



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.

## 26TH / 27TH JANUARY 2019 - 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C

Dear parishioners, visitors and friends,

### PHILIPPINES MISSION IMMERSION TRIP

*This year, as a parish and school community, we have embarked on a new venture: a mission trip to the Philippines. Seven members of our parish, including three teachers from our parish primary school, were joined by a parishioner from Hoppers Crossing North and spent two weeks learning about how the Body of Christ works in the Philippines.*

*As it journeys in faith, the Body of Christ / the People of God looks for relevant answers to the questions it faces. Since the questions vary from culture to culture and in different situations, so also the answers provided need to be different. Answers relevant here in Australia, and in our parish, are not necessarily suitable for different areas in the Philippines.*

*The mission immersion trip provided us with a brief experience during which we could sample and participate in a number of ministries carried out among some who live in great material poverty. Often we were invited to share our love with those around us, challenging us to move out of our comfort zone to meet Christ in the poor we ministered to.*

*We will have time to talk more about our experience in more detail. Today I would like to thank you all for your prayerful support during our mission. Many parishioners have also supported our experience by donating money towards this initiative. We were also given money raised by the school from a number of fund raising events.*

*We donated the money raised by the school and the money donated by you parishioners, to the parish that hosted us to help them continue with the many programmes they have undertaken.*

*Thank you for your generosity.*

*Fr Mario*

### THE 'YEAR OF ACCEPTANCE'

At the beginning of his gospel, Luke addresses a certain 'Theophilus,' for whom the work is written. 'Theophilus' which means 'lover of God,' may not be the name of a real person but a symbolic 'stand-in' for the kind of reader Luke has in mind: someone who has received basic instruction but who needs to be confirmed in their Christian identity and conviction of the faith. This Luke intends to provide—not only for readers of his own day but for ours as well.

From this beginning of Luke's work, today's gospel takes us immediately to the Jesus' hometown Nazareth, where he launches his public ministry with a prophetic manifesto in the guise of a Sabbath sermon.

What a remarkably short sermon it is! Jesus reads a longish text from Isaiah, then simply proclaims: 'Today, this text is being fulfilled even as you listen.' End of sermon!

Jesus does not need to say any more. Providing the 'script' for his ministry, the text itself contains so much: good news for the poor, freedom for captives, sight for the blind, a 'year of the Lord's favour' (or 'acceptance.')

The 'year of acceptance' proclaims a time of unconditional release from all 'debt' of sin. This 'year' will prevail throughout the personal ministry of Jesus. Then, following his death, resurrection, and ascension, the Spirit will empower the Church at Pentecost to proclaim it to the end of time.

We still live within the scope of that 'year.' The great 'Today ...' of his brief sermon should resound in every sermon today.

Fr Brendan Byrne sj

**PARISH PRIEST:** Fr Mario Zammit  
**PARISH SECRETARY:** Mary Peeris  
**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL CHAIR:**  
Christopher Ratnayake  
**CHILD SAFETY OFFICER:**  
Michelle Robertson m:0409 533 100

**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  
**FIRST RECONCILIATION,  
FIRST COMMUNION, CONFIRMATION:**  
Parish Secretary (9457 1066)

**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.*

**VOLUNTEERS AT THE AUSTIN HOSPITAL:**  
As a parish we have a very old history of doing voluntary work at the Austin Hospital. This volunteer work has different forms. **A.)** Some volunteers offer to visit the hospital during the week, offering friendship, prayerful support and Holy Communion to Catholic patients. **B.)** Others help once a month checking which patients would like to attend Mass at the hospital chapel. **C.)** Other volunteers help wheel the patients to and from the chapel. **D.)** While others attend Mass offering support to the patients. Mass at the Austin Hospital is on the third Sunday of each month at 9:30am. (There is also Mass at the Repatriation Hospital chapel on the fourth Sunday of each month at 11:00am.) All volunteers working at the hospital need to be registered. If you can help with any of these ministries, please contact the parish office (94571066 / heidelberg@cam.org.au) thank you.

**EASTER 2019:** A short note about Lent and Easter this year. Ash Wednesday this year is on 6th March. Palm Sunday is on 14th April and Easter Sunday is on 21st April. On Easter Sunday this year we will be having three morning Masses: 7:00am, 8:30am and 10:30am.

**ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PLAYGROUP:** a very casually run playgroup that has an inclusive approach, with the aim of having fun and is available to the St John's Catholic Parish and Primary School Community. Parents and grandparents looking after pre-school children are invited to participate. The playgroup runs during school terms every Monday from 9:15am to 11:00am. For information contact coordinator Rachelle Hitch: 0431 810 771 / rachelle.hitch@hotmail.com

**THE AUSTRALIAN CHURCH IS CELEBRATING A PLENARY COUNCIL IN 2020:** We as Church are invited to participate by reflecting on: 'What is God asking of us in Australia at this time?' Please register your response by Wednesday 6th March at <http://www.cam.org.au/plenary/> or by mailing your response.

**PALMS Information Session:** Following the recent orientation course which prepared ten volunteers for mission, Palms is now recruiting to help out in the various requests from overseas communities and improve their opportunities. A special information session is being held on Saturday 2nd March, at 10:30am at Ross House, Jenny Florence Room 247-251 Flinders Lane, Melbourne.

## **PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

**THE SICK:** Jenny Ferriere, Marie Hankin, Elizabeth Larkin, Francis Micallef, Joyce Quinn, Frank Walton, Noeline Zerna.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Brigitte Mielimaka, Nattalie Babet, Frances Booth, Adrian Clifford, Glenn Raymond Toohey, Ronald Victor Toohey.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Teresa Schiavetti.

*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.*

26 Jan / 27 Jan	<b>Sat 6:00pm</b>	<b>Sun 8:30am</b>	<b>Sun 10:30am</b>	<b>Sun 5:00pm</b>
1st Reader	Pamela Smith	Garry Sproules	Elizabeth Williamson	Des O'Brien
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader	Leela Cherubim	Jack Naden	Claire Newsome	Rosemary Vecchies
Communion	Lorraine Mascarenhas	Ronnie Maloney	Doris Schembri	Charito Cosio
2 Feb / 3 Feb	<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	Pietro Sciotto	Marguerite Ryan	Mary Kotefski
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader	Brian Garrone	TBA	Maureen Stella	Sandra D'Souza
Communion	Jeanette O'Sullivan	Leo Hernandez	Yannick Jonas	Mark Aiello
	Emma Chang	Val Wallis	Geraldine Manuel	Jenny Hollaway
	Michelle Penson	Fiona Curry	Sue Lew-Kee	TBA
	TBA	Peter O'Donoghue	Adrian Daly	TBA
Counters	<b>27 Jan:</b> Stephen Devanish, Nicole Pelizzaro, Thomas Bechelli & <b>3 Feb:</b> Des O'Brien, Peter Peyton, Percival Makin.			
<b>Collection Weekly Average for December</b>				<b>Heidelcare Co-Ordinator</b>
Parish		Presbytery		January: Elaine 0490 254 928
Stewardship	\$3,498.83	Stewardship	\$725.95	February: Joan 0490 254 928
Loose	\$659.08	Loose	\$350.00	
<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.				

**GOLD COIN COLLECTION:** The first gold coin collection for 2019 will be held this weekend at all Masses. Thank you for your generosity.

**BLESSING OF SCHOOL CHILDREN, UNIFORM AND SCHOOL BAGS:** As we praise God for the start of a new school year, we invite school children to come forward for a special blessing at all Masses of the weekend of the 2nd and 3rd February. School children are invited to come to Mass wearing their uniform and with their school bag carrying a few books in it. This can also be as special occasion especially for children starting kinder this year!

**BLESSING OF ST JOHN'S PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOL STAFF:** at the 10:30am Mass on Sunday 3rd February. We welcome and bless our school staff the start a new year. Celebration continues after Mass with morning tea and a sausage sizzle at the parish hall.

**THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE CHILD JESUS IN THE TEMPLE** is celebrated by the Church on the 2nd of February. This is a good opportunity for us to acknowledge, bless and thank God for the presence of children in our parish community. We celebrate this feast with a prayer of blessing for our children and their families during all the weekend Masses of the 9th and 10th of February.

