by reply email to holsc@bigpond.com or to 9890 1101 or on www.heartoflife.melbourne.

**MEDITATION ON JESUS:** One day retreat on Saturday 29th September from from 9:30am to 4:00pm. Breathing exercises and gentle postures cleanses and heals body, mind and soul. The retreat is guided by Fr Gilbert Carlo svd and will be held at Janssen Spirituality Centre, 22 Woodvale Road, Boronia. RSVP and for information: gilbertcarlo@gmail.com / enquiries@janssencentre.org / www.janssencentre.org / 9762 6625

## **VOLUNTEER WITH PALMS AUSTRALIA:**

Mission needs mechanics, tools and trades! What skills can you share with our neighbours? Contact Christine on 02 9560 5333. The community of Mawlmayine, Myanmar requires a volunteer mechanic to provide mentoring and support for local livelihood programmes. For more mission opportunities, visit palms.org.au/volunteer. If you cannot commit just yet but would like to a look, try a short Encounter tour to Timor Leste or Samoa. Call us 02 9560 5333 or go to palms.org.au/encounters

## **IN OUR PARISH:**

### **GEMS GAMES AND LUNCH MORNING:**

Tuesday 4th September, from 10:00am to 12:00noon. Join us for a quiz and a game of Bingo followed by lunch. Francis Xavier meeting room at the back of the parish house.

### **UPCOMING OUTING - ESSENDON AIRWAYS MUSEUM:**

Tuesday September 11th 11:00am. Cost \$10 includes a tour of the museum, lunch, tea/coffee. The Museum houses a collection of national importance that traces the development of Australia's civil aviation airways system through innovation and technical development from its beginnings in the 1920's to today. Essendon Airport, Melbourne at the rear of Building 44. Enter via Edgar Johnston Lane. Transportation available. Contact: Elizabeth 0447195553 /Jan 0423478504. Bookings close Friday, 7thSeptember.

## **PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

**THE SICK:** M. Cooke, Aurette Ferriere, Bern Green, Francis Micallef, John Pikines.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Joseph Chen, William Lewis.

Remember deceased fathers and priests who ministered at St John's.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Dorothy Santamaria.

*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>1 Sept / 2 Sept</b>	<b>Sat 6:00pm</b>	<b>Sun 8:30am</b>	<b>Sun 10:30am</b>	<b>Sun 5:00pm</b>
1st Reader	Moira Di Cesare	Karen Frost	Bob Dowling	Mary Kotefski
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader	Michael Leonard	Garry Sproules	Harsha Dilip	Peter Penson
Communion	Donna Richardson	Elizabeth Williamson	Leonore Giliberto	Melania Mugamu
	Emma Chang	Peter O'Donoghue	Beena Dilip	Jenny Hollaway
	Marco Di Cesare	Fiona Curry	Geraldine Manuel	Michelle Penson
	TBA	Margaret Bradley	Erin Manuel	Margaret Hansen
<b>8 Sept / 9 Sept</b>	<b>Sat 6:00pm</b>	<b>Sun 8:30am</b>	<b>Sun 10:30am</b>	<b>Sun 5:00pm</b>
1st Reader	Anita Metcalf	Pietro Sciotto	Elizabeth Williamson	Matthew Sanders
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader	Pamela Smith	Jack Naden	Robyn Laurie	Candida Rowlands
Communion	Maria Basilone	Alice Wong	Tim Boyle	Tony Rowlands
	Leela Cherubim	Val Wallis	Yannick Jonas	Sally Tramontana
	Jeanette O'Sullivan	Teresa Lincoln	Jan Mc Caffery	Charito Cosio
	Lorraine Mascarenhas	Stanly Devasia	Doris Schembri	Leo Cosio
Counters	<b>2 Sept:</b> Stephen Devanish, Nicole Pelizzaro, Thomas Bechelli & <b>9 Sept:</b> Des O'Brien, Peter Peyton, Percival Makin.			
<b>Collection Weekly Average for July</b>			<b>Heidelcare Co-Ordinator</b>	
Parish		Presbytery		September: Marilyn 9459 1950
Stewardship	\$3290.62	Stewardship	\$586.78	October: Marilyn 9459 1950
Loose	\$635.47	Loose	\$317.52	
<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.				

### THIS WEEK:

**PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FOUNDATION APPEAL:** This week we are invited to support retired priests in our archdiocese. These priests have faithfully ministered in our parishes and are now being cared for at this stage of their life. They need our financial support to be able to be sufficiently looked after. Please be generous with this appeal as we 'caring for those who care.' The appeal is being held at all Masses. Contributions over \$2.00 are tax deductible; receipts will only be forwarded for donations over \$5.00.

