



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.

27TH / 28TH OCTOBER - 30TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

WE ARE SORRY; WE FAILED YOU!

Today the Australian government and this parliament, on behalf of all Australians, unreservedly apologises to the victims and survivors of institutional child sexual abuse.

For too many years our eyes and hearts were closed to the truths that we were told by children. For too many years governments and institutions refused to acknowledge the darkness that lay within our community. Today we reckon with our past and commit to protect children now and into the future. Today we apologise for the pain, the suffering, and trauma inflicted upon victims and survivors as children, and for its profound and ongoing impact.

As children, you deserved care and protection. Instead, the very people and institutions entrusted with your care failed you. You suffered appalling physical and mental abuse and endured horrific sexual crimes. As fellow Australians, we apologise for this gross betrayal of trust and for the fact that organisations with power over children, schools, religious organisations, governments, orphanages, sports and social clubs, charities were left unchecked.

Today we say we are sorry. Sorry you were not protected. Sorry you were not listened to. We are sorry for refusing to trust the words of children, for not believing you. As we say sorry, we also say we believe you. We say what happened was not your fault. We are sorry the perpetrators of abuse were relocated and shielded, rather than held to account, that records have been withheld and destroyed, and accountability avoided. We are sorry that the justice and child welfare systems that should have protected you were at times used to perpetrate yet more injustices against you. We apologise for the lifelong impact this abuse has had on your health, your relationships, and your ability to live life to its full potential.

We also extend his apology to your children, your parents, siblings, families, friends, and supporters. All those who have helped carry the burden of your experiences and help advocate for accountability. We regret that your children's lives have been changed and relationships have been broken by the enduring effects of abuse. We hear the rage, despair, and heard of parents, whose trust was betrayed along with your own. We admit that we failed to protect the most vulnerable people in our society from those who abuse their power. Our community believed people and institutions who did not deserve our trust, instead of believing the children who did.

Because of our action, too many victims are no longer with us to hear this apology. They did not live to see the justice they deserved. But today we remember them and we extend this apology along with our sincere sympathies to their families, friends and supporters. We say sorry. We honour the courage of survivors and advocates who spoke out to expose sexual abuse in our situations, often at great personal cost. Your voices saved lives. Your bravery has allowed us to uncover this dark chapter of our national life and understand what we must now do to protect children.

We also acknowledge the many victims and survivors who have not spoken of their abuse. Your suffering is no less anguished for your silence. Together, as a government, parliament, and community, we must all play a role in the protection of children from abuse. We must accept responsibility to keep our eyes and ears open and speak

Continued ... /

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Mario Zammit
PARISH SECRETARY: Mary Peeris
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL CHAIR:
Christopher Ratnayake
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.*

out to keep our children safe. We must listen to children and believe what they tell us. Child sexual abuse is a serious criminal act, and a violation of Australian law. Perpetrators must and will be held to account.

Today we commit to taking action to build awareness in our community and strengthen our systems to promote children's safety across Australia. We commit to ensuring that all our institutions are child safe. We know that we must and will do better to protect all children in Australia from abuse and that our actions will give true and practical meaning to this apology. Our children deserve nothing less.

We are sorry.

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uvoZuVqxtrg>)

ST JOHN'S WALKING GROUP: gathering for the first time to walk and wonder at the beauty of nature starting at Possum Hollow Playground in Beverley Road at 9:30am on Monday 29th October. All welcome to join. To join contact Jan (043478504).

TAKING PART IN THE 2020 PLENARY COUNCIL: parishioners are welcome to share their ideas about our Church in Australia today. Contact Fr Mario.

MERCY CONNECT MELBOURNE: recruiting volunteers to support refugee students and asylum seekers in primary and secondary schools across the Melbourne archdiocese. The commitment is approximately half a day per week for four school terms. Contact Sr Mary Lewis rsm: 9326 1895 / somml@bigpond.com / www.mercyworks.org.au

ST JOHN'S MOVIE NIGHT –UNDER THE STARS: BBQ and movie on Saturday 24th November at 7:00pm, after the 6:00pm Mass. Young people in our parish invited for a fun night in the parish garden. Entrance from the yard at the rear of the parish house. RSVP necessary: stjohnsyouth@hotmail.com

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION AND HEALING RETREAT: at Pallotti College, Millgrove, from Thursday 1st November 6:00pm to Sunday 4th November 3:00pm. Guest speaker: Frank Daniels, experienced in spiritual direction and Christian meditation. Cost: single \$345.00, couple \$600.00. Enquiries and registration forms: Chiara Pardini (0404 758 665) Registration Jan Thwaites (0407 507 313 / janthwaites@hotmail.com).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

RECENTLY MARRIED: Carl Oates & Mary Hechen, Shaun Robinson & Kimberly Bright.

