



ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PARISH
& PRIMARY SCHOOL

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.

9TH / 10TH NOVEMBER—32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YR C

Dear Parishioners, Visitors and Friends,

'Who am I to judge?' (Pope Francis 2013)

On the last two Sundays, 27th October and 3rd November, we had two interesting gospel parallel readings where one of the characters chose to play the part of God and judge the sinner.

In the first case we had the parable of the 'holy' Pharisee, who boasts in front of God that he obeys all the precepts of the Law, while putting down the tax-collector standing behind him. In this case Jesus points out that the sinner goes back home reconciled with God, not the Pharisee.

Last Sunday we had the story of another tax-collector, Zacchaeus, who is marginalised by the community because of his role in the socio-political system. When Jesus goes to eat with Zacchaeus, the crowds are disgusted, because he has chosen to share life with a sinner!

The 'holy' Pharisee and the crowd around Jesus, while outwardly doing what the Law expects of them, have not listened to the message of the good news with their hearts. The first message of Jesus is not Law but mercy. When Pope Francis was asked whether there was conflict between truth and mercy, or doctrine and mercy, the pope responded: "I will say this: mercy is real; it is the first attribute of God.... Theological reflections on doctrine or mercy may then follow, but let us not forget that mercy is doctrine. Even so, I love saying: mercy is true." (Pope Francis quoted in 'The Name of God is Mercy,' 2017)

It is very easy to slip into the mistake of the Pharisee and of the crowd; we want to do God a favour and judge our sisters and brothers before he can get to it himself. What we do not understand is that God is not a human judge but a divine God. While God created us in his own image and likeness, we feel we can return him the favour by investing him with human qualities.

A human judge has the duty to judge according to written law; the human judge cannot see beyond the surface and can only judge according to what is seen and guided by agreed written law. God sees what is hidden from our human eyes. God can see beyond human behavior into deeper human intentions and human 'handicaps.' Moreover, while we think we are doing God a favour by sticking to the written law, God uses the higher measure of mercy when he looks at our actions. In his justice, God applies mercy, love and forgiveness before any written law.

Only God is all holy and perfect; we are all sinners in need of God's love, mercy and forgiveness. We all need to be thankful that God does not start from the written law but from mercy and love. In the gospel Jesus warns us: "Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. For with the judgment you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get." (Mt 7:1-2)

Behind every sinner, there is a human person in the image and likeness of God. Behind every divorced and remarried person, every person who commits adultery, every drug addict, illegal immigrant, homosexual, murderer or any type of sinful activity, there is an image of God. While we cannot approve of the act, our Christian faith asks us to support the sinner. Through our respect and love for the human person, the sinner may even return to God!

.... Mario

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Mario Zammit
PARISH SECRETARY: Mary Peeris
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
CHAIR: Christopher Ratnayake
SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE CHAIR:
Michelle Penson (0499 891 101)
COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Domenica Ashworth; Timothy Boyle
Margaret Bradley
Adrian Daly
Moira Di Cesare
Karen Frost
Russell Lew-Kee
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.*

SPECIAL COLLECTION IN SUPPORT OF MINISTRY AMONG THE DEAF: Next weekend, 16th and 17th of November, we will be having the Catholic Deaf Appeal at all Masses. Thank you for your support.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY ASSISTING REFUGEE STUDENTS: through Mercy Works Ltd. to support refugee students and asylum seekers in primary and secondary schools across Melbourne. Commitment is approximately half a day per week for four school terms. Experience working in an educational setting is preferred but not limited to. Training day for new volunteers end of November. Enquiries and application to Sr. Mary Lewis rsm at somml@bigpond.com (preferred for contact). www.mercyworks.org.au, 9326 1895

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID COURSE: Neal Murphy a parish catechist at Lady of the Pines parish is a qualified mental health first aid facilitator and is hosting a two day course on the 23rd and 30th November from 9:00am to 4:00pm in the Judy Abbot room in the Peace Centre, 77 Carbine Str, Donvale. Cost: \$20 includes text book, and certificate. Contact 9841 8354 or donvale@cam.org.au. Bookings are essential.

