



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.

Central to the mission of St John's Parish is an unequivocal commitment to fostering the dignity, self-esteem and integrity of children and young people and providing them with a safe, supportive and enriching environment to develop spiritually, physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially.

15TH / 16TH SEPTEMBER - 24TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

Dear Parishioners, Visitors to our parish, and Friends

The Catholic Church in Australia has started on a journey of renewal. It is going to look at itself and the way it grows and checks whether it is being faithful to the good news of Jesus Christ and at the same time being relevant to our contemporary Australian culture in the 21st century.

There is nothing new or original in this venture. It is exactly what the Church is meant to do to remain always faithful to its calling. This is, in a way, a continuation of the great mystery of the Incarnation: God who became human like us.

The Letter to the Hebrews teaches us that 'in the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.' (1:1-2)

Throughout the Old Testament God communicated to his people through the prophets and through many different ways. In the fullness of time he sent his Son to live among us; Jesus is the fullness of God's communication with us. After Pentecost, through the Holy Spirit, God entrusted this mission to us, his Church, today's People of God and Body of Christ. It is our duty to continue talking to the world around us and translating the good news in ways that can be understood and consumed by all.

The Universal Church carries out this duty through the Ecumenical Councils, the Synods of bishops and the ministry of the pope. The Second Vatican Council has been the last council to speak officially in the name of the Church; since then there have been a number of synods on different topics and many papal documents, addressing different issues.

The Church in Australia, through its bishops, is now asking us to do the same in our own country through the Plenary Council to be held in 2020. The last such council took place in Australia 80 years ago.

The story of the Incarnation started with the Holy Spirit overshadowing the virgin Mary, giving birth to the Son of God. The Australian Plenary Council also starts with the Holy Spirit. The Church is asking us to pray, discern and listen to God's voice today. God still speaks to us in a language we can understand, but we need to listen. (The word 'listen' is an anagram of the word 'silent'; to listen one has to be silent!)

We are being asked to pray and reflect upon the question: 'What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?' It is our duty now, each of us individually and as a group, to pray, be silent and listen. Next week I will share how we can let our voices be heard in this process.

Fr Mario



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 OTHER PARISHES:

SPIRITUAL LEADERS FORMATION

PROGRAM: One-year, part-time program held on Friday mornings in Box Hill offered to people in various positions of leadership, spiritual formation and outreach ministries. Suitable for lay ecclesial ministers, chaplains, community leaders, principals and nurses. The program, starting on 22nd February 2019, focuses on personal integration of the theory and practice of a contemplative, discerning approach to pastoral ministry. Applications close 16th November 2018. Contact Heart of Life for the brochure and application form: holsc@bigpond.com or 9890 1101.

VOLUNTEER OVERSEAS — THE CAGLIERO PROJECT, SALESIANS OF DON BOSCO:

seeking volunteers for January 2019 departure, working with disadvantaged young people in Salesian communities throughout Cambodia, Samoa, Zambia and Solomon Island. Applications close October 15th. Send inquiry on www.cagliero.org.au

ELECTRIC MOBILITY SCOOTER: in good condition, available for free. Contact parish office 9457 1066.

OLYMPIC VILLAGE EXODUS

COMMUNITY: is organising a Movie Luncheon, on Friday, 12th October. The film is 'Ladies in Black' from academy award nominated director Bruce Beresford. The comedy drama is based on Madeline St John's best-selling novel, The Women in Black. The movie is at Palace Balwyn Cinema, 231 Whitehorse Road Balwyn; 10:45am for 11:00am start, \$25 per ticket, includes a light lunch of freshly cut sandwich, cake, coffee/tea. Ticket sales must be confirmed by Monday 8th October. Contact: Anne Hall (0424 014778) or Jo Magnanini (9850 7702). Your generous support of the Olympic Village Exodus Community over many years, has enabled countless families to enjoy a welcome break during the summer school holidays at the annual Exodus Community Family Camp, and is very much appreciated by all of the community at West Heidelberg

MASS BY CANDLELIGHT: in the spirit of Taize, at Our Lady Help of Christians, Henry Street, Eltham on Thursday, on 20th September. 7:15pm time of quiet reflection followed by Mass at 8:00pm, prayer ministry and supper. For enquiries contact Rose (9434 3962) or Emilia (9435 7475).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

THE SICK: Keith Ashworth, John Pikines, Jenny Ferriere, John James Betts, M. Cooke, Aurette Ferriere, Bern Green, Francis Micallef.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Patrick O'Donnell, Ellen Kenny.

