



ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PARISH

52 Yarra Street

HEIDELBERG

We acknowledge the traditional 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.

St John's parish is a child-friendly community and we gratefully welcome young children and their families; we are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults in our midst.

17TH / 18TH AUGUST—20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YR C

Dear Parishioners, Visitors and Friends,

I realise that I am running my reflections a week behind! Last week I commented on the feast of Mary MacKillop when the feast day had already passed, and this week I am going to repeat the same thing. On Thursday we celebrated the feast of Mary Assumed into heaven; this is a great occasion that should not be let pass by, even if I comment some days later!

A current theme that we have been working with in our parish over the past few months, through our quarterly magazine, is a discussion about the role of women in the Church. Our last issue carried a number of very beautiful reflections on this topic, and our next issue will follow in this line.

Some of the women who wrote, made reference to Mary, the mother of Jesus. I believe there is a very essential link between Mary and the role of women in the Church today. After all Mary was the first woman who believed and who followed her son! She surely deserves to be called Mother of the Church, a very old title given to Mary, but which has been revived in the second Vatican Council and by Pope Francis. Mary not only gave us the Son of God, but was also the first one in faith!

Speaking about Mary, many spiritual authors have reflected that through her prayer and her reflection of the Word of God, God's Word took life in Mary's words and actions. The Word of God became flesh in the way Mary lived her life. This can be seen especially in her conversation with the Angel Gabriel and her willingness to declare: 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word!' (Luke 1:38) Mary willingly accepted God's will for her even if what was being proposed seemed impossible and she did not fully understand what was being asked of her. It was a very natural consequence that within Mary, the Word of God became real flesh in the person of Jesus!

Mary is also Mother of the Church because she was present at the birth day of the Church. The book of the Acts of the Apostles informs us that the apostles '... were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus....' (Acts 1:14) Within this space, in the 'upper room,' the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles and they started their ministry!

What made Mary so special in the life of the Church is her deep faith-filled relationship with the Word of God, first in prayer and then in the flesh! The Church is formed by believers in God's Word; we gather as Church so that we can share our faith and grow as a Body of Christ. We are all part of this Body; we all have a very important role in this Body.

With Mary and like Mary we need to grow in our faith and remain faithful in our relationship to God. We need each other to support and 'lean' against each other in times of trouble; but first we need to grow in our own individual faith and dig deep our roots of faith in the Word of God. Prayerful reflection on God's Word is a very important part of who we are as people of faith. We can only grow in faith if we spend time appreciating God's infinite love and mercy for us.

Go gently!

.... Mario

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Mario Zammit
PARISH SECRETARY: Mary Peeris
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
CHAIR: Christopher Ratnayake
CHILD SAFETY OFFICER:
 Michelle Robertson (0409 533 100)
COUNCIL MEMBERS:
 Domenica Ashworth
 Adrian Daly
 Moira Di Cesare
 Bob Dowling
 Mary Harty
 Maureen Hegarty
PARISH PROGRAMME COORDINATORS:
 Jan McCaffery (0423 478 504)
 Elizabeth Williamson (0447195553)
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

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.*

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN PARISH AGED CARE FACILITY:

Catholics living at 'The Views,' (corner of Waiora Road and Lower Plenty Road) are visited weekly by members of the parish offering them friendship, prayerful support, and the Sacrament of Communion. Parishioners who would like to participate in this ministry, please contact Fr Mario or the parish office. You would be rostered on once a month. Training provided.

THE AUSTRALIAN FAMILY ASSOCIATION:

invites you to Support Mothers & Babies by attending the Life Dinner on Saturday 24th August at 7:00pm. Venue: Aurora Receptions, 149 Donald St, East Brunswick. Registration forms in church porch or online at www.family.org.au

TREASURING OUR LATER YEARS -

Tuesdays, 1:00pm to 3:00pm/4:00pm, 20th August to 10th September. Ageing offers an opportunity to be awake to the new possibilities offered daily. This reflection series, led by Nicole Rotaru rsm, includes input, conversation and the opportunity to depth and integrate reflections and learnings through personal reflection and creative expressions. Sessions cover: Spirituality; Relationship; What is the meaning of my life?; Gratitude; Death - Mystery. Come to one or all. Cost \$30 per session. Contact Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation, Box Hill, 9890 1101 / holsc@bigpond.com

ST JOHN'S WALKING GROUP: Please join us for a walk along in the Darebin Parklands followed by a coffee at Becca Foodstore. We will leave from outside the parish house at 10:00am. Look forward to seeing you. Jan (0423478504).

GEMS 50+ (AND FRIENDS): The next **GEMS** gathering on Tuesday 20th August in the Francis Xavier meeting room at 10:00am. All welcome for a cards morning or just drop in for a cuppa. Transport available - 0447195553.