COME AND MEET MATTHEW: his gospel and his Jesus. On three Thursday evenings: 28th November, 5th & 12th December from 7:30 to 9:30pm at St Thomas the Apostle Church, Diamond Creek Road Greensborough North. By the Catholic School of Evangelisation. Donation only. Details: Sandra 9434 7553.

ST JOHN'S WALKING GROUP: On Monday 11th November we will travel to and explore the beautiful Jells Park, Waverley and later will have lunch at Madeleine's Café in Jells Park. All are very welcome to join us. To register please contact Jan 0423478504.

GEMS 50+ (AND FRIENDS): Tuesday, November 12th we will be visiting the Dandenong Botanic Gardens (formerly the Rhododendron Gardens). The bus leaves from Yarra Street outside the parish house at 10.30.

GEMS UPCOMING: Tuesday 19th November we invite you to a talk by **Gerald Quigley**, practicing community pharmacist, master herbalist, media health commentator and author. These joint qualifications give him a unique overview of health from a holistic perspective. He is happy to answer questions related to illnesses and medications. Many of you would of heard him on 3AW's, 'House of Wellness' on a Sunday morning. All welcome. Francis Xavier meeting room at the rear of the parish house at 10:00am. Elizabeth 0447195553

BACK AGAIN, BOTTLE TOPS TO MAKE PROSTHETIC HANDS FOR CHILDREN: We are collecting bottle tops again! Only plastic tops with the number 2 or 4 printed on the inside can be collected. This generally includes soft drink, water and milk bottle tops. Please clean tops and remove any extra plastic, metal or paper. Thank you.

CELEBRATION OF SIGNIFICANT ANNIVERSARIES: Please inform the parish office so we can celebrate with you as a community.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

RECENTLY BAPTISED: Sam Valente, Abigail Kukkuk, Billie Russell, William Aver, Edward & Audrey Branagan.

THE SICK: Giovanni Mirabella, Vita Nativo, Constance Anne Chang, Cynthia & Giuseppe Amoroso, Anna Cottrell, Christopher Dabal, Gordon Eng, Sheila McGrath, Keiran Mc Grath, Mary Wright.

ANNIVERSARIES: Paul Sullivan, Francis Murphy.

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.

9/10 Nov	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Noel Micallef	Garry Sproules	Elizabeth Williamson	Matthew Sanders
2 nd Reader	Grace Lew-Kee	Claire Newsome	Michelle Robertson	Mary Kotefski
Communion	Sue Lew-Kee	Alice Wong	Yannick Jonas	Jenny Hollaway
	Leela Cherubim	Chris Ratnayake	Tim Boyle	Sally Tramontana
	Domenica Ashworth	Pauline Griffiths	Mary Furlan	Des O'Brien
	Lorraine Mascarenhas	Margaret Bradley	Elizabeth Williamson	Olivia Sanders
16/17 Nov	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Anita Metcalf	Peter Penson	Claire Newsome	Leela Cherubim
2 nd Reader	Brian Garrone	TBA	Joanne Martinez	Rosemary Vecchies
Communion	Adrian Daly	Oliver Kmita	Geraldine Manuel	Mark Aiello
	Maria Basilone	Jerzy Kmita	Ann Domaingue	Leo Cosio
	Emma Chang	Val Wallis	Liz Sier	Charito Cosio
	Jeanette O'Sullivan	Bobbie Bartkus	VinSier	Sally Tramontana
Counters	10 Nov: Garry Sproules, Janice McGrath, Giuseppe Amoroso & 17 Nov: Graeme Foote, Michael Tilley.			
Collection Weekly Average for October				Heidelcare Co-Ordinator
Parish		Presbytery		November: Joan 0490 254 928
Stewardship	\$2,961.67	Stewardship	\$620.73	December: Elaine 0490 254 928
Loose	\$714.62	Loose	\$357.50	

Thank you for supporting St John's financially. Please advise if your credit card is lost/stolen or the expiry date has changed.

