



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.

2ND / 3RD FEBRUARY 2019 - 4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C

Dear parishioners, visitors and friends,

FORMATION THROUGH MUSIC!

I will continue sharing about our Mission Immersion experience in the Philippines earlier this year. A large part of our experience was spent at St Catherine of Alexandria parish, in Dinalupihan, Bataan Province, north of Manila.

Parish life in provincial Philippines is very different from the corresponding reality in Australia. St Catherine's parish, made up of five barangay (villages), is in a very poor part of the province. Most people work in the rice fields, which means that work and income are very unpredictable. This forces many to leave the province to look for work overseas, leaving wife and children behind.

Part of the life of the parish is to try to break this cycle of poverty by offering religious and academic formation. Each barangay has its own primary school, and there is one regional high school in the area; so the parish offers music as an alternative type of formation.

Instead of roaming the streets, each day, after school, many of the children go to the parish Mass and then on to the parish grounds where they practice their musical instruments. What started as a small folk band with a few guitars and mandarins, is now an eighty strong youth orchestra that proudly gives public performances.

The Jose De Piro Kabataan (youth) Orkestra gives these poor young children something to look forward to. They grow in confidence and are being given an alternative to rely on as they build their future. For the St Catherine parish to run this programme, providing free musical instruments and free tuition, requires a large amount of financial support. This is where some of our financial contributions that we took up with us have been invested—to help give a future to children who otherwise would have no future!

Fr Mario

THE CHALLENGE OF CONVERSION

Today's gospel gives us the second act, so to speak, of Jesus' visit to his hometown, Nazareth.

At first, the reaction of his townsfolk is favourable. They are 'astonished at the gracious words that came from his lips.' But their comment, 'This is Joseph's son, surely?' disturbs him. It shows misunderstanding of his status and mission. He begins to challenge them, citing biblical precedents (the prophetic careers of Elijah and Elisha) for a wide-ranging mission. The scene turns ugly and ends with an unsuccessful attempt to lynch him. Why does it all so suddenly go wrong?

As a gospel writer Luke is very concerned to depict human response to the message of Jesus and to probe the reasons that led so many to reject it. The message requires conversion at depth. When the Nazarenes say, 'Isn't this Joseph's son?' they are simply putting Jesus back in a box with which they are comfortable and keeping him for themselves. They show no real sense of who he really is (God's Son) or any grasp of the inclusive scope of the programme he has announced. The reason Jesus responds so aggressively is to bring their deepest thoughts to the surface and make them confront their narrowness.

The gospel illustrates the potential for violence that lies in every human heart when the limits of comfort and convention are challenged. The threat to his life that Jesus experiences in Nazareth will become an actuality later in Jerusalem. But there too, in resurrection and ascension, he will 'pass through the midst and go on his way.'

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.

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.

ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PLAYGROUP: is 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 Rachele Hitch: 0431 810 771 / rachele.hitch@hotmail.com

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.)

ANNUAL RETREAT: Between Monday 4th and Wednesday 13th February, Fr Mario will be away from the parish for his annual retreat. Fr Ted and Fr Wayne will celebrate Masses in the parish. There will be a Communion Service at 9:15am on Monday 4th and Monday 11th February. Thank you.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

RECENTLY MARRIED: Simon Tuong & Emma Chang, Lachlan Bau & Kathleen Griffin.

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

ANNIVERSARIES: Peg Power, Brigitte Mielimaka, Nattalie Babet, Frances Booth, Adrian Clifford, Glenn Raymond Toohey, Ronald Victor Toohey, Claude Nenert, Leoncia Buot, Giovanni Sandona, Maria Sandona, Elsa Savegnago.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Teresa Schiavetti, Catherine Smith.

*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.*

2 Feb / 3 Feb	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Moira Di Cesare	Pietro Sciotto	Marguerite Ryan	Mary Kotefski
2 nd Reader	Brian Garrone	TBA	Maureen Stella	Sharon D'Souza
Communion	Jeanette O'Sullivan	Leo Hernandez	Yannick Jonas	Mark Aiello
	Domenica Ashworth	Val Wallis	Geraldine Manuel	Jenny Hollaway
	Michelle Penson	Fiona Curry	Sue Lew-Kee	TBA
	TBA	Peter O'Donoghue	Adrian Daly	TBA
9 Feb / 10 Feb	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Peter Penson	Barbara Barnes	Harsha Dilip	Des O'Brien
2 nd Reader	Anita Metcalf	Ronnie Maloney	Robyn Laurie	Matthew Sanders
Communion	Lorraine Mascarenhas	Jack Naden	Beena Dilip	Sally Tramontana
	Emma Chang	Bill Barnes	Nigel Mant	Charito Cosio
	Michelle Penson	Stanly Devasia	Marni Mant	Leo Cosio
	TBA	Chris Raynayake	Tim Boyle	Leela Cherubim
Counters	3 Feb: Des O'Brien, Peter Peyton, Percival Makin & 10 Feb: Garry Sproules, Janice McGrath, Giuseppe Amoroso.			
Collection Weekly Average for December			Heidelcare Co-Ordinator	
Parish		Presbytery		February: Joan 0490 254 928
Stewardship	\$3,498.83	Stewardship	\$725.95	March: Cath 0490 254 928
Loose	\$659.08	Loose	\$350.00	
Thank you for supporting St John's financially. Please advise if your credit card is lost/stolen or the expiry date has changed.				

