



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.

16TH / 17TH FEBRUARY 2019—6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C

Dear parishioners, visitors and friends,

WORK AND PRAYER!

As ministers of the Word and of the Eucharist, we priests are encouraged in a special way to spend an extended time of prayer at least once a year. This is called a spiritual retreat.

Our life dedicated to ministering Word and Eucharist depends heavily on our deep relationship with our God in whose name we minister to the People of God, the Body of Christ. Every Christian would benefit from an extended time of prayer, in fact different types of spiritual retreats are often offered and an invitation extended to all the members of the Body of Christ, for us who minister at this level, this is certainly more important.

Over the past number of years I have been used to go away for my spiritual retreat at the beginning of the year. January is usually a quieter time of the year, so it is easier to be away from the parish. This year, as I was part of the group participating in the Philippines Mission Immersion Experience, I had to delay my retreat.

Thomas Green, a writer of spirituality, wrote a book called 'A Vacation with the Lord' (1986) and in it he talks about spiritual retreats. Indeed, for me a spiritual retreat is a time when the Lord invites me to go away from my ministry and spend some quality time with him alone!

I often hear married people complain that life has become too busy. They spend most of their time running between work, and looking after their children and their many needs, cooking, cleaning, and variety of other requirements. They often discover that there is not much time left for them to be together and enjoy each other's company!

Life in ministry is not too much different! Between different calls in the parish and in our hospitals, it is often not easy to stop and spend some quality time with God. This is why it is important to go away on this vacation with the Lord. I find that for me the best spiritual retreat is when I can go away for at least eight full days and sit in silent prayer. One beautiful text that travels with me is the story of the prophet Elijah who went on the mountain and realised that God was not in the fire or the strong winds, but in the sound of stillness (1Kings 19:11-13). God is highly educated and very softly spoken. God will not speak if someone else is speaking, but will quietly sit back and wait for his turn to talk, and we need almost perfect silence to be able to hear God speak! That is why silence is the best environment for a meeting with God!

Over the past four years I have been very lucky to be able to spend my time of silent retreat in a hermitage at the foot of a mountain in Woolamai, close to Phillip Island, surrounded by nature. God does speak indeed through nature. The trees, animals and sea are all very good images that can carry God's voice and message and help me reflect on my relationship with my God.

You, as People of God and Body of Christ were very much with me on this vacation!

Fr Mario

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.*

HEALING MASS: at 7:30pm on
Thursday 21st February at Our Lady
Help of Christians, Eltham. Evening
starts with praise & worship
followed by Mass with the
Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.
Prayer ministry and supper follow.
Contact Rose (9434 3962) or Emilia
(9435 7475).

INVEST IN YOUR MARRIAGE!: Forget
life's tensions and interruptions and
rekindle the closeness, intimacy,
love and romance that brought you
together. Recharge your relationship
batteries and explore the precious
nature of your marriage, allowing
you both to share your feelings,
hopes and dreams with each other
in ways that normal, daily living
tends to inhibit. No group sharing.
Couples and a priest present the
weekend. It is based around Catholic
values but couples of all faiths are
welcome. 2019 Melbourne weekend
dates: 29-31 March, 31 May-2 June,
23-25 August, and 15-17 November.
From Friday 7:00pm to Sunday
5:00pm. Accommodation and meals
provided. Information and bookings:
Mercy and James (0409183676),
vicbookings@wwme.org.au,
Website:www.wwme.org.au

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.)

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
Rachelle Hitch: 0431 810 771 /
rachelle.hitch@hotmail.com

DONCASTER PARISH: is looking for a
parish secretary (1 day a week) and
a youth minister. For details visit:
cam.org.au/Jobs

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

RECENTLY BAPTISED: Jack Dimmer, Evelyn Mazzocca, Sofia Arapis.

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

ANNIVERSARIES: Rita Fernando, Alice English, Wal Dicker, Alex Stewart, John
Hogg, Joseph Rockfery, Jone Byrnes, Maria Bednar, Kazik Radzikowski,
John Filippi, Catherine Cummins, Maureen Packer, Brian Smout, Leigh
Hewatt, Veronica (Bon) O'Brien.

RECENTLY DECEASED: BROOKE ARBERY, BARRY JACKSON.

*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.*

16 Feb / 17 Feb	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Sue Lew-Kee	Michael Leonard	Adrian Daly	Rosemary Vecchies
2 nd Reader	Grace Lew-Kee	Garry Sproules	Michelle Robertson	Sharon D'Souza
Communion	Maria Basilone	Pauline Griffiths	Maureen Howard	Des O'Brien
	Leela Cherubim	Fiona Curry	Doris Schembri	Jenny Hollaway
	TBA	Leo Hernandez	Yannick Jonas	Matthew Sanders
	TBA	Val Wallis	TBA	Olivia Sanders
23 Feb / 24 Feb	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Brian Garrone	Barbara Barnes	Bob Dowling	Mark Aiello
2 nd Reader	Moira Di Cesare	Peter Penson	Marguerite Ryan	Candida Rowlands
Communion	Lorraine Mascarenhas	Chris Ratnayake	Doris Schembri	Sally Tramontana
	Jeanette O'Sullivan	Mary Harty	Nigel Mant	Charito Cosio
	Emma Chang	Jack Naden	Marni Mant	Leo Cosio
	TBA	Margaret Bradley	TBA	Tony Rowlands
Counters	17 Feb: Des O'Brien, Shane Byrnes & 24 Feb: Graeme Foote, Michael Tilley,.			
Collection Weekly Average for January			Heidelcare Co-Ordinator	
Parish		Presbytery		January: Elaine 0490 254 928
Stewardship	\$3,325.00	Stewardship	\$581.77	February: Joan 0490 254 928
Loose	\$520.93	Loose	\$275.00	
Thank you for supporting St John's financially. Please advise if your credit card is lost/stolen or the expiry date has changed.				