**GEMS: Gregarious Energetic Members of St John's.** The first gathering for 2019 is on **TUESDAY 5th February** in the Francis Xavier meeting room at the rear of the parish house starting at 10:00am. New members (50+) are welcome to join. Enjoy the company of others over a cuppa and cake. Transport to St John's is available. Please note we are back to meeting on a Tuesday, not a Thursday as previously stated. Information: Elizabeth 0447195553.

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION** During Weekend Masses: We urgently need more parishioners to come forward and take on this ministry in order for us to be able to continue offering Communion as both Body and Blood at our weekend Masses. A **workshop** will be held on Monday 28th January at 7:00pm in the parish church. All welcome to join.

**PARISH NURSING HOMES:** Catholics living at The Views, (corner of Waiora road and Lower Plenty road) and Clevedon Terrace (Upper Heidelberg Road) are visited weekly by members of the parish offering them friendship, prayerful support, and the sacrament of Communion. Parishioners who would like to participate in this ministry, please contact the parish office. Training will be provided.

**2019 SACRAMENT PROGRAMME** For St John's parishioners who do not attend St John's parish primary school, enrolments for all sacraments need to be in by not later than Monday 5th March. Details about catechism classes will be available at a later stage. Contact parish secretary for enrolments. (Reconciliation: year 3 and higher in October, First Communion: year 4 and higher on Saturday 15th June, Confirmation, year 6 and higher on Sunday 11th August.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY:** during Sunday 10:30am Mass. Children are offered a special liturgy during which the word of God is explained to them in a way they can better understand. Children's Liturgy leaders are urgently needed for this ministry. Leaders must possess a current Working with Children Check. Please contact parish office for information.

**SERVE THE SERVERS EVENING:** on Saturday 23rd February, after 6:00pm Mass; a time to celebrate with and thank our young servers.

**FIRST READING**

Nehemiah 8:2-6. 8-10

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people – since he stood higher than all the people – Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered Amen! Amen!; then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read.

Then Nehemiah – His Excellency – and Ezra, priest and scribe (and the Levites who were instructing the people) said to all the people, ‘This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep’. For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law.

He then said, ‘Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the man who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.’

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Psalm 18:8-10. 15

**TOGETHER:** Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

**LEFT SIDE (AMBO SIDE)**

The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul.  
The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,  
it gives wisdom to the simple.

**RIGHT SIDE (PRIEST’S SIDE)**

The precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart.  
The command of the Lord is clear, it gives light to the eyes.

**LEFT SIDE (AMBO SIDE)**

The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever.  
The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just.

**RIGHT SIDE (PRIEST’S SIDE)**

May the spoken words of my mouth,  
the thoughts of my heart,  
win favour in your sight, O Lord, my rescuer, my rock!

**TOGETHER:** Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

**SECOND READING**

1 Corinthians 12:12-30

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts. If the foot were to say, ‘I am not a hand and so I do not belong to the body’, would that mean that it stopped being part of the body? If the ear were to say, ‘I am not an eye, and so I do not belong to the body’, would that mean

that it was not a part of the body? If your whole body was just one eye, how would you hear anything? If it was just one ear, how would you smell anything?

Instead of that, God put all the separate parts into the body on purpose. If all the parts were the same, how could it be a body? As it is, the parts are many but the body is one. The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I do not need you’, nor can the head say to the feet, ‘I do not need you.’

What is more, it is precisely the parts of the body that seem to be the weakest which are the indispensable ones; and it is the least honourable parts of the body that we clothe with the greatest care. So our more improper parts get decorated in a way that our more proper parts do not need. God has arranged the body so that more dignity is given to the parts which are without it, and that there may not be disagreements inside the body, but that each part may be equally concerned for all the others. If one part is hurt, all parts are hurt with it. If one part is given special honour, all parts enjoy it.

Now you together are Christ’s body; but each of you is a different part of it. In the Church, God has given the first place to apostles, the second to prophets, the third to teachers; after them, miracles, and after them the gift of healing; helpers, good leaders, those with many languages. Are all of them apostles, or all of them prophets, or all of them teachers? Do they all have the gift of miracles, or all have the gift of healing? Do all speak strange languages, and all interpret them?  
them?

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia! The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Luke 1:1-4. 4:14-21

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received.

Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him. He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written: The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord’s year of favour. He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, ‘This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.’