**SAUSAGE SIZZLE AND MORNING TEA:** This Sunday, as we celebrate Father's Day and the conclusion of our Stewardship / Thanksgiving Campaign we are celebrating with a Sausage Sizzle and Morning tea at the parish hall after the 10:30am Mass. All welcome. The updated results of the campaign will be announced at the sausage sizzle. Thank you for your continued support and generosity. Parishioners who would like to participate in the Stewardship / Thanksgiving campaign by pledging a weekly, monthly or annual amount, can find pledge cards in the church foyer.

**NEW SETS OF STEWARDSHIP / THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES:** The new direct debit, credit card and cash pledges start on Sunday 16th September. Letters of acknowledgement and the new sets of envelopes will be available at all Masses from the weekend of Sunday 9th September. As there is a two-week gap between the old and new Stewardship Programmes envelopes for 2nd and 9th September are available in the church foyer in alphabetical order. Parishioners who would like a tax receipt for the 2017/18 financial year, please contact the parish office by phone or email.

**HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!** This weekend we remember and pray for all fathers and father figures in our families. We will have the opportunity to light a taper in remembrance of fathers who are physically absent in our life. As we light the taper we offer a silent prayer for all who cared for us in this role. We also pray for all departed fathers in our community. Let us also remember all those men who would have loved to be fathers, but did not have the opportunity to father any children.

**ANNUAL LEAVE:** I will be taking my annual leave during the month of September. I will be away from the parish from the 3rd to the 29th of September. Please thank to Fr Ted Teal and Fr Wayne Edwards who will be celebrating weekday and weekend Masses in my absence. There will be no morning Mass on the Mondays during the month of September, a communion service will be held at 9:15am instead. The parish office will remain opened as usual. Thank you for your continued support. Fr Mario.

**CATHOLICARE COLLECTION:** last week was \$654.45.

**NEW GARDEN BENCHES FOR OUR CHURCH:** Over the past few weeks we have replaced the garden benches on the southern side of the church (facing Yarra street). The old benches were deteriorating rapidly and needed to be replaced. The total cost of the new benches (including installation) is \$3,299 (ex-GST). A parishioner has already donated \$1,000 towards this project. Thank you. Any further donations to cover this expense is greatly appreciated. Donations can be deposited directly in the church bank account: BSB 633 000 A/C 138400957. Please email and let us know when you pay by EFT.

**FIRST READING** Deuteronomy 4:1-2. 6-8

Moses said to the people: 'Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them, and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, "No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation." And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?'

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Psalm Ps 14:2-5

R./ The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain?

He who walks without fault;

he who acts with justice

and speaks the truth from his heart R./

He who does no wrong to his brother,

who casts no slur on his neighbour,

who holds the godless in disdain,  
but honours those who fear the Lord. R./

He who keeps his pledge, come what may;

who takes no interest on a loan

and accepts no bribes against the innocent.

Such a man will stand firm for ever. R./

**SECOND READING** James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27

It is all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow of a change. By his own choice he made us his children by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all that he had created.

Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you and can save your souls. But you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves.

Pure, unspoilt religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Father gave us birth by his message of truth, that we might be as the first fruits of his creation. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Mark 7:1-8. 14-15. 21-23

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture: This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me. The worship they offer me is worthless, the doctrines they teach are only human regulations. You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.'

He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'

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**HOLINESS OF HEART**

Today's gospel touches on the sensitive issue of Jesus' attitude to the Jewish law. I say sensitive because it is easy for Christians to separate Jesus from his Jewish heritage and portray him as one of us and not one of them.

Jesus was not critical of the Jewish law as such. What he challenged were customs added to the original revelation that could work against its true purpose. The Pharisees promoted such customs to help the Jewish people live their vocation to be the holy people of God (Lev 20:26) in the mixed society of Palestine in Jesus day.

In itself this was a laudable endeavour. But it could degenerate into a focus upon external observances to the neglect of the true inner meaning of the law. In particular, it could suggest that uncleanness was something that came from outside and threatened to defile the basic holiness of God's people.

Jesus clearly had a different view. Holiness is where God is. It comes from being in contact with God—something that begins in the heart. So, he insists, since holiness is primarily a matter of the heart, if you want to know whether a person is holy or not, see what comes out of their heart.

The list of vices towards the end is a kind of check-list. We could probably add to it a few more examples relevant for our time. By the same token, on the positive side, we could think of virtues and patterns of living that demonstrate true holiness of heart.

Fr Brendan Byrne sj