*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.*

15 Sept/16 Sept	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Zen Zebrowski	Ronnie Maloney	Michelle Robertson	Mark Aiello
2 nd Reader	Adrian Daly	Marguerite Ryan	Grace Lew-Kee	Catie Nesbitt
Communion	Domenica Ashworth	Fiona Curry	Geraldine Manuel	Jenny Hollaway
	Emma Chang	Pauline Griffiths	Sue Lew-Kee	Johanna Nesbitt
	Donna Richardson	Elizabeth Williamson	Leonore Giliberto	Margaret Hansen
	TBA	Leo Hernandez	TBA	TBA
22 Sept/23 Sept	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Sue Lew-Kee	Peter Penson	Robyn Laurie	Rosemarie Vecchies
2 nd Reader	Maddy Lew-Kee	Elizabeth Williamson	Michael Leonard	Margaret Andrews
Communion	Lorraine Mascarenhas	Jack Naden	Tim Boyle	Melania Mugamu
	Leela Cherubim	Michelle Penson	Yannick Jonas	Sally Tramontana
	Maria Basilone	Chris Ratnayake	Jan Mc Caffery	Grace Nesbitt
	TBA	Peter O'Donoghue	Doris Schembri	TBA
Counters	16 Sept: Garry Sproules, Janice McGrath, Giuseppe Amoroso & 23 Sept: Peter Symes, Paul De Stefanis.			
Collection Weekly Average for August			Heidelcare Co-Ordinator	
Parish		Presbytery		September: Marilyn 9459 1950
Stewardship	\$3527.50	Stewardship	\$733.55	October: Marilyn 9459 1950
Loose	\$699.53	Loose	\$367.50	
Thank you for supporting St John's financially. Please advise if your credit card is lost/stolen or the expiry date has changed.				

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

PLEASE NOTE: There will be communion service in the mornings instead of Mass on Mondays 17th, 24th and Tuesday 25th.

AUSTIN MASS: will be celebrated this Sunday 16th September. Volunteers please meet at 8:30am for 9:30am Communion Service at the chapel. Thank you.

PARISH GROUP TRAINING SESSIONS: In our parish we have already started having Child safety training sessions for parish volunteers. It is now necessary to meet with all groups active in our parish. Two training nights are being organised for Monday, 15th October and Monday, 29th October, from 7:30pm to 9:00pm. These training nights are designed to meet the Child Safety Standards for groups / organisations working within St John's Parish. Both sessions need to be attended by all members. All parish groups need to RSVP on mrobertson@siena.vic.edu.au by Monday, 8th October with the names of the group members attending. For further information contact Michelle Robertson (0409533100). Victorian state legislation requires that all groups comply with this requirement. Thank you to Michelle Robertson, Moira Di Cesare and Silvana Micallef of the parish Child Safety Committee for organising these workshops.

NEW SETS OF STEWARDSHIP / THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES: The new direct debit, credit card and cash pledges start this Sunday 16th September. Letters of acknowledgement and the new sets of envelopes are available in the church foyer at all Masses from this weekend in alphabetical order. Parishioners who would like a tax receipt for the 2017/18 financial year, please contact the parish office by phone at 94571066 or email heidelberg@cam.org.au.

GEMS 50+ FRIENDSHIP GROUP: Join us on Tuesday 18th September for a choice of games: Scrabble, 500's, Uno, Rummy or if you prefer, be creative in an Art activity. New members always welcome. We meet in the Francis Xavier meeting room at the back of the parish house.

