



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.

## 23RD/24TH FEBRUARY — 7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C

Dear Parishioners, Visitors and Friends,

Each year we come together at the Annual Parish Meeting to share news about the parish activities and to discuss future plans for our parish and community. This year the Annual Parish Meeting is on Thursday 28th February at 7:30pm in the Francis Xavier meeting room, in the parish house. I strongly invite you to attend to this meeting, listen to what is to be shared and be involved in the future planning of the life in our parish community. Unfortunately this is not something that can happen each Sunday during our Eucharist, this is why we organise a special moment for this sharing.

On the second page of this week's newsletter you can find our 2018 annual financial statement. This gives you the opportunity to look at our parish finances which will also be presented at our Annual Meeting.

The agenda prepared by the parish council for this year's Annual Meeting is:

- The parish financial report, presented by Des O'Brien, chair of the parish finance committee;
- A report about the Mission Immersion Trip to the Philippines, presented by Fr Mario;
- A report from the Child Safety Committee, presented by Michelle Robertson and Adrian Daly;
- A report about our parish primary school, prepared by Maureen Stella, principal and presented by Carmel Armiento, school deputy;
- A report about St John's Catholic Tennis Club, presented by Paul Marcon, club president;
- A report about the GEMS / friendship group that started last January, presented by Elizabeth Williamson;
- A report about the Journeying in Hope (Grief and Loss) group, started a few months ago, presented by Jan McCaffrey.

Thank You

Fr Mario

### 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.

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

**THE SICK:** Jenny Ferriere, Cliff Jones, Elizabeth Larkin, Cederick (Ced) Legg, Francis Micallef, Joyce Quinn, Cheryl Stern, Paul Sullivan, Frank Walton, Noeline Zerna.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Brian Hankin, Michael Hankin, Antina Piermarini, Sr Geraldine Wilson rsm, Marija Bedra, Wanda Zebrowski, Felice Schiavone.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Clare Kong, Beryl Dargavel.

*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.*

**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

**PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT—YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2018**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
Stewardship	166,603	162,284
Loose Change	40,334	40,117
Donation	28,176	33,556
Rent - Parish Hall	37,617	35,167
Rent - Yarra Street Properties	14,750	22,068
Catholic Social Services	18,838	15,070
Religious Education Classes	883	1,559
Other Income	2,130	2,734
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>309,331</b>	<b>312,555</b>
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<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Office Administration	25,178	18,197
Church Requisites & Pastoral Exp.	8,594	11,908
Cleaning & Gardening	17,754	17,559
Catholic Church Insurance	21,738	21,893
Archdiocesan Levy	29,688	30,788
Employment Expenses	79,511	75,233
Other Property Expenses	36,001	94,927
Provision: Future Maintenance / Capital Expenditure	50,000	0
Consultants	8,492	0
Interest on loan	8,943	9,863
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>285,899</b>	<b>280,368</b>
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<b>OPERATING SURPLUS</b>	<b>23,432</b>	<b>32,187</b>
Add: Interest from investments	9,606	4,098
Add: Income from Primary School	0	0
<b>NET SURPLUS</b>	<b>33,038</b>	<b>36,285</b>

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2018**

<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Investments	715,680	647,347
Receivables	943	1,240
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>716,623</b>	<b>648,587</b>
<b>LIABILITY</b>		
Loan (Catholic Development Fund)	200,000	225,000
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES:</b>		
Payroll provisions	2,495	2,406
Clearing Accounts	6,891	3,918
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>209,386</b>	<b>231,324</b>
<b>NON CURRENT LIABILITY</b>		
Provision: Future Maintenance / Capital Expenditure	50,000	
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; PROVISIONS</b>	<b>259,386</b>	<b>231,234</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>457,237</b>	<b>417,263</b>

<b>23 Feb / 24 Feb</b>	<b>Sat 6:00pm</b>	<b>Sun 8:30am</b>	<b>Sun 10:30am</b>	<b>Sun 5:00pm</b>
1st Reader	Brian Garrone	Barbara Barnes	Bob Dowling	Mark Aiello
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader	Moira Di Cesare	Peter Penson	Marguerite Ryan	Candida Rowlands
Communion	Lorraine Mascarenhas	Margaret Bradley	Doris Schembri	Sally Tramontana
	Jeanette O'Sullivan	Chris Ratnayake	Nigel Mant	Charito Cosio
	Emma Chang	Jack Naden	Marni Mant	Leo Cosio
	TBA	TBA	TBA	Tony Rowlands
<b>2 Mar / 3 Mar</b>	<b>Sat 6:00pm</b>	<b>Sun 8:30am</b>	<b>Sun 10:30am</b>	<b>Sun 5:00pm</b>
1st Reader	Zen Zebrowski	Pietro Sciotto	Michelle Robertson	Mary Kotefski
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader	Pamela Smith	Ronnie Maloney	TBA	Rosemary Vecchies
Communion	Marco Di Cesare	Peter O'Donoghue	Geraldine Manuel	Mark Aiello
	Maria Basilone	Jack Naden	Adrian Daly	Matthew Sanders
	Leela Cherubim	Stanly Devasia	Ann Domaingue	Olivia Sanders
	TBA	Christopher Ratnayake	TBA	TBA
Counters	<b>24 Feb:</b> Graeme Foote, Michael Tilley & <b>3 Mar:</b> Nigel Mant, Shane Byrnes.			
<b>Collection Weekly Average for January</b>			<b>Heidelcare Co-Ordinator</b>	
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	Morning Tea, 3rd March: Kate & Marguerite
<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 January collection was \$480.75. Next collection this weekend at all Masses. Thank you for your generosity.