BLESSING OF PARENTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN: in our parish this weekend at all Masses. After the homily parents with pre-school children will be called forward for a special blessing as we also remember the feast of the presentation of Jesus in the temple (2nd February).

AUSTIN MASS: will be celebrated this Sunday 17th February. Volunteers please meet at 8:30am for 9:30am Mass at the chapel. Parishioners are invited to participate in this Mass to minister to the sick by their presence. Thank you.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: 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.

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

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. We urgently need four parishioners who can lead this children's liturgy and another four who can assist; a leader and an assistant are needed for each Sunday. Leaders and assistants require 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. The Children's Liturgy cannot go ahead before we get the required leaders and assistants.

ST JOHN'S WALKING GROUP: On Monday 18th February we meet at 10:00am outside the parish house to walk in Darebin Parklands, a beautiful place. To join contact Jan (0423478504).

GEMS 50+ (AND FRIENDS): on Tuesday 19th February from 10:00am to 12:00noon. A fun morning in the Francis Xavier meeting room. Join us for a choice of board or card games and the celebration of a member's milestone birthday. New members welcome. Inquiries: Elizabeth (0447195553).

LENT 2019

IN PREPARATION FOR ASH WEDNESDAY: (6th March), parishioners are invited to return any of last year's blessed palms / greenery and place it in the box at the church entrance. These branches will be burnt on Monday 4th March at the primary school at 8:45am.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES: (day of fasting and abstinence) ceremony of the ashes at 9:15am, 2:30pm (St John's Primary students) and 7:30pm.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: During the Fridays of Lent we meet at 7:30pm to pray the traditional prayer of the Way of the Cross, in preparation for the celebration of the Lord's passion and death. Our first Way of the Cross will be on Friday 8th March.

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.

PROJECT COMPASSION: If we walk in hope, we have joy in our hearts. Let us be lights of hope. (Pope Francis). Let us help those who are poorer than us this Lent!

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 17:5-8

The Lord says this: 'A curse on the man who puts his trust in man, who relies on things of flesh, whose heart turns from the Lord. He is like dry scrub in the wastelands: if good comes, he has no eyes for it, he settles in the parched places of the wilderness, a salt land, uninhabited.

'A blessing on the man who puts his trust in the Lord, with the Lord for his hope. He is like a tree by the waterside that thrusts its roots to the stream: when the heat comes it feels no alarm, its foliage stays green; it has no worries in a year of drought, and never ceases to bear fruit.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 1:1-4

TOGETHER: Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

LEFT SIDE (AMBO SIDE)

Happy indeed is the man
who follows not the counsel of the wicked;
nor lingers in the way of sinners
nor sits in the company of scorners,
but whose delight is the law of the Lord
and who ponders his law day and night.

RIGHT SIDE (PRIEST'S SIDE)

He is like a tree that is planted beside the flowing waters,
that yields its fruit in due season
and whose leaves shall never fade;
and all that he does shall prosper.

LEFT SIDE (AMBO SIDE)

Not so are the wicked, not so!
For they like winnowed chaff
shall be driven away by the wind.
For the Lord guards the way of the just
but the way of the wicked leads to doom.

TOGETHER: Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20

If Christ raised from the dead is what has been preached, how can some of you be saying that there is no resurrection of the dead? For if the dead are not raised, Christ has not been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, you are still in your sins. And what is more serious, all who have died in Christ have perished. If our hope in Christ has been for this life only, we are the most unfortunate of all people.

But Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Rejoice and be glad; your reward is great in heaven.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 6:17. 20-26

Jesus came down with the Twelve and stopped at a piece of level ground where there was a large gathering of his disciples with a great crowd of people from all parts of Judaea and from Jerusalem and from the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon who had come to hear him and to be cured of their diseases.

Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said: 'How happy are you who are poor: yours is the kingdom of God. Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied. Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh. 'Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for then your reward will be great in heaven. This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets. 'But alas for you who are rich: you are having your consolation now. Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hungry. Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and weep. 'Alas for you when the world speaks well of you! This was the way their ancestors treated the false prophets.'

BEING PREPARED TO BE VULNERABLE

Hardly any statements in the gospels are more challenging than the beatitudes and woes with which Jesus begins his sermon. To understand them we have to attend to the context of the sermon and the biblical meaning of beatitude.

The context is that Jesus is instructing his disciples before a great multitude of burdened and afflicted people who have come from far and near to access his healing power. The implication is that the disciples are to be something for this troubled wider group, and Jesus is going to tell them how.

In the biblical tradition "Blessed ..." does not strictly speaking indicate a moral attitude to be adopted. A beatitude declares a person to be in a fortunate or advantageous position. They are 'in a good place' because what will soon come about through the faithfulness of God.

Jesus is not endorsing poverty or hunger. He is insisting that what most people reckon to be advantages and disadvantages are relativized because God is on the side of the poor, rather than the rich and well off, and will move to reverse the situation—as Mary's *Magnificat* (Luke 1:46-55). What the beatitudes depict is a preparedness to be vulnerable in view of this sense of God.

This brings us back to the context in which this instruction is given: the afflicted multitude longing for healing. A vulnerable community can become for the afflicted an instrument of healing and life. It is those who approach the wounded with vulnerable love, rather than power, who make the world safe for humanity.

Fr Brendan Byrne sj