



# 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.

## 6TH / 7TH APRIL, 5TH SUNDAY IN LENT, YEAR C

Dear Parishioners, Visitors and Friends

### THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS

In our faith community we are used to the idea that young children are presented by their parents and godparents to be baptised when they are still young, very often within their first year of life. At times this is not the case.

Sometimes people who have not been baptised as children, or people who grew up with no religion or in other non-Christian religions, ask to join our faith community. This is a very special event. These people are invited to journey for a period of a year as part of the programme called The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, in short referred to as RCIA.

It is a great privilege to be asked to share in this programme with these adults seeking to enter into a deeper relationship with Jesus as their Christ. Very often the RCIA programme starts immediately after Easter and runs for a year as these adults are prepared to be baptised the following Easter.

During this programme we study parts of the catechism especially looking at faith, prayer and the sacraments. While this programme is principally aimed at non-Christians wanting to join our faith community through baptism, it is also a very healthy and interesting programme for mature Christians who would like to develop and dig deeper into their faith. As I journey with candidates of the RCIA programme through the catechism, I always find it very interesting to re-visit what our faith is based on.

As we approach the feast of Easter in a few weeks' time, I would like to invite members of our parish, Catholic, Christian or non-Christian, to consider forming part of this programme for some time. The programme usually happens once every two weeks on a Monday evening, between 7:00 and 9:00pm. The programme usually starts with questions brought by the participants, the Sunday gospels and discussion of the Catechism.

Anyone who is interested in participating, please contact the office (94571066 / heidelberg@cam.org.au).

.... Mario

### HOLY WEEK AND EASTER CELEBRATIONS

#### PALM SUNDAY:

Saturday 13 April, 6:00pm Blessing of the palms in front of parish house garages followed by procession and Mass; Sunday 14 April, 8:30am Mass; 10:30am Blessing of the palms in front of parish house garages followed by procession and Mass; 5:00pm Mass.

#### RECONCILIATION:

Monday 15 April, 7:30pm.

#### HOLY THURSDAY:

18 April 7:30pm: Mass of the Lord's Supper and Washing of the Feet followed by Adoration in the parish hall. Evening Prayer at 10:00pm.

#### GOOD FRIDAY:

19 April, 10:30am: Stations of the Cross in the church and school grounds;

3:00pm: Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at the OLMC new Nalleijerring Centre.

#### HOLY SATURDAY:

20 April 9:00am: Morning Prayer; 8:00pm: Easter Vigil.

#### EASTER SUNDAY:

21 April, Masses at 7:00am, 8:30am and 10:30am

(No Evening Mass on Easter Sunday).

**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.*

**WEST HEIDELBERG READING CLUB:**  
Education = Opportunity, come put your faith into action. You can make a difference in the lives of tomorrow's young people by helping them learn to love reading today. Volunteer with Vinnies' Reading Club every Tuesday afternoon. Contact: Rachel 0418145985, Westheidelberg. reading@svdp-vic.org.au

**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](http://www.trybooking.com/474287) or call the Marcellin Foundation Office on 9851 1464.

**FAIRTRADE EASTER CHOCOLATES:** Last month, while speaking about modern slavery Pope Francis said that, faced with the tragic reality of modern slavery, 'no one can wash their hands of it, without being in some way, an accomplice to this crime against humanity.' Are you thinking of buying Easter eggs? Use your money justly – please. What Easter eggs will you enjoy this Easter? There is now a wide range of slavery-free chocolate and Easter eggs available, including a budget-priced range of UTZ certified products in ALDI, Coles and a wide selection at Haighs and OXFAM shops; Chocolatier also produces FAIRTRADE Easter chocolate.

**CHRISTIAN MEDITATION:** group meets in the multi faith chapel, Austin Towers, Level 2 at the Austin Hospital every Tuesday from 12:30 to 1:00pm. Meditation is a universal spiritual custom and a practice that we find at the core of all the great religious traditions, including the Christian tradition where it is known as contemplative prayer. The half hour period includes a short reflection and 20 minutes of silent meditation seeking God in the silence and stillness beyond word and thought leading from the mind to the heart. This is followed by a time for questions. For further information please contact Trudy 0416 187 849.

