



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 MARCH, 3RD SUNDAY IN LENT, YEAR C

Mabuhay sa Pilipinas

—Welcome to the Philippines—

#MissionImmersionExperience2020

**under the auspices of the
Paulist Missionaries (mssp)**

**visiting
Manila City
and
Bataan Province**

2nd January - 13th January 2020

**Applicants
between the ages of 18 and 35 will be given
first preference**

**Applicants
over the age of 35
will be considered
if vacancies arise**

The group will be hosted by the Paulist Missionaries for the duration of the visit.

For more information and to express interest in participating in Mission 2020 email: mission2020@mssp.org.au or call: 0403843796

Applications close 31st May 2020



**an
opportunity
to immerse
in a
different
culture
and
experience
the Church
working
among the
poor in the
Philippines**

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 ASSET -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

ANNUAL MISSION CONCERT: held by the Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver on 31st March at St Peter Claver Hall, 154 Cotham Road, Kew, 2pm start. Admission free—a collection will be taken during Concert. Proceeds go to assist Sr Donatus Kilole of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Mother of Christ working in the diocese of Nairobi, Kenya, in the very remote village of Timau.

SPARC Worship Night: at St Peter and Paul's Parish (23 Leeds Street, Doncaster East) on Saturday 30th March from 7:15pm! Open to all and free to attend.

ANNUAL CANTERBURY ROADER'S LUNCH: Thursday 11th April at Marcellin College, 11:30am for Mass in the chapel, 12:30pm for a college tour/drinks on the balcony and 1:00pm seated for lunch in the functions room. Bookings now open for Marcellin Old Collegians. \$60 per person includes a two-course lunch and drinks. Bookings at www.trybooking.com/474287 or call the Marcellin Foundation Office on 9851 1464.

OBERAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY AND ALPINE TOUR IN 2020: Organised by Meridian Travel of 159 Burgundy Street, Heidelberg. Information night on Thursday 28th March at 6:30pm. RSVP: 9458 1555 / sales@meridiantravel.com.au. Seats are limited!

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

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: Gregory Seymon, Shane Whitbread.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Tang Kan Foon, Mary Penny (former Principal of St John's School).

*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.*

23 Mar / 24 Mar	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Sue Lew-Kee	Garry Sproules	Michael Leonard	Des O'Brien
2 nd Reader	Grace Lew-Kee	Pietro Sciotto	Joanne Martinez	Rosemary Vecchies
Communion	Leela Cherubim	Margaret Bradley	Vin Sier	Matthew Sanders
	Domenica Ashworth	Peter O'Donoghue	Liz Sier	Olivia Sanders
	Emma Chang	Jack Naden	Nigel Mant	Charito Cosio
	TBA	Stanly Devasia	Marni Mant	Leo Cosio
30 Mar / 31 Mar	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Peter Penson	Karen Frost	Robyn Laurie	Leela Cherubim
2 nd Reader	Pamela Smith	Ronnie Maloney	Adele Boyle	Mary Kotefski
Communion	Lorraine Mascarenhas	Christopher Ratnayake	Adrian Daly	Jenny Hollaway
	Sue Lew-Kee	Pauline Griffiths	Ann Domaingue	Sally Tramontana
	Maria Basilone	Fiona Curry	Yannick Jonas	Des O'Brien
	Michelle Penson	Leo Hernandez	Brian McIntosh	TBA
Counters	24 Mar: Des O'Brien, Peter Peyton, Percival Makin & 31 Mar: Garry Sproules, Janice McGrath, Giuseppe Amoroso.			
Collection Weekly Average for February			Heidelcare Co-Ordinator	
Parish		Presbytery		March: Joan 0490 254 928
Stewardship	\$3,324.98	Stewardship	\$581.54	April: Rosemary 0490 254 928
Loose	\$584.77	Loose	\$312.50	
Thank you 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 February collection was \$547.00 Next collection will be on 30th and 31st March. Thank you for your generosity.

SAVE THE DATE: Parish Mission, from Monday 20th May to Wednesday 22nd May. A morning session at St Pius X, Heidelberg West (9:30am) and a repeat evening session at St Clement's, Bulleen (7:30pm) are provided. The mission is a joint venture by the Heidelberg, Heidelberg West, Ivanhoe, Bulleen and Rosanna parishes. Fr Richard Leonard, a Jesuit priest, will be leading the parish mission. All welcome.