**MORNING TEA & SAUSAGE SIZZLE:** After 10:30am Mass next Sunday 3rd March. All welcome. Gold coin donation to cover expenses of sausage sizzle, appreciated.

**PROJECT COMPASSION: PROJECT COMPASSION:** If we walk in hope, we have joy in our hearts. Let us be lights of hope. (Pope Francis). Please take home a box or a set of envelopes and support Caritas this Lenten season themed 'Give Lent 100%: Lives change when we all give 100%.' Donate through boxes / envelopes / 1800 024 413 / [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion). Let us help those who are poorer than us this Lent!

**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:** Monday 25th February we meet in Yarra St, outside the parish house at 10:00am to leave for Gresswell Forest, Watsonia where we will walk the forest trails then have coffee in Macleod. Please feel very welcome to join us. Contact: Jan (0423 478 504).

## 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 porch. These branches will be burnt on Monday 4th March at the primary school at 8:45am.

**PANCAKE TUESDAY: 5th March,** following 9:15am Mass parishioners are invited to the Francis Xavier meeting room (at the rear of the parish house) to enjoy some delicious pancakes and a cuppa. We do hope that you will join us.

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

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** each Friday in Lent, starting on 8th March, at 7:30pm. We pray the traditional prayer of the Way of the Cross, in preparation for the celebration of the Lord's passion and death.

**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.

**LECTIO DIVINA DURING LENT:** the regular meeting of Lectio Divina, praying the Sunday gospels, will meet every Monday at 7:00pm in the parish house. All welcome to join.

**GEMS 50+ (AND FRIENDS):** Morning Melodies—Swinging Classics, Tuesday 26th February at the Lower Plenty Hotel, 4 Main Road Lower Plenty, from 10:30am to 1:00pm. Transport available. \$17 each for Devonshire tea, coffee/tea, lunch, complimentary beer, wine or soft drink. All welcome. Bookings essential: Elizabeth (0447195553).

**FIRST READING**

1 Samuel 26:2. 7-9. 12-13. 22-23

Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph. So in the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him.

Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice. David answered Abishai, Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt?' David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them.

David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. David then called out, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Psalm 102:1-4. 8. 10. 12-13

**TOGETHER:** The Lord is kind and merciful.**LEFT SIDE (AMBO SIDE)**

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,  
all my being, bless his holy name.  
My soul, give thanks to the Lord  
and never forget all his blessings

**RIGHT SIDE (PRIEST'S SIDE)**

It is he who forgives all your guilt,  
who heals every one of your ills,  
who redeems your life from the grave,  
who crowns you with love and compassion.

**LEFT SIDE (AMBO SIDE)**

The Lord is compassion and love,  
slow to anger and rich in mercy.  
He does not treat us according to our sins  
nor repay us according to our faults.

**RIGHT SIDE (PRIEST'S SIDE)**

As far as the east is from the west  
so far does he remove our sins.  
As a father has compassion on his sons,  
the Lord has pity on those who fear him.

**TOGETHER:** The Lord is kind and merciful.**SECOND READING**

1 Corinthians 15:12, 45-49

The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly man is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia! I give you a new commandment;  
love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Luke 6:27-38

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

**BEING GENEROUS AS GOD IS GENEROUS**

Jesus puts before his disciples the extraordinary command to 'love your enemies.' He goes on to give some illustrations of what this might mean in practice. All involve responding to injury or to unreasonable demand with nothing but generosity and the abandonment of all claim to recompense.

Taken by itself, such behaviour seems contrary to common sense. But Jesus is not laying down maxims to be followed literally. There is a measure of prophetic exaggeration in the examples he cites. All flow from a fundamental attitude in which one is prepared to be vulnerable to a degree deemed foolish by the standards of the world, because such vulnerability and generosity is what one both discerns in God and experiences from God.

Jesus tells the disciples, 'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate.' The key term here is the little word 'as.' As children are 'like' their parents, so, by loving their enemies, by being compassionate and generous to a 'foolish' degree, they will be 'children of the Most High, who is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.' Such a vulnerable way of life disarms violence and humanises the world.

It has a future effect as well. People who are generous in giving and forgiving open themselves up to even greater divine generosity in return. It is not that God waits to see if we are generous before pouring gifts upon us. But God can only give us what we have the capacity to receive. And the measure of that capacity is our own generosity towards others.

Fr Brendan Byrne sj