CHILDREN: have a very important role in the life of our parish community. It is our duty to welcome them warmly and to help them as they grow in their faith and their belonging to this family of God. During the year we try to express this in a variety of ways. As we start a new school year, this weekend we welcome school children who have been invited to come to Mass wearing their uniforms and carrying their school bags, to receive a special prayer of blessing as they start a new school year. We will also bless and commission the staff at St John's Parish Primary school as they embark on a new year, praying with them that they enter their mission full of God's love and energy.

ON THE WEEKEND OF THE 9TH AND 10TH OF FEBRUARY: we pray a prayer of blessing on parents and their young pre-school children, who regularly join us at our Sunday Masses. This is an opportunity for us to thank the parents of these children who are happy to introduce their children to the community. We want our community to be a warm and welcoming place for these families and their children, recognising that they are an important part of God's family.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Each Sunday, during the 10:30am Mass, young school-age children in our community are given the opportunity to go to a special place in the parish house to participate in the liturgy of God's word in a way that they can understand. Parishioners who can help lead this children's liturgy are urgently needed for the programme to be able to go ahead. Two people, a leader and an assistant, are needed each Sunday. All leaders and assistants are required to hold a current Working with Children Check. This year the coordinator for the Children's Liturgy is Jan McCaffery (0423478504). Please contact the parish office or Jan for further information.

ST JOHN'S WALKING GROUP: is meeting for the first time this Monday 4th February at 10:00am in Yarra Street outside the parish house. Our walk will be followed by coffee at Scintilla's. All ages and abilities are welcome to join us. To let us know you will be walking. Contact: Jan (0423478504).

HEIDELCARE: meeting this Monday 4th February at 7:30pm, in the Francis Xavier meeting room in the parish house. All welcome to join. Congratulations to Heidelcare volunteer **Elaine Lawrence**, recipient of a Jagajaga Community Australia Day Award 2019, presented to her by Jenny Macklin MP.

GEMS: Gregarious Energetic Members of St John's. First gathering for 2019 this **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).

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

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: will be held at the Francis Xavier meeting room in the parish house on Thursday 28th February at 7:30pm. During this meeting the 2018 financial report will be shared and future programmes for the parish discussed. All welcome.

LENTEN DISCUSSION GROUP: One way of growing in our understanding of Lent is to come together to discuss gospel readings, their meanings and their relationship to our lives. Contact the parish house to express interest in joining a Lenten Discussion Group. Please leave name, contact details and availability—morning, afternoon or evening sessions.

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 1:4-5. 17-19

In the days of Josiah, the word of the Lord was addressed to me, saying, 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you came to birth I consecrated you; I have appointed you as prophet to the nations. So now brace yourself for action. Stand up and tell them all I command you. Do not be dismayed at their presence, or in their presence I will make you dismayed. I, for my part, today will make you into a fortified city, a pillar of iron, and a wall of bronze to confront all this land: the kings of Judah, its princes, its priests and the country people. They will fight against you but shall not overcome you, for I am with you to deliver you – it is the Lord who speaks.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 70:1-6. 15. 17.

TOGETHER: I will sing of your salvation.**LEFT SIDE (AMBO SIDE)**

In you, O Lord, I take refuge;

let me never be put to shame.

In your justice rescue me, free me:

pay heed to me and save me.

RIGHT SIDE (PRIEST'S SIDE)

Be a rock where I can take refuge,

a mighty stronghold to save me;

for you are my rock, my stronghold.

Free me from the hand of the wicked.

LEFT SIDE (AMBO SIDE)

It is you, O Lord, who are my hope,

my trust, O Lord, since my youth.

On you I have leaned from my birth,

from my mother's womb you have been my help.

RIGHT SIDE (PRIEST'S SIDE)

My lips will tell of your justice

and day by day of your help.

O God, you have taught me from my youth

and I proclaim your wonders still.

TOGETHER: I will sing of your salvation.**SECOND READING**

1 Corinthians 12:31 – 13:13

Be ambitious for the higher gifts. And I am going to show you a way that is better than any of them.

If I have all the eloquence of men or of angels, but speak without love, I am simply a gong booming or a cymbal clashing. If I have the gift of prophecy, understanding all the mysteries there are, and knowing everything, and if I have faith in all its fullness, to move mountains, but without love, then I am nothing at all. If I give away all that I possess, piece by piece, and if I even let them take my body to burn it, but am without love, it will do me no good whatever.

Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence, and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes.

Love does not come to an end. But if there are gifts of prophecy, the time will come when they must fail; or the gift of languages, it will not continue for ever; and knowledge – for this, too, the time will come when it must fail. For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophesying is imperfect; but once perfection comes, all imperfect things will disappear. When I was a child, I used to talk like a child, and think like a child, and argue like a child, but now I am a man, all childish ways are put behind me. Now we are seeing a dim reflection in a mirror; but then we shall be seeing face to face. The knowledge that I have now is imperfect; but then I shall know as fully as I am known.

In short, there are three things that last: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 4:21-30

Jesus began to speak in the synagogue, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.' And he won the approval of all, and they were astonished by the gracious words that came from his lips.

They said, 'This is Joseph's son, surely?' But he replied, 'No doubt you will quote me the saying, "Physician, heal yourself" and tell me, "We have heard all that happened in Capernaum, do the same here in your own countryside."' And he went on, 'I tell you solemnly, no prophet is ever accepted in his own country.'