



ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PARISH
& PRIMARY SCHOOL

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.

8TH / 9TH FEBRUARY 2020—5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

Dear parishioners, visitors and friends,

Recently I came across a very inspiring reflection by Pope Francis about how to celebrate in God's presence.

The pope was reflecting on a text from the second book of Samuel (6:12-19), where King David, leading the procession to the ark of God's presence to the city of Jerusalem, was dancing in front of the whole people. His wife Michal was not impressed with this, and reproached him, because she felt he was debasing himself. David's response was that he would much rather debase himself in front of his people and celebrate joyfully in God's presence, than respect his personal position in front of his people and not celebrate God! Michal, who could not understand this position, was punished by being barren.

Celebrating God's nearness

The people felt that God was close to them and they celebrated. Leading the procession was King David who sacrificed an ox and a fatling and joined the people shouting, singing and dancing 'with all his might.'

The fact that God was with them was the cause of their celebration. David danced before the people expressing his joy without feeling shy. It is the spiritual joy of encountering the Lord, of His return to the people. David loved the Lord, and he was happy and joyful to bring back the ark of the Lord with dancing and singing like all the people.

Pope Francis pointed out that we also experience this joy and celebrate 'when we are with the Lord' in our parishes or villages. In this regard, he recalled that at the time of Nehemiah, in the Old Testament, people wept with joy when the book of the law was found, and they continued their celebration at home.

Contempt of joy

Continuing David's story, Pope Francis said that one of his wives, Michal, Saul's daughter, reproached him with contempt saying he was dancing shamelessly like a vulgar, like one of the people.

The pope described Michal's reaction as contempt of 'genuine religiosity' and spontaneity of joy of being with the Lord. But David explained to her that he was rejoicing in the Lord as the ark was back home. The bible says that Michal was punished for this and did not bear children. Without joy in the heart, a Christian is barren.

Joyful evangelisers move forward

Pope Francis further explained that celebration is not only expressed spiritually but becomes sharing. After the blessing, David distributed to each person 'a loaf of bread, a cut of roast meat and a raisin cake,' so that everyone could celebrate in their homes. Pope Francis said that 'the Word of God is not ashamed of celebration,' at the same time he warned, of the danger of a joy that goes beyond limits, believing this is everything.

Pope Francis recalled that St Pope Paul VI in his Apostolic Exhortation 'Evangelii Nuntiandi,' said: 'the gospel will not go forward with boring, bitter evangelisers. It will only go forward with joyful evangelisers, full of life.' He urged for the joy of receiving the Word of God, the joy of being Christians, the joy of going ahead, the ability to celebrate without being ashamed and not being like Michal, formal Christians, prisoners of formalities.

(Taken from Pope Francis' daily meditation on 29th January 2020)

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Mario Zammit mssp

PARISH SECRETARY: Mary Peeris

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

CHAIR: Michelle Robertson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Domenica Ashworth;

Timothy Boyle

Margaret Bradley

Adrian Daly

Moira Di Cesare

Karen Frost

Russell Lew-Kee

SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE CHAIR:

Michelle Penson (0499 891 101)

PARISH PROGRAMME COORDINATORS:

Jan McCaffrey (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.com/stjohnheidelberg

Instagram.com/stjohn.heidelberg

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

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.*

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2020: for candidates **NOT** attending St John's Parish School: Reconciliation 12th November (Year 3 and over), Eucharist 13th June (**class is full!**) and Confirmation 2nd August (Year 6 and over). Enrolments for all sacraments close on Monday 2nd March. For application forms and information: elizabeth.williamson@cam.org.au

TAP AND GIVE: thank you to parishioners and visitors who are using our new facility to contribute to our weekly collections. Each time you tap your card, you donate \$5 to the parish. Two thirds of this goes to the parish collection and a third to the presbytery collection. Thanks.