**FOOTSTEPS OF MARY MACKILLOP:** The Sisters of St Joseph invite you to join the 25th anniversary National Pilgrimage, giving you the opportunity to journey to places in Australia made holy by St Mary MacKillop. The pilgrimage starts in Melbourne 22nd October, visiting Penola, Adelaide and other significant places, and concludes in Sydney 2nd November 2019. Cost \$3,575 – \$4,390 (twin share) depending on capital city of departure (Australia or New Zealand). Single supplement for all areas \$685 pp. For a brochure, application form or further information: [national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au](mailto:national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au) or call Sr Therese Leydon rsj (0417 683 123), or Sr Annie Bond rsj (02 8912 4818).

## **PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

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

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Noel Byrnes, Eileen Byrnes, Kevin Byrnes, Joan O'Callaghan, William Collier, Vera O'Callaghan, Patricia and Frank Betts.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Anthony Barnes, Dane Malone.

*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.*

6 Apr / 7 Apr	<b>Sat 6:00pm</b>	<b>Sun 8:30am</b>	<b>Sun 10:30am</b>	<b>Sun 5:00pm</b>
1st Reader	Moira Di Cesare	Peter Penson	Karen Frost	Matthew Sanders
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader	Michael Leonard	Garry Sproules	TBA	Sharon D'Souza
Communion	Jeanette O'Sullivan	Margaret Bradley	Elizabeth Williamson	Matthew Sanders
	Marco Di Cesare	Val Wallis	Doris Schembri	Olivia Sanders
	Leela Cherubim	Ronnie Maloney	TBA	TBA
	TBA	Alice Wong	TBA	TBA
13 Apr / 14 Apr	<b>Sat 6:00pm</b>	<b>Sun 8:30am</b>	<b>Sun 10:30am</b>	<b>Sun 5:00pm</b>
1st Reader	Leela Cherubim	Marguerite Ryan	Adele Boyle	Rosemary Vecchies
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader	Peter Penson	Michael Leonard	Robyn Laurie	Candida Rowlands
Narrator	Domenica Ashworth	Jack Naden	Bob Dowling	Des O'Brien
Other Voices	Brian Garrone	Claire Newsome	TBA	Margaret Andrews
Communion	Emma Chang	Jerzy Kmita	Geraldine Manuel	Tony Rowlands
	Lorraine Mascarenhas	Oliver Kmita	Ann Domaingue	Jenny Hollaway
	Michelle Penson	Jack Naden	Tim Boyle	Charito Cosio
	TBA	Stanly Devasia	Yannick Jonas	Leo Cosio
Counters	<b>7 Apr:</b> Graeme Foote, Michael Tilley & <b>14 Apr:</b> Tim Booth, Nigel Mant, Shane Byrnes.			
<b>Collection Weekly Average for March</b>		<b>Heidelcare Co-Ordinator</b>		
Parish		Presbytery		March: Joan 0490 254 928
Stewardship	\$2,991.85	Stewardship	\$593.32	April: Rosemary 0490 254 928
Loose	\$554.04	Loose	\$295.00	Morning Tea, 7th April: Wendy & Barbara
<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:** After 10:30am Mass this Sunday. All welcome. Gold coin donation to cover expenses of sausage sizzle, appreciated.

**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.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (2ND RITE OF RECONCILIATION):** Monday 15th April we gather at 7:30pm for the celebration of the sacrament of Reconciliation. We start together with a gospel reading and a reflection, followed by individual confession. This will be the last opportunity for Reconciliation before Easter.

**REHEARSAL FOR ALL TAKING PART IN THE THREE DAYS OF EASTER:** Wednesday 17th April, 7:00pm Holy Thursday; 7:30pm Good Friday; 8:00pm Easter Vigil. It is very important that all taking part are present for these rehearsals. Thank you.

**PLEASE NOTE:** No adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesday night 17th April.

**PALM SUNDAY:** On Palm Sunday parishioners are invited to bring with them palm and olive branches or any other suitable greenery. These will be blessed before the Mass as we celebrate the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. It would be greatly appreciated if you could bring some extra pieces for parishioners who do not have access to suitable greenery.

**STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES:** The next instalment is ready to be picked up from the porch of the church. The envelopes are in alphabetical order. Thank you for your generosity. Your continued contributions help the parish meet all its financial commitments.

**PROJECT COMPASSION:** Michaela is a 21-year-old trainee at Purple House, a dialysis center in the Central Desert for people suffering from kidney disease. With the support of Caritas partners, Michaela is helping to build a social enterprise, a connection to culture and a new outlook for the chronically ill. Please donate to help provide essential health care, employment and training for First Australians like Michaela. Donate through boxes / envelopes / 1800 024 413 / [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion).

**ST JOHN'S WALKING GROUP:** On Monday 8th April the Walking Group will be meeting outside the parish house at 10:00am. We will then walk to Heidelberg Station to catch the train to Flinders Street Station then the tram to the War Memorial from where we will walk to the Botanic Gardens. We will walk around the gardens, have lunch in the café by the lake then walk back to catch the tram then train back to Heidelberg. Contact Jan (0423 478 504).

**GEMS 50+ (AND FRIENDS):** will take a two week break, therefore there are **no** gatherings on **Tuesday 9th and 16th April**. We resume again on Tuesday 23rd April.

**MEAL TRAIN:** We are looking to start a 'meal train' to provide meals to families currently affected by a chronic illness or death. Presently we have two families with mothers suffering from breast cancer. If you can help please register on <https://mealtrain.com/gw08ke> or contact Jessica McKirkle (0428 086 375).

**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. Fr Richard Leonard, a Jesuit priest, will be leading the parish mission. All welcome.

**FIRST READING**

Isaiah 43:16-21

Thus says the Lord, who made a way through the sea, a path in the great waters; who put chariots and horse in the field and a powerful army, which lay there never to rise again, snuffed out, put out like a wick:

No need to recall the past, no need to think about what was done before. See, I am doing a new deed, even now it comes to light; can you not see it? Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness, paths in the wilds.

The wild beasts will honour me, jackals and ostriches, because I am putting water in the wilderness (rivers in the wild) to give my chosen people drink. The people I have formed for myself will sing my praises.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Psalm 33:2-7

**TOGETHER:** The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

**LEFT SIDE**

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs.

**RIGHT SIDE**

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!'

What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad

**LEFT SIDE**

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land.

Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap.

**RIGHT SIDE**

They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing:

they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves.

**TOGETHER:** The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

**SECOND READING**

Philippians 3:8-14

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him. I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts, the perfection that comes from the Law, but I want only the perfection that comes through faith in Christ, and is from God and based on faith. All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I can assure you my brothers, I am far from thinking that I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

With all your heart turn to me,

for I am tender and compassionate.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

**GOSPEL**

John 8:1-11

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them.

The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and don't sin any more.'

**WHO MAY CAST THE STONE?**

It is so fitting that we should hear this moving gospel as Lent is about to give way to the mysteries of Jesus' passion.

It sets up a very basic question. Is sin something primarily to be punished? Or is it, on the contrary, a plight from which the sinner needs to be converted and set free?

The scribes and Pharisees are really just using the woman to set a trap for Jesus. If he refuses to see her punished, he is defying the Mosaic Law. If he judges that she be put to death, he will be usurping the prerogative of the Roman occupying power.

What Jesus wrote on the ground we do not know. But doing so put him right down there looking up at the woman from below, rather than judging her from on high. When eventually he speaks, it is simply to point out that the only person who could have a right to condemn another is one who has never sinned.

This way the punitive legal prescription simply falls away. If the eldest leaves first, that is because he has had a longer space of life in which to accumulate sin.

Jesus does not deny sin or condone it. But he has a better way of dealing with it than condemnation and punishment. His whole concern is to save the woman and set her on a path to a new life: 'Go and sin no more'.

As we move from Lent into Passiontide, the scene invites us to make the woman's experience of liberation our own.

Fr Brendan Byrne sj