MASSES WITH THE SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Thursday 4th April (*Please note change of date*) we invite parishioners, especially the sick and the elderly, for Mass with the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick at the 9:15am, followed by morning tea at Francis Xavier meeting room in the parish house, hosted by the Year 6 students, and at 11:30am, followed by light lunch. Parishioners in need of transport please contact the office as soon as possible.

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

PRAYING THE GOSPELS: During the season of Lent you are invited to join us as we reflect and pray the Sunday gospels. Every Monday at 7:00pm at the parish house. All welcome to join.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: each Friday in Lent, 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.

HOLY THURSDAY, WASHING OF THE FEET: Part of the Holy Thursday celebration includes the washing of the feet of twelve parishioners. Anyone who would like to participate in this celebration please put down your name on the sheet in the foyer or speak to Fr Mario.

PROJECT COMPASSION: Peter is thrilled to now have clean water on tap at his boarding school. Long walks to unsafe water sources were tiring for Peter, who is living with a disability. With more free time and fewer illnesses caused by dirty water, Peter can fulfil his hope of focusing on his studies, providing him with brighter future. Help young people with disabilities gain access to clean water in the Solomon Islands, providing hope for a brighter future. Donate through boxes / envelopes / 1800 024 413 / www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion. Let us help those who are poorer than us this Lent!

ST JOHN'S WALKING GROUP: This Monday, 25th March we will be meeting outside the parish house at 10:00am to walk to Ivanhoe and back. Coffee at Laurent Bakery, Ivanhoe. (Jan 0423478504).

GEMS 50+ (AND FRIENDS): FILM AND LUNCH: This Tuesday 26th March at 11:00am. Cost \$20 'Sometimes, Never, Always' is a heartfelt comedy drama about words and loss. It tells the story of family with an exceptional Scrabble vocabulary who cannot put their words to use and communicate with each other, and their journey to reconnect. Elizabeth (0447195553).

GEMS 50+ (AND FRIENDS): Tuesday 2nd April, from 10:00am to 12:00noon. Join us for an Italian themed morning and a cuppa. Francis Xavier meeting room at the back of the parish house. For information, contact Elizabeth (0447195553).

THANK YOU: To the many Parishioners at St John's, who have offered their support to me over the past several months in prayer, get well wishes and visiting me in hospital, thank you sincerely for lifting my spirits and helping me to slowly return to good health. My deepest gratitude to you all. Special thanks to Fr Ted, Fr Mario and Margaret Bradley.
...Marie Hankin

FIRST READING

Exodus 3:1-8. 13-15

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am' he answered. 'Come no nearer' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,' he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.'

Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 102:1-4. 6-8. 11

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 does deeds of justice,
gives judgement for all who are oppressed.
He made known his ways to Moses
and his deeds to Israel's sons.

RIGHT SIDE (PRIEST'S SIDE)

The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him.

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

1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

I want to remind you how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert.

These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer.

All this happened to them as a warning and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Repent, says the Lord;

the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

Luke 13:1-9

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."' "

REPENT WHILE THERE IS TIME

On his journey to Jerusalem, Jesus speaks as a prophet, summoning people to conversion. He does this, in today's gospel, by interpreting two well-known incidents and then telling a parable.

The first incident is an atrocity brought about by human cruelty. Orders from Pilate have brought about the massacre of a number of Galileans who were sacrificing in the temple.

The second, again involving large-scale loss of life, is due to natural causes: the fall of a tower in Siloam, leading to the death of eighteen persons.

Concerning both incidents, Jesus wards off a false conclusion that religious people are all too prone to draw: namely that the victims of such calamities were receiving divine punishment for a sinfulness from which others were free.

He then tells the parable about the fig tree to make the further point that, far from attempting to judge the sinfulness of others, everyone should interpret such events as a warning to take stock of their own lives lest far greater disaster—eternal ruin—befall them. Without speculating in any way about punishment, he simply points out that instances of sudden, unforeseen death should serve as a warning to all that the time, the space left for conversion, may be short.

As always, the urgency—the prophetic passion—of Jesus stems from his intense sense of what God wants to do for people: God wants to set us free for life and for love. There is time for that now. But the opportunity will not be there indefinitely.

Fr Brendan Byrne sj