AUSTIN COMMUNION SERVICE: next Sunday 17th November. Volunteers please meet at 8:30am for 9:30am Mass. Parishioners are invited to participate in this Mass to minister to the sick by their presence.

NOVEMBER MASSES: envelopes are available in the porch of the church and can be dropped off at the parish office, sacristy or in the Sunday collections. Names of our departed loved ones will be placed on the altar and remembered at all Masses. You can also write the names of your loved ones in the register next to the baptism font.

CHRISTMAS MARKET: Sunday 24th November, from 9am to 12.30pm in the parish hall. You can purchase handmade and hand painted Christmas cards, Christmas decorations, soap and artist printed cards, paintings, Christmas sweets etc. To set up a stall please contact Jan (0423478504). All are welcome.

CHRISTMAS GIFT CARDS: We give and receive many gifts during Christmas. Many gifts are simply put aside soon after. This Christmas you can give a gift that lasts! You can give your gift to those less fortunate by buying an MSSP Gift Card. Money donated go to support the education of the young adults, members of the Jose' De Piro Kabataan Orkestra in the Philippines. You can nominate the amount you would like to donate. For further information contact the parish office.

JOURNEYING IN HOPE: On Friday 6th December at 7:30pm, we gather as a parish community around parishioners who have lost a loved one during the past twelve months. Please contact parish office (94571066 / heidelberg@cam.org.au) to RSVP. Please come early before Mass and write down your name and the name of the person/s you have come to remember. Please bring a photograph of your loved ones. Everyone invited. A light supper will be served after Mass.



St Vincent de Paul Society
VICTORIA
good works

VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL: As Christmas approaches St John's Vinnies conference is preparing to assist those less fortunate in our area. Please donate non-perishable food items for the hampers to be given to needy families.

Kindly only donate items from this list: *tinned ham, tinned tuna, tinned vegetables, tinned fruit, breakfast cereals, Christmas cakes, mince tarts, chocolates, tea, coffee, Milo, sugar, rice, pasta, and pasta sauce.* Donations by Monday 3rd December, latest. A money collection will be held on the weekend of 14/15 December. Thank you.

2020 COLUMBAN CALENDARS: can be purchased for \$10.00 from the parish office or the church vestry before or after Mass. Christmas cards are also available for \$7 a pack of 10. Proceeds support the work of our parish St Vincent de Paul society conference.

WALKING TALL: A JOURNEY TOWARDS TREATY AND RECONCILIATION: Rerum Novarum Oration. Tuesday 26th November, 7:30pm, in the Philippa Brazil Theatre, Australian Catholic University, 8 Brunswick Str., Fitzroy. Orator: Ms Eleanor Burke; Respondent: Ms Sherry Balcombe. RSVP / Inquiries by Friday 22nd November, justice@cam.org.au / 99265727.

ST MARTIN OF TOURS VIETNAM TRIP: Join us on a cultural and spiritual journey of Vietnam. Departing 10th March 2020. Visiting Ho Chi Minh, Bao Loc Orphanage and Convent, Dalat and Hoi An. Please contact Deana Thomas, Hello World ph: 9852 0200 (business hours) Email: deana.lowertemplestowe@helloworld.com.au Mary Zaccari ph 0408 020 072 (after hours).

FIRST READING

2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14

There were seven brothers who were arrested with their mother. The king tried to force them to taste pig's flesh, which the Law forbids, by torturing them with whips and scourges. One of them, acting as spokesman for the others, said, 'What are you trying to find out from us? We are prepared to die rather than break the Law of our ancestors.' With his last breath the second brother exclaimed, 'Inhuman fiend, you may discharge us from this present life, but the King of the world will raise us up, since it is for his laws that we die, to live again for ever.'