VISIT OF BETHLEHEM UNIVERSITY VICE CHANCELLOR: Come and hear Brother Peter Bray speak about life in Bethlehem and the amazing ministry of the only Catholic University in Palestine and its challenge to educate a new generation of Christian and Muslim leaders in a land ravaged by injustice, occupation and oppression. Sunday 23rd February, 6:00pm at The Cunningham Centre (opposite St. Bernadette's School) 53 Stanley St, Ivanhoe. Please RSVP to Parish Office 9499 1515 or Ivanhoe@cam.org.au All Welcome!

HOME MASSES: Celebrating Mass at home or with a group of friends and neighbours is a very meaningful way of expressing faith and building community. To participate contact the parish office 9457 1066 or Jan 0423 478 504.

GEMS 50+ (GREGARIOUS ENERGETIC MEMBERS OF ST JOHN'S): Visiting Banyule Waste Education Centre on Tuesday 11th February from 10:00am to 12:00noon. Do you wonder about what happens to your recycling when it is collected from your street? The session at the Bellfield Operations Centre explains what happens and includes a tour of the recycling facility. Please wear flat soled enclosed shoes. We will car pool for this activity as there is limited car parking at the facility. Please meet outside the parish house no later than 9:45am. Contact Elizabeth: 0447195553

ST JOHN'S WALKING GROUP: next Monday 10th February will be exploring Darebin Creek trail from Alphington to the Yarra River. We meet outside the parish house at 10:00am and car-pool to Alphington. Please join us for a relaxed, chatty walk in a beautiful setting. Contact Jan (0423 478 504).

PHILIP: New Life Course presented by the Melbourne Catholic School of Evangelisation. Six Tuesday evenings from 8:00 to 9:00pm, at Loyola College, Youth Ministry Lounge, Watsonia, starting 18th February. An opportunity to deepen relationship with God and a desire to share that with others. \$30.00 (for six sessions), \$25.00 concession. Register by 14th February. Bookings and enquiries: Sr Nelia Llanto, sjpg 0411 361 081 / email: llanton@loyola.vic.edu.au or Rose Rendina 0411 650 339.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

THE SICK: Mary-Teresa Wright, Gordon Eng, Giovanni Mirabella, Vita Nativo, Charles Garrard, Matais Navajas, Naoise Wheeler, Doreen Booth, James Artinopoulos, Brett Ralph.

ANNIVERSARIES: Giuseppe & Paolina Ranieri, Giuseppe & Rosa Verga, John Byrnes, Pat Byrnes, Bill Sullivan.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Gisella Lucello

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.***

8 Feb / 9 Feb	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Moira Di Cesare	Michael Leonard	Michelle Robertson	Des O'Brien
2 nd Reader	Madi Lew-Kee	Barbara Barnes	Elizabeth Williamson	Matthew Sanders
Communion	Maria Basilone	Bill Barnes	Ann Domaingue	Charito Cosio
	Marco Di Cesare	Bobbie Bartkus	Doris Schembri	Leo Cosio
	Sue Lew-Kee	Jerzy Kmita	Liz Sier	Catie Nesbitt
	Lorraine Mascarenhas	Oliver Kmita	Vin Sier	TBA
15 Feb / 16 Feb	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Domenica Ashworth	Ronnie Maloney	Robyn Laurie	Leela Cherubim
2 nd Reader	Anita Metcalf	Garry Sproules	Bob Dowling	Mark Aiello
Communion	Maria Basilone	Margaret Bradley	Tim Boyle	Leela Cherubim
	Emma Chang	Fiona Curry	Mary Furlan	Sally Tramontana
	Jan Mc Caffrey	Alice Wong	Yannick Jonas	TBA
	Donna Richardson	TBA	Brian McIntosh	TBA
Counters	9 Feb: Leo Cosio, Leo Hernandez, Yannick Jonas; 16 Feb: J Naden, K Frost, M Bradley, D Ashworth, C Ratnayake			
Collection Weekly Average for January				
Parish		Presbytery		HEIDELCARE : 0490 254 928
Stewardship	\$3,953.13	Stewardship	\$709.29	
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.				

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION: Are urgently needed to minister during our weekend Masses. A training workshop for new ministers of Communion is planned for on Monday 10th February at 7:00pm in the parish church. All parishioners, including students in year 12 of high school, can participate in this important ministry in our weekly liturgies.