UPCOMING OUTING: Tuesday 27th August **MORNING MELODIES 'Classic Hits'** Lower Plenty Hotel, 4 Main Rd, Lower Plenty. Doors open at 9:30am and the show commences at 10:30am. Entertainment, coffee/tea, Devonshire Tea, lunch and a complementary beer, wine or soft drink. \$17 per person (payable on the day). Add your name to the list in the porch. Transport available - 0447195553

PARISH BOOK SWAP: Donations of reflective and spiritual books accepted, to help grow our new book swap shelf set up in the church foyer. You are welcome to browse and choose a book to read. **WARNING:** books you read may challenge you to start thinking differently! Contact Jan (0423478504).

COLLECT PLASTIC BOTTLE TOPS: Kindly place clean plastic bottle tops in the container in the church foyer. To read more visit: <https://envision.org.au/>

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

RECENTLY BAPTISED: Mackenzie Mikkelsen.

RECENTLY MARRIED: Jason Berthet with Michelle Vincitorio.

THE SICK: Giuseppe & Cynthia Amoroso, Mary Mc Brearty, Sheila Mc Grath, Keiran Mc Grath, Peter Crowley, Christopher Dabal, Peggy Preston, Tom Suri, Jean Webb, Shannol Sarikamis, Lina Poon, Eleanor Bowring.

ANNIVERSARIES: Wally Richardson, Mary Rees, Maureen Brennan, Bernard Ryan, Sheut Poon, Giovanni Giangiulli, Franci Widjanarko.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Mary Palmer, David Meilak, Giuseppina Lepore.

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

17 Aug/18 Aug	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Pamela Smith	Ronnie Maloney	Michael Leonard	Rosemary Vecchies
2 nd Reader	Moira Di Cesare	TBA	Michelle Robertson	Matthew Sanders
Communion	Jan McCaffrey	Peter O'Donoghue	Mary Furlan	Mark Aiello
	Donna Richardson	Margaret Bradley	Elizabeth Williamson	Leo Cosio
	Marco Di Cesare	Alice Wong	Geraldine Manuel	Charito Cosio
	Adrian Daly	Pauline Griffiths	Brian McIntosh	Jenny Hollaway
24 Aug/25 Aug	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Jan Mc Caffrey	Marguerite Ryan	Bob Dowling	Margaret Andrews
2 nd Reader	Grace Lew-Kee	Garry Sproules	Karen Frost	Mary Kotefski
Communion	Leela Cherubim	Fiona Curry	Doris Schembri	Sally Tramontana
	Sue Lew-Kee	Oliver Kmita	Nigel Mant	Des O'Brien
	Maria Basilone	Jerzy Kmita	Marni Mant	Matthew Sanders
	Emma Chang	Bobbie Bartkus	Yannick Jonas	Olivia Sanders
Counters	18 Aug: Stephen Devenish, Nicole Pelizzaro, Thomas Bechelli & 25 Aug: Leo Cosio, Leo Hernandez, Yannick Jonas.			
Collection Weekly Average for July			Heidelcare Co-Ordinator	
Parish		Presbytery		August: Cath 0490 254 928
Stewardship	\$3,171.46	Stewardship	\$548.72	September: Marilyn 0490 254 928
Loose	\$631.12	Loose	\$315.00	
Thank you for supporting St John's financially. Please advise if your credit card is lost/stolen or the expiry date has changed.				

AUSTIN MASS: this Sunday 18th August. Volunteers please meet at 8:30am for 9:30am Mass. Parishioners are also invited to participate in this Mass to minister to the sick by their presence.

GOLD COIN COLLECTION: Next weekend 24th/25th August, at all Masses. The July collection was \$511.40. Thank you for your generosity.

STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES: The next instalment including monthly, quarterly and yearly envelopes for next year are ready to be picked up from the porch of the church, in surname alphabetical order. Thank you for your generosity. Your continued contributions help the parish meet all its financial commitments.

END OF FINANCIAL YEAR TAX RECEIPTS: are available upon request from the parish office. Please call or email on heidelberg@cam.org.au or 94571066. Please note: donations to the parish are not tax-deductible. Thank you for your support.

MEETING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR PARISH: from year 4 and older. Saturday 31st August after 6:00pm Mass. Meeting for a BBQ dinner and a movie in the parish hall. RSVP: stjohnsyouth@hotmail.com or ring the parish office. All welcome. Parents also welcome as helpers - Working with Children Check required.

ANNUAL MASS OF ALL NATIONS: Sunday 25th August. Rosary at 2:00pm followed by Mass at 3:00pm at St Patrick's Cathedral. Pope Francis explains: 'when we show concern for migrants, refugees and people seeking asylum, we also show concern for ourselves, for everyone; in taking care of them, we all grow; in listening to them, we also give a voice to a part of ourselves.' All welcome to reflect and celebrate the lives and stories of those seeking protection and safety in our communities.