UPCOMING GEMS ACTIVITY: Tuesday 25th September —Footy Colours Day. Wear your footy scarf or the colours of your favourite team. 'Footy' food served. Contact: Elizabeth (0447195553) /Jan (0423478504).

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY: is celebrated by the Church on 30th September. For further details and for the Australian Catholic Bishops' 2018-19 Justice Statement, entitled 'A Place to Call Home: Making a home for everyone in our land' visit website <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au> or call 8306 3499.

TWO TALKS ABOUT THE GOSPEL OF LUKE: by Fr Brendan Byrne, a Jesuit priest and biblical scholar. On Thursday 25th October and Thursday 1st November, from 7:30pm to 9:00pm, at the Francis Xavier meeting room in the parish house. Entrance free. Fr Brendan will talk about the narratives about Jesus' childhood in the first two chapters in the gospel according to Luke. All welcome!

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). Any 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*Isaiah 50:5-9*

I gave my body to those who struck me.

The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle.

The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

My vindicator is here at hand. Does anyone start proceedings against me? Then let us go to court together. Who thinks he has a case against me? Let him approach me. The Lord is coming to my help, who dare condemn me?

RESPONSORIAL PSALM*Psalms 114:1-6. 8-9.*

R./ I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.

I love the Lord for he has heard the cry of my appeal;
for he turned his ear to me
in the day when I called him

R./

They surrounded me, the snares of death,
with anguish of the tomb;
they caught me, sorrow and distress.
I called on the Lord's name.
O Lord my God, deliver me!

R./

How gracious is the Lord, and just;
our God has compassion.
The Lord protects the simple hearts;
I was helpless so he saved me.

R./

He has kept my soul from death, my eyes from tears
and my feet from stumbling.
I will walk in the presence of the Lord
in the land of the living.

R./

SECOND READING*James 2:14-18*

Take the case, my brothers, of someone who has never done a single good act but claims that he has faith. Will that faith save him? If one of the brothers or one of the sisters is in need of clothes and has not enough food to live on, and one of you says to them, 'I wish you well; keep yourself warm and eat plenty,' without giving them these bare necessities of life, then what good is that? Faith is like that: if good works do not go with it, it is quite dead.

This is the way to talk to people of that kind: 'You say you have faith and I have good deeds; I will prove to you that I have faith by showing you my good deeds – now you prove to me that you have faith without any good deeds to show.'

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! My only glory is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, which crucifies the world to me and me to the world. Alleluia!

GOSPEL*Mark 8:27-35*

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say I am?' And they told him. 'John the Baptist,' they said, 'others Elijah; others again, one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he asked, 'who do you say I am?' Peter spoke up and said to him, 'You are the Christ.' And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him.

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. But, turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said to him, 'Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

He called the people and his disciples to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.'

WHAT KIND OF MESSIAH?

Jesus explicitly raises the issue of his identity. While Peter's answer ('You are the Christ') is correct, Jesus neither confirms nor applauds him. Instead, enjoining silence on the matter, he speaks of his coming passion and death in Jerusalem. The knowledge that he is Messiah is not to be separated from the kind of Messiah he is to be: not one who will be served and honoured, like the rulers of this world, but one who will 'serve and give his life as a ransom for many' (10:45).

From this point on, the disciples will struggle—unsuccessfully as it turns out—to hold two truths together: that Jesus is indeed the long-awaited Messiah and that he will fulfil his messianic role by entering into the pain and suffering of the world, even unto death—something quite unforeseen in conventional Jewish messianic expectation.

Peter's remonstrance voices the perceived incompatibility between the two truths. Why should God allow the Messiah, indeed God's own Son, to suffer in this way?

But to attempt to deflect Jesus from this path would be to play Satan's game, frustrating God's gift of life to the world through the cross. Disciples of Jesus must go the same way, take up their cross and follow after him.

The fact that Peter who has just got something so splendidly right stumbles so badly at the prospect of suffering is, surely, an encouragement—a recognition in the Gospel that we all do badly at suffering. Each new cross that comes our way places us anew before the dilemma of this scene.

Fr Brendan Byrne sj