THE SICK: Annelise Peyton, Marie Hankin, Joyce Quinn, Keith Ashworth, Jenny Ferriere, Francis Micallef, Noeline Zerna.

ANNIVERSARIES: Rafael Vujcevic, Maria Bednar, John Griffiths, Rita Fernando, Franca Valmorbida, Ricardo De Borja.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Rita Alberico.

*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.*

27 Oct/ 28 Oct	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Sue Lew-Kee	Marguerite Ryan	Claire Newsome	Catie Nesbitt
2 nd Reader	Maddy Lew-Kee	Karen Frost	TBA	Candida Rowlands
Communion	Domenica Ashworth	Pauline Griffiths	Tim Boyle	Tony Rowlands
	Emma Chang	Chris Ratnayake	Yannick Jonas	Charito Cosio
	Donna Richardson	Teresa Lincoln	Jan McCaffrey	Leo Cosio
	TBA	Margaret Bradley	Leonore Giliberto	Johanna Nesbitt
3 Nov / 4 Nov	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Moira Di Cesare	Ronnie Maloney	Elizabeth Williamson	Peter Penson
2 nd Reader	Anita Metcalf	Pietro Scotto	Harsha Dilip	Mary Kotefski
Communion	Marco Di Cesare	Leo Hernandez	Beena Dilip	Sally Tramontana
	Lorraine Mascarenhas	Jack Naden	Nigel Mant	Jenny Hollaway
	Jan Mc Caffrey	Alice Wong	Marni Mant	Charito Cosio
	Jeanette O'Sullivan	Fiona Curry	Yannick Jonas	Leo Cosio
Counters	28 Oct: Des O'Brien, Peter Peyton, Percival Makin & 4 Nov: Garry Sproules, Janice McGrath, Giuseppe Amoroso.			
Collection Weekly Average for September				Heidelcare Co-Ordinator
Parish		Presbytery		November: Joan 9459 3889
Stewardship	\$4206.18	Stewardship	\$681.83	December: Elaine 9459 6721
Loose	\$571.47	Loose	\$320.00	Morning Tea, 4th Nov : Kate & Marguerite
Thank you for supporting St John's financially. Please advise if your credit card is lost/stolen or the expiry date has changed.				

SECOND TALK ABOUT THE GOSPEL OF LUKE: by Fr Brendan Byrne, a Jesuit priest and biblical scholar. 2nd Session this 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!

GOLD COIN COLLECTION: This weekend at all Masses.

MORNING TEA & SAUSAGE SIZZLE: After 10:30am Mass next Sunday 4th November. All welcome. Gold coin donation to cover expenses of sausage sizzle, appreciated.

REMEMBERING OUR DEPARTED SISTERS AND BROTHERS: on the first weekend of November we remember our departed loved ones. Before all Masses that weekend, we will have the opportunity of lighting a taper in their memory. We also remember parishioners who have died and priests and religious who have ministered in our midst.

NOVEMBER MASSES: envelopes are available in the porch of the church. Envelopes can be dropped off at the parish office, sacristy or in the Sunday collections. During the month of November you may also wish to write the names of your loved ones in the register next to the baptism font. During the month of November the names of our departed loved ones will be placed on the altar and remembered at all Masses.

CHILD SAFETY WORKSHOP: the second workshop to assist parish groups to comply with the new Child Safety requirements is this Monday, 29th October from 7:30pm to 9:00pm at the school Multi Purpose Room. Thank you for your participation and thanks to the Child Safety Committee for their commitment.

GEMS: Tuesday 30th October 10:00am to 12:00 noon at the Francis Xavier meeting room. All welcome to join us for a cuppa and a chat.

MELBOURNE CUP DAY GATHERING: Tuesday 6th November. GEMS invite all parishioners in the Francis Xavier meeting room from 2:00pm. Finger food and bubbly provided. Watch the Melbourne Cup and enter a sweep. RSVP Essential for catering purposes by Tuesday 30th October to Elizabeth 0447195553 or write name on list in church porch.

WE PRAY FOR: Year 12 students sitting for their VCE exams. We journey with you in prayer.