After him, they amused themselves with the third, who on being asked for his tongue promptly thrust it out and held out his hands, with these honourable words, 'It was heaven that gave me these limbs; for the sake of his laws I disdain them; from him I hope to receive them again.' The king and his attendants were astounded at the young man's courage and his utter indifference to suffering.

When this one was dead they subjected the fourth to the same savage torture. When he neared his end he cried, 'Ours is the better choice, to meet death at men's hands, yet relying on God's promise that we shall be raised up by him; whereas for you there can be no resurrection, no new life.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 16:1.5-6.8.15

TOGETHER:

Lord, when your glory appears, my joy will be full.

LEFT SIDE

Lord, hear a cause that is just,
pay heed to my cry.

Turn your ear to my prayer:
no deceit is on my lips .

RIGHT SIDE

I keep my feet firmly in your paths;
there was no faltering in my steps.
I am here and I call, you will hear me, O God.
Turn your ear to me; hear my words.

LEFT SIDE

Guard me as the apple of your eye.
Hide me in the shadow of your wings.
As for me, in my justice I shall see your face
and be filled, when I awake, with the sight of your glory.

TOGETHER:

Lord, when your glory appears, my joy will be full.

SECOND READING

2 Thessalonians 2:16-3:5

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father who has given us his love and, through his grace, such inexhaustible comfort and such sure hope, comfort you and strengthen you in everything good that you do or say.

Finally, brothers, pray for us; pray that the Lord's message may spread quickly, and be received with honour as it was among you; and pray that we may be preserved from the interference of bigoted and evil people, for faith is not given to everyone. But the Lord is faithful, and he will give you strength and guard you from the evil one, and we, in the Lord, have every confidence that you are doing and will go on doing all that we tell you. May the Lord turn your hearts towards the love of God and the fortitude of Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus Christ is the firstborn of the dead; glory and kingship be his for ever and ever. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 20:27-38

Some Sadducees – those who say that there is no resurrection – approached Jesus and they put this question to him, 'Master, we have it from Moses in writing, that if a man's married brother dies childless, the man must marry the widow to raise up children for his brother. Well, then, there were seven brothers. The first, having married a wife, died childless. The second and then the third married the widow. And the same with all seven, they died leaving no children. Finally the woman herself died. Now, at the resurrection, to which of them will she be wife since she had been married to all seven?'

Jesus replied, 'The children of this world take wives and husbands, but those who are judged worthy of a place in the other world and in the resurrection from the dead do not marry because they can no longer die, for they are the same as the angels, and being children of the resurrection they are sons of God. And Moses himself implies that the dead rise again, in the passage about the bush where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. Now he is God, not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all men are in fact alive.'

GOD IS A GOD OF LIFE

In today's gospel, Jesus is challenged by some Sadducees, a Jewish sect one of whose key tenets is the denial of resurrection. The quibble they employ to make belief in resurrection ridiculous stems from the prescription of the Mosaic Law by which a man is required to raise up offspring for a brother who dies childless (Deut 25:5-6). The quibble rests upon a crass assumption that life after death is simply an extension of life in the present time. In his response, Jesus clarifies the matter. Firstly, in the case of the risen life, we are dealing with a totally new situation. Those who share in it enjoy immunity to death. Since they die no more, there is no need for procreation—nor, correspondingly, for marriage, the institution designed to supply it.

Secondly, the Sadducees' quibble trivialises both the nature of God and human relationship with God. The God who appeared to Moses at the burning bush (see Exod 3:6), did not say 'I was the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob,' but 'I am the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.' The description not only evokes God's eternal being but implies the continuing personal existence of those with whom God remains in relationship.

Denial of the resurrection is denial of the nature of God as Israel—and the whole tradition deriving from Israel's faith—conceives God to be.

The gospel does not offer a theology of marriage. It makes a statement about God and the hope for sharing Christ's risen life that relationship with God entails.

Fr Brendan Byrne sj