



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.

7TH / 8TH SEPTEMBER - 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YR C

Dear Parishioners, Visitors and Friends,

Two Sundays ago I started reflecting on the weekly parish collections. As I said earlier, at St John's we only take up one collection during Mass. Our stewardship / thanksgiving envelopes have two sides: the left side is referred to as the 'parish collection' and the right side as the 'priest's collection.' Similarly some people choose to contribute monthly, quarterly or annually by credit card or direct debit, and they too have to nominate whether they wanted their contribution to go to the parish or to the priest.

As a parish we depend very heavily on the money that is contributed through the parish collection. The parish community thanks you for your generous weekly contributions and invite you to regularly consider whether it would be possible for you to increase your contribution. As we are all aware, our expenses are always rising and often our income does not increase at the same rate. It is also important for us to 'pledge' an amount we can afford to contribute regularly, and we kindly ask you to honour your pledged amount. This helps us plan future programmes based on the expected income.

Money gathered in the parish collection is spent on wages for our parish staff, maintenance of parish buildings and planning any future developments, and pastoral programmes. While the daily administration of parish finances are managed by parish staff, this is regularly reviewed by the Parish Finance Committee and the Parish Pastoral Council. An Annual Financial Statement is presented to the Finance Office in the archdiocese and a report is published in our weekly newsletter. Statements can also be provided to anyone who requires them; the law does not permit the parish to give tax-deductible receipts, only money that goes directly to education can attract tax deduction. No money is given by the school to the parish.

The money contributed to the priest's collection is banked into a separate presbytery (parish house) account. 20% of this income is forwarded to the archbishop to cover his expenses and another 25% is given to the Priests' Retirement Fund and the Priests' Remuneration Fund to support retired priests and priests who are in parishes where they do not receive enough income in their priest's collection.

From the remaining money parish priests get their wages (\$5,000 quarterly) and a car capital allowance (\$1,650 quarterly). Parish priests also use money in the priest's collection to cover their living expenses. The parish does not keep a record of contributions given to the priest's collection and no receipts are issued for donations to this collection. A quarterly statement of income and expenditure is sent to the Priests' Remuneration Fund.

Finally, our weekly collection also contains 'loose' money, this does not form part of any stewardship / thanksgiving programme. Two-thirds of the loose money is given to the parish collection and the other third becomes part of the priest's collection.

While thanking you all for your support to parish and priests, I strongly encourage all members of the parish to consider being part of the stewardship / thanksgiving programme by asking for a set of envelopes or by asking to be part of credit card or direct debit giving. Please contact the office for details.

Thank you

.... 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.*

A PRAYER FOR STRONGER

COMMUNITIES, SAFER CHILDREN

Gracious God, you said "Let the children come to me". The hurt felt by those wounded by abuse weighs heavily upon us. Trust has been eroded when institutions failed to appropriately respond to their needs. Lord, we as your Church stand in need of your healing and help.

We ask you, God, to strengthen and guide all in our Catholic communities. Grant us wisdom in our time to make decisions that protect children and the vulnerable. May our families and communities, through love, generosity, commitment and patience, build stronger communities safe for children. Let your grace and love fall gently upon our children giving them the inner strength, peace and resilience they will need for their life's journey. We ask you, God, to help our Catholic communities to be resolute in building a community where our children flourish and are safe. Amen

CHILD PROTECTION SUNDAY: This weekend, the Catholic Church in Australia marks Child Protection Sunday, on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings. We recommit to practices that support survivors and make the Catholic Church and its ministries the safest possible place for children and vulnerable adults. You can find out more about the Church's work in this area at: www.catholic.org.au/responseandprevention

REFLECTION DAY BY MISSIONARY SOCIETY

OF ST PAUL: Saturday 12th October from 10:00am to 3:00pm at St James the Apostle Parish, 330 Derrimut Road Hoppers Crossing. Topic: Joseph De Piro - Charism, Mission and Service within our contemporary world. Facilitator Joan Jennings. Donation \$10.00, including lunch. RSVP 9th October
hopperscrossingnorth@cam.org.au