THE EYRIE PARISH MAGAZINE: is a tool in our community where we parishioners can communicate and share our opinions and ideas. Articles in the parish magazine are not about faith, catechism or theology, but about our experience as parish. We invite parishioners to take up this opportunity and write about subjects that interest them or respond to articles that have appeared in past issues. Please also share photos from the past with a note describing what is being depicted in the photo.

THE EYRIE CHRISTMAS EDITION: The editors are asking parishioners to share stories about how Christmas is celebrated in our families. These stories will be printed in the Christmas issue of the St John's EYRIE magazine. Different cultures have different ways of celebrating this important festivity. Please email: heidelberg.eyrie@cam.org.au

I AM HAPPY TO OFFER THE FOLLOWING SERVICES: Visit families to pray / spend time with them; Offer home Masses; Visit the sick and homebound; Bless homes; Listen to stories that need to be told; Offer sacraments of Anointing of the Sick and Reconciliation; and any other ministry. Fr Mario.

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31: 7-9.

The Lord says this: Shout with joy for Jacob! Hail the chief of nations! Proclaim! Praise! Shout: The Lord has saved his people, the remnant of Israel! See, I will bring them back from the land of the North and gather them from the far ends of earth; all of them: the blind and the lame, women with child, women in labour: a great company returning here. They had left in tears, I will comfort them as I lead them back; I will guide them to streams of water, by a smooth path where they will not stumble. For I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my first-born son.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 125.

R./ The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,
It seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs.

R./

The heathens themselves said:
'What marvels the Lord worked for them!'
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad.

R./

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap.

R./

They go out, they go out, full of tears,
carrying seed for the sowing:
they come back, they come back, full of song,
carrying their sheaves.

R./**SECOND READING**

Hebrews 5:1-6.

Every high priest has been taken out of mankind and is appointed to act for men in their relations with God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins; and so he can sympathise with those who are ignorant or uncertain because he too lives in the limitations of weakness. That is why he has to make sin offerings for himself as well as for the people. No one takes this honour on himself, but each one is called by God, as Aaron was. Nor did Christ give himself the glory of becoming high priest, but he had it from the one who said to him: You are my son, today I have become your father, and in another text: You are a priest of the order of Melchizedek, and for ever.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Our Saviour Jesus Christ has done away with death,
and brought us life through his gospel.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mark 10: 46-52.

As Jesus left Jericho with his disciples and a large crowd, Bartimaeus (that is, the son of Timaeus), a blind beggar, was sitting at the side of the road. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout and to say, 'Son of David, Jesus, have pity on me.' And many of them scolded him and told him to keep quiet, but he only shouted all the louder, 'Son of David, have pity on me.' Jesus stopped and said, 'Call him here.' So they called the blind man. 'Courage,' they said 'get up; he is calling you.' So throwing off his cloak, he jumped up and went to Jesus. Then Jesus spoke, 'What do you want me to do for you?' 'Rabbuni,' the blind man said to him 'Master, let me see again.' Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has saved you.' And immediately his sight returned and he followed him along the road.

OUR NEED FOR SIGHT

The healing of the blind beggar Bartimaeus takes place in Jericho, the last town Jesus visits before the end of his journey to Jerusalem. Like so many other people desperate to access Jesus' power to heal, Bartimaeus has to surmount a barrier to get to him. The crowd, including presumably Jesus' disciples, try to silence him and keep him away. But their discouragement only makes him cry out louder, until, at last, becoming aware of him, Jesus stops and asks that he be brought over.

Jesus' question, 'What do you want me to do for you?' seems redundant; the blind man's need is obvious. But for Jesus it is important, both for Bartimaeus' own sake and that of the bystanders who had tried to shoo him away, that he state exactly what he wants. His request, 'Master, that I may see again,' is one that all disciples of Jesus, including ourselves, have to make again and again—not pleading for physical sight but for enlightenment of spirit.

In this sense everyone lacks a capacity to 'see' which only divine power can remedy. There are moments in our journey of life when trials, temptations and other difficulties crop up, obscuring our vision of God and rendering us spiritually blind. Just as Bartimaeus, his sight restored, 'followed (Jesus) upon the way,' so we will follow him along the 'way' of our own lives only if we know our need for a 'sight' that he alone can give. At this climactic stage of Jesus' journey, Bartimaeus has become for all a model of faith and discipleship.

Fr Brendan Byrne sj