



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 MARCH—8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C

### A LETTER REGARDING THE NEWS OF CARDINAL PELL'S CONVICTION

Tuesday 26th February 2019

Dear Parishioners

*As I sit down to try to put a few thoughts together, I am still trying to gather myself after hearing the shocking news made public this morning. It is true that through the international media many had been aware of Cardinal Pell's conviction last December, yet I was not prepared for its publication today.*

*Since there is an appeal pending, not much can be said at this stage, as we wait for justice to take its full course. For those in our community who have personally experienced abuse, this news once again opens up old wounds. I empathise with all abuse victims and their families, and pray for them that they might be able to find some healing. If I can be of any assistance in offering a space where stories of abuse can be shared, I am happy to make myself available.*

*For Catholics, Cardinal Pell has not just been one of us, but also one of our leaders. We have heard of Cardinal Pell being accused of knowing about abuse by priests and not acting to prevent it, but today's news has taken things to another level. Another one of our church leaders has been found guilty of sexual abuse against minors. Once again this gives rise to feelings of mistrust in the church we form part of. Can we still trust this institution which for so long has been so dear to us?*

*I have to admit I do not have an answer to these questions, I am struggling to make sense of things that are happening around us.*

*Allow me to humbly go back to a theme I have reflected upon a number of times. I still believe in a God of love as revealed to us in Jesus Christ, and I am very sure that my God is very angry at the abuse that has been carried out in his name. I am also aware that many of my sisters and brothers too hold on to their faith. This faith we all share is the bedrock of our community. As I struggle to make sense of what is happening around us, I still offer to be of service, as best as I can, to this community of faith.*

*I try to avoid to use the term 'church' and instead use more scriptural terms as 'Body of Christ,' 'People of God,' or 'community of faith.' I find it helpful to distinguish between our faith community and the institution that has been shown to be guilty of abuse.*

*I offer this reflection to you in the hope that it may help you make sense of events.*

... 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.*

**INVEST IN YOUR BEST ASSETT - 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 is involved; 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. Starting from Friday 7:00pm to Sunday 5:00pm. Accommodation and are meals provided. For further information and to book contact: Mercy and James (0409183676), vicbookings@wwme.org.au, Website:www.wwme.org.au

**SPIRITUAL DIRECTION:** Have you been wondering about seeing a spiritual director or enquiring about what spiritual direction is? We welcome your enquiry and would be happy to meet with you to introduce you to spiritual direction and how it can support you. To find out more contact enquiries@kardia.com.au.

**LENTEN MEN'S RETREAT:** Overcoming Temptation & Addiction. Friday 8th March (5:00pm) to Sunday 10th March (3:00pm), at St Dominic's Priory, 816 Riversdale Rd, Camberwell. The Dominican Friars invite young men (aged 18-40) to a weekend Lenten retreat including Mass, confession, adoration and presentations on the ascetical and mystical heritage of the Church's spiritual tradition to enable us to be free from vice and achieve the liberation of a life lived in the truth, beauty and goodness of Christ. Cost \$50 including meals. Places strictly limited, RSVP essential by 6th March Br Sebastian (sebastian.condon@op.org.au).

**ST JOHN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL REUNION:** on Saturday 16th March from 7:30pm at Cellini's Lounge and Bar, 191 Burgundy Str, Heidelberg. All past students, partners and parents welcome; please come and join the fun. Bring your dancing shoes! Nibblies supplied; drinks at bar prices.

**ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC 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

## **PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

**RECENTLY MARRIED:** Anna Mathai with Liam Reeves.

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

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Cornelius Power, Maurice Crameri, Kathleen Mulligan (Ward).  
**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Philip Heffernan.

*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 Mar / 3 Mar	<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	Tim Boyle	Olivia Sanders
	TBA	Christopher Ratnayake	TBA	TBA
9 Mar / 10 Mar	<b>Sat 6:00pm</b>	<b>Sun 8:30am</b>	<b>Sun 10:30am</b>	<b>Sun 5:00pm</b>
1st Reader	Michael Leonard	Jack Naden	Robyn Laurie	Sharon D'Souza
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader	Leela Cherubim	Garry Sproules	Adele Boyle	Candida Rowlands
Communion	Jeanette O'Sullivan	Pauline Griffiths	Vin Sier	Jenny Hollaway
	Domenica Ashworth	Fiona Curry	Liz Sier	Charito Cosio
	Emma Chang	Leo Hernandez	Tim Boyle	Leo Cosio
	TBA	Margaret Bradley	Yannick Jonas	Tony Rowlands
Counters	<b>3 Mar:</b> Nigel Mant, Shane Byrnes, Tim Booth. <b>10 Mar:</b> Vincent Chung, Bill Barnes, Peter O'Donoghue.			
<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.				