SILENT DIRECTED RETREAT: 14th to 21st November, directors: Marlene Marburg and Bernadette Miles at Holy Cross Centre, Templestowe. Cost: \$1,390 for full retreat / \$199 per day, includes accommodation, meals and daily spiritual direction. A privileged time to tune out the noise and distractions of our regular routines to more intentionally focus on our relationship with God. A beautiful environment, silence and daily spiritual direction in which you can rest and reconnect to the source of life. Also possible to make a shorter retreat during this time. Information and bookings: Kardia, Holy Cross Centre, 208 Serpells Rd, Templestowe. enquiries@kardia.com.au

BIRTH OF A CHILD, MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS

AND ANNIVERSARIES: As a parish family we are invited to thank God, acknowledge and pray for parishioners celebrating milestone birthdays, anniversaries or the birth of a child. Kindly inform the parish office of these occasions at least a week prior to the celebration.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

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

ANNIVERSARIES: Sereno Pellizzaro, Wal Kennedy, Ray Vallence, Patrick O'Donnell.

RECENTLY DECEASED: John Kerr (Senior), Robert Ingram.

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.

7 Sep/8 Sep	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Moira Di Cesare	Marguerite Ryan	Michael Leonard	Mark Aiello
2 nd Reader	Brian Garrone	Claire Newsome	Joanne Martinez	TBA
Communion	Sue Lew-kee	Jerzy Kmita	Leo Hernandez	Leo Cosio
	Marco Di Cesare	Oliver Kmita	Yannick Jonas	Charito Cosio
	Leela Cherubim	Fiona Curry	Nigel Mant	Matthew Sanders
	Donna Richardson	Margaret Bradley	Marni Mant	Olivia Sanders
14 Sep/15 Sep	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Sue Lew-Kee	Peter Penson	Bob Dowling	Matthew Sanders
2 nd Reader	Grace Lew-Kee	Michael Leonard	Michelle Robertson	Catie Nesbitt
Communion	Adrian Daly	Bill Barnes	Ann Domaingue	Olivia Sanders
	Lorraine Mascarenhas	Barbara Barnes	Tim Boyle	Jenny Hollaway
	Maria Basilone	Peter O'Donoghue	Mary Furlan	Sally Tramontana
	Noel Micallef	Val Wallis	Elizabeth Williamson	Leela Cherubim
Counters	8 Sep: Des O'Brien, Peter Peyton, Percival Makin & 15 Sept: Garry Sproules, Janice McGrath, Giuseppe Amoroso.			
Collection Weekly Average for August			Heidelcare Co-Ordinator	
Parish		Presbytery		September: Marilyn 0490 254 928
Stewardship	\$3,953.13	Stewardship	\$709.29	October: Marilyn 0490 254 928
Loose	\$726.95	Loose	\$375.00	
Thank you for supporting St John's financially. Please advise if your credit card is lost/stolen or the expiry date has changed.				

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no morning Mass on the Mondays during the month of September, a communion service will be held at 9:15am instead. The parish office will remain opened as usual. Thank you for your continued support. Fr Mario.

AUSTIN MASS: Communion Service at the chapel next Sunday 15th September. Volunteers please meet at 8:30am for 9:30am . Thank you.

GEMS 50+ (AND FRIENDS): Tuesday September 10th at 10.00am in the Francis Xavier Meeting Room. All welcome to join us for a Chair Zumba session. There are many benefits of Zumba including improved muscular strength and endurance, improved cardiovascular system, improved range of motion, improved posture, reduction of stress and anxiety and of course - enjoyment. Join in or just watch and enjoy the music. Transport available. Elizabeth 0447195553.

UPCOMING OUTING. CINEMA MORNING: Tuesday October 8th 'Downton Abbey' Palace Cinema, at 11.00am, 231 Whitehorse Road, Balwyn. Cost \$20 - movie and lunch. Following on from the television series, 'Downton Abbey' follows the Crawley family and the servants who worked for them at the turn of the 20th century in an Edwardian English country house. Please add your name to the sheet in the foyer if you would like to attend. Transport available. Elizabeth 0447195553.

ST JOHN'S WALKING GROUP: on Monday 9th September will leave from outside the Parish House at 10am to walk to the Main Yarra Trail from where we will explore part of the Banyule Wetlands. Please feel welcome to join our walk. Jan 0423478 504.

PARISH BOOK SWAP: Please make use of the small collection of books in the church foyer. You are welcome to borrow any book.

PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FOUNDATION APPEAL: The Appeal totaled \$1,430.90. Thank you for your generosity.