CATHOLIC MAN BREAKFAST: Friday the 20th September; speaker Fr Leo Patalinhug. A high profile chef, TV host and martial arts exponent; his tools of evangelising. Cost: \$50, group discounts available. From 7:00am to 9:00am. At Athenaeum Club, 87 Collins St Melbourne. Topic: 'be a man and feed your family.' Enquiries: michael.bohan@menalive.org.au

PERMANENT DIACONATE: an enquiry meeting will be held on 31st August for single or married men interested in learning more about becoming permanent deacons. The meeting is from 10:00am to 11:00am at the Catholic Theological College (CTC), 278 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne. Further details about the permanent deacons can also be obtained at www.cam.org.au/permanent-diaconate.

CATHOLIC CARE SUNDAY APPEAL COLLECTION: last week was \$1,498.55. Thank you for your generosity.

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020: Listen to what the Spirit is saying. You can download the Final Report for the first phase of the Plenary Council: Listening and Dialogue from <http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/reports>

ROVING REFILLS: will be at St John's church car park on Sunday 29th September from 9:00am to 12 noon. The objective of Roving Refills is to change the way we access and consume products that are unnecessarily packaged, usually in plastic containers. By adding to the growing BYO container movement, we hope to reduce waste created by single-use bottles/containers and to conserve the natural resources used to make them. We hope to provide an affordable alternative to packaged detergents, cleaners and shampoo/conditioner. We do not make any products ourselves - we choose our suppliers based on the quality of their products, their ability and willingness to take back the containers we buy from them, and their location (in an effort to reduce the distance products travel).

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 38:4-6.8-10

The king's leading men spoke to the king. 'Let Jeremiah be put to death: he is unquestionably disheartening the remaining soldiers in the city, and all the people too, by talking like this. The fellow does not have the welfare of this people at heart so much as its ruin.' 'He is in your hands as you know,' King Zedekiah answered 'for the king is powerless against you.' So they took Jeremiah and threw him into the well of Prince Malchiah in the Court of the Guard, letting him down with ropes. There was no water in the well, only mud, and into the mud Jeremiah sank.

Ebed-melech came out from the palace and spoke to the king. 'My lord king,' he said, 'these men have done a wicked thing by treating the prophet Jeremiah like this: they have thrown him into the well where he will die.' At this the king gave Ebed-melech the Cushite the following order: 'Take three men with you from here and pull the prophet Jeremiah out of the well before he dies.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 39:2-4

TOGETHER: Lord, come to my aid!**LEFT SIDE**

I waited, I waited for the Lord
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry.

RIGHT SIDE

He drew me from the deadly pit,
from the miry clay.
He set my feet upon a rock
and made my footsteps firm.

LEFT SIDE

He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God.
Many shall see and fear
and shall trust in the Lord.

RIGHT SIDE

As for me, wretched and poor,
the Lord thinks of me.
You are my rescuer, my help,
O God, do not delay!

TOGETHER: Lord, come to my aid!**SECOND READING**

Hebrews 12:1-4

With so many witnesses in a great cloud on every side of us, we too, then, should throw off everything that hinders us, especially the sin that clings so easily, and keep running steadily in the race we have started. Let us not lose sight of Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection: for the sake of the joy which was still in the future, he endured the cross, disregarding the shamefulness of it, and from now on has taken his place at

the right of God's throne. Think of the way he stood such opposition from sinners and then you will not give up for want of courage. In the fight against sin, you have not yet had to keep fighting to the point of death.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them,
and they follow me.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 12:49-53

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already! There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress till it is over!

'Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on a household of five will be divided: three against two and two against three; the father divided against the son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

NO PEACE WITHOUT CHANGE OF HEART

A tough message that we hear from Jesus in the gospel today! "Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth?" Well, was not that the message that the angels announced on the night he was born—"Peace on earth to people of good will?" But here he is saying, not peace, but division—division especially within families. What are we to make of it all?

Jesus may in fact have come to bring peace but it is no simple matter for that peace to be received. His message calls for conversion of heart. It challenges deep seated views and comfortable arrangements—especially social arrangements that privilege a few people while many others miss out.

Bringing God's peace to the world will mean for Jesus conflict with the authorities of his people and ultimately death on a cross. It is only after he has emerged from that conflict, victorious in resurrection on the third day, that he will say to his shattered disciples, "Peace be with you" (Luke 24:36). So there is a cost to being a peace-bringer to a world that may long for peace but not be prepared to confront the cost that true peace requires.

Even the most basic human institutions are not exempt from the challenge that following Jesus' way requires. Saint Francis of Assisi and many other saints who, like him, followed Jesus in a very radical way, had to break with their families in so doing. It is that sort of challenge that Jesus is being clear about in the Gospel.

Fr Brendan Byrne sj