**MORNING TEA & SAUSAGE SIZZLE:** This Sunday after 10:30am Mass. All welcome. Gold coin donation to cover expenses of sausage sizzle, appreciated.

**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!

**SAVE THE DATE:** Parish Mission, from Monday 20th May to Wednesday 22nd May. A morning session (9:30am) and an evening session (7:30pm) are provided. The mission is a joint venture by the Heidelberg, Heidelberg West, Ivanhoe, Bulleen and Rosanna parishes. Fr Richard Lenard, a Jesuit priest, will be leading the parish mission. All welcome to join. More details in the coming weeks. Venue TBA.

**COMMUNITY CONVERSATION NIGHT:** Following the events of last Tuesday morning, I would like to offer the opportunity to come together as a community and share where we stand and how we feel as individuals and as a community with regards to our church and parish. This 'community conversation' where we can listen to each other in as spirit of support, openness and friendship, will be held this Thursday, 5th March, at 7:30pm in the school multi-purpose room. Everyone is invited to attend and participate.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY:** we require leaders and assistants to be able to organise our children's liturgy during the Sunday 10:30am Mass. All leaders and assistants need a current Working With Children Check. Please contact Jan McCaffery on 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 this Monday 4th March at the primary school at 8:45am.

**PANCAKE TUESDAY:** this Tuesday, 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:** This Wednesday. A 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.

**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):** Tuesday 12th March at 10:00am. 'Beyond the Gardens' A volunteer guide from the **Botanic Gardens Victoria** is visiting to take us on a virtual journey down the gardens' paths. At the Francis Xavier meeting room at the rear of the parish house. Transport available. Enquiries: Elizabeth (0447195553).

**ST JOHN'S WALKING GROUP:** Monday 4th March we leave from outside the parish house at 10:00am for Wilson Reserve in Ivanhoe. Following our walk we will have coffee in Eaglemont. Please let us know if you are able to join us. Contact Jan (0423 478 504).

**FIRST READING**

Sirach 27:4-7

In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind, so too the defects of a man appear in his talk. The kiln tests the work of the potter, the test of a man is in his conversation. The orchard where the tree grows is judged on the quality of its fruit, similarly a man's words betray what he feels. Do not praise a man before he has spoken, since this is the test of men.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Psalm 91:2-3. 13-16.

**TOGETHER:** Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

**LEFT SIDE (AMBO SIDE)**

It is good to give thanks to the Lord  
to make music to your name, O Most High,  
to proclaim your love in the morning  
and your truth in the watches of the night.

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

The just will flourish like the palm-tree  
and grow like a Lebanon cedar.

**LEFT SIDE (AMBO SIDE)**

Planted in the house of the Lord  
they will flourish in the courts of our God,  
still bearing fruit when they are old,  
still full of sap, still green,  
to proclaim that the Lord is just.  
In him, my rock, there is no wrong.

**TOGETHER:** Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

**SECOND READING**

1 Corinthians 15:54-58

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will come true: Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting? Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Never give in then, my dear brothers, never admit defeat; keep on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Shine on the world like bright stars; you are offering it the word of life.

Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Luke 6:39-45

Jesus told a parable to his disciples, 'Can one blind man guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciple will always be like his teacher. Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your own? Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother's eye.

'There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every tree can be told by its own fruit: people do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles. A good man draws what is good from the store of goodness in his heart; a bad man draws what is bad from the store of badness. For a man's words flow out of what fills his heart.'

**REMOVING THE PLANK**

I lived once with a senior priest who was rather prone to correcting the faults of others and putting them right when he thought they had got things wrong. Asked once by a younger member of the community whether he had ever been wrong himself, he replied: 'Just once—when I thought I had made a mistake but then discovered that I had been right all along!'

That man did a lot of good work over a long life. But perhaps he had not reflected on Jesus' words in today's Gospel today as much as he did on other parts of scripture.

The illustrations to which Jesus appeals—one blind person leading another; attempting to remove the splinter in a neighbour's eye when one has a plank in one's own—are exaggerated and humorous. The original hearers probably fell about laughing. It seems that Jesus often appealed to images like these in order to penetrate people's defences and get them to think. It is hard enough to know what is in one's own heart—to recognise the 'plank' that may be there, inhibiting right vision and accurate judgment. Yet, even so, we are still confident that we can see and so we set about commenting upon and seeking to root out the failings of others.

If God, who really does see the heart, acts with such generosity, understanding and compassion, then that—not judgment and condemnation—should surely be the model for human interaction.

Jesus' final image in the gospel invites us to ask what our thoughts, words and actions say about our own hearts.

Fr Brendan Byrne sj