WOMEN AND SPIRITUALITY: Women of all ages invited to gather to explore and deepen their spirituality in a relaxed, welcoming environment. On Wednesday 2nd October, 1:00 to 3:00pm, Jane Ormonde, a spiritual director and pastoral carer, will explore with 'Listening to self, Listening to God and Listening to Nature.' On Thursday 7th November, 1:00 to 3:00pm, Cath Connelly, a spiritual director, retreat leader and one of the world's finest harp players, will explore Celtic Spirituality and introduce her beautiful harp playing. Sessions in the Francis Xavier meeting room. Donation of \$5.00 appreciated. To register contact Jan (0423478504)

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).

BOTTLE TOPS TO MAKE PROSTHETIC HANDS FOR CHILDREN: Thank you for your kind work. Please note: only caps with a '2' or '4' on the actual cap (not the bottle) can be used. The number must be stand alone, not within a code. This generally includes soft drink, water and milk bottle caps. Numbers are located on the underside of the cap. Caps without numbers are unusable as we have no way of knowing what grade plastic they are. Please rinse caps and ensure that no extra plastic, metal or other material is attached

FIRST READING*Wisdom 9:13-18*

What man can know the intentions of God? Who can divine the will of the Lord? The reasonings of mortals are unsure and our intentions unstable; for a perishable body presses down the soul, and this tent of clay weighs down the teeming mind. It is hard enough for us to work out what is on earth, laborious to know what lies within our reach; who, then, can discover what is in the heavens? As for your intention, who could have learnt it, had you not granted Wisdom and sent your holy spirit from above? Thus have the paths of those on earth been straightened and men been taught what pleases you, and saved, by Wisdom.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM*Psalm 89:3-6. 12-14. 17*

TOGETHER: In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

LEFT SIDE

You turn men back into dust
and say: 'Go back, sons of men.'
To your eyes a thousand years
are like yesterday, come and gone,
no more than a watch in the night.

RIGHT SIDE

You sweep men away like a dream,
like grass which springs up in the morning.
In the morning it springs up and flowers:
by evening it withers and fades.

LEFT SIDE

Make us know the shortness of our life
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever?
Show pity to your servants.

RIGHT SIDE

In the morning, fill us with your love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Let the favour of the Lord be upon us:
give success to the work of our hands.

TOGETHER: In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

SECOND READING*Philemon 9-10, 12-17*

This is Paul writing, an old man now and, what is more, still a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for a child of mine, whose father I became while wearing these chains: I mean Onesimus. I am sending him back to you, and with him – I could say – a part of my own self. I should have liked to keep him with me; he could have been a substitute for you, to help me while I am in the chains that the Good News has brought me. However, I did not want to do anything without your consent; it would have been forcing your act of kindness, which should be spontaneous. I know you have been deprived of Onesimus for a time, but it was only so that you could have him back for ever, not as a slave any more, but something much better than a slave, a dear brother; especially dear to me, but how much more to you, as a blood-brother as well as a brother in the Lord. So if all that we have in common means anything to you, welcome him as you would me.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Let your face shine on your servant,
and teach me your laws.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL*Luke 14:25-33*

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

'And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying, "Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish." Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.'

THE COST OF FOLLOWING JESUS

Today's Gospel contains some of the most demanding utterances attributed to Jesus. Yet, Jesus is simply being honest with his disciples. He foresees that they will inevitably get caught up in the suffering and death he now sees to lie ahead of himself. It would do them no service to keep them ignorant of this. He must prick any illusions they have about where following him might lead.

Jesus does this, initially, in the strong language about 'hating' one's 'father, mother, etc.' Here we should see a Semitic idiom at work. It is not a matter of literally coming to 'hate' one's family members in the way that English expression might suggest. Semitic languages, by and large, do not have a word for 'prefer.' What Jesus is saying, then, is that family allegiances—so strong in the Palestinian culture of Jesus—have to take second place as far as following him is concerned. Those who adopt his mission, his commitments, and his way of life will inevitably cause pain and sacrifice to those who hold them dear and who perhaps have other plans for them. Hence would-be disciples need to count the cost—a process Jesus illustrates with the parables concerning the builder and the king.

Finally, the most radical challenge for a would-be disciple—to give up 'all possessions'—has to be heard in the context of the heart of Jesus' message, that is, his invitation to the kingdom. In comparison with this supreme good the losses entailed in the present conditions of discipleship find some proportion.

Fr Brendan Byrne sj