READERS AT OUR WEEKEND MASSES: parishioners who proclaim the Word of God at our Masses are needed. This is another important ministry as we lend our voice to God's word for us today. Parishioners from year six of primary school onwards are welcome for this ministry. Training is be provided.

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: will be held on 27th February at the Francis Xavier meeting room, in the parish house, at 7:30pm. During this meeting we will discuss our Annual Financial Report and the parish report for the Plenary Council. All welcome.

THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2020: will be held at St John's parish church on Friday 6th March at 10:30am, followed by morning tea in the Francis Xavier meeting room, in the parish house. Members of other local Christian Churches will be joining us. The prayer service this year will focus on the people of Zimbabwe. Fr Kenneth Macharaga, from Zimbabwe, is our guest speaker. All welcome to participate.

SICK AND HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS: Are you aware of any parishioners, living at home or in nursing homes, who can no longer get to Mass? Can you please let us know about them? We can minister to these parishioners by organising people to visit them, spend some time with them and have Communion taken to them. Please contact Elizabeth (0447195553) with the information.

LENT: The season of Lent this year starts on Wednesday 26th February. We celebrate with the placing of ashes on our foreheads during our Masses at 9:15am, 2:15pm (primary school), 7:30pm. If you have any olive branches or palms from last year's Palm Sunday celebration, you are invited to place it in the St Vincent de Paul collection basket in the church foyer, to be burnt in preparation for Ash Wednesday.

PRAYER DURING LENT: Scripture prayer sessions will be offered during the time of Lent, a time to read, pray and reflect on God's word for us. If you are interested in participating, please contact the parish office on 94571066 or heidelberg@cam.org.au

SOCIAL JUSTICE: Our parish is looking at setting up a Social Justice Group aimed at addressing inequalities by continuing the mission of Jesus. The need to do something to address inequality and injustice is ongoing. Underprivileged and disadvantaged people need support and advocacy and the challenge to sustainability of our planet continues. If you are interested in hearing more about our efforts to set up this group you are asked to attend a meeting on Thursday, 20th February at 7:00pm in the Francis Xavier meeting room at the rear of the parish house. Contact: Elizabeth (0447195553).

CONGRATULATIONS TO: BERNICE AND PERCE MAKIN on their 60th wedding anniversary on 25th January.

To A/Prof **DR JOHN SANTAMARIA**, (Director of St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne ICU) honoured as a Member (AM) of the Order of Australia in the 2020 Australia Day celebrations, for his significant contributions to the area of Intensive Care Medicine.

PARISH COMMUNITY DINNER: on 7th March at 7:00pm, after Mass, venue to be announced. Join us for a simple meal building community.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 58:7-10

Thus says the Lord:

Share your bread with the hungry, and shelter the homeless poor, clothe the man you see to be naked and turn not from your own kin. Then will your light shine like the dawn and your wound be quickly healed over.

Your integrity will go before you and the glory of the Lord behind you. Cry, and the Lord will answer; call, and he will say, 'I am here.'

If you do away with the yoke, the clenched fist, the wicked word, if you give your bread to the hungry, and relief to the oppressed, your light will rise in the darkness, and your shadows become like noon.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 111:4-9

TOGETHER: A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

LEFT SIDE:

He is a light in the darkness for the upright:
he is generous, merciful and just.
The good man takes pity and lends,
he conducts his affairs with honour.

RIGHT SIDE:

The just man will never waver:
he will be remembered for ever.
He has no fear of evil news;
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord.

LEFT SIDE:

With a steadfast heart he will not fear;
open-handed, he gives to the poor;
his justice stands firm for ever.
His head will be raised in glory.

TOGETHER: A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

When I came to you, brothers, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you what God had guaranteed. During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him as the crucified Christ. Far from relying on any power of my own, I came among you in great 'fear and trembling' and in my speeches and the sermons that I gave, there were none of the arguments that belong to philosophy; only a demonstration of the power of the Spirit. And I did this so that your faith should not depend on human philosophy but on the power of God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia I am the light of the world, says the Lord; the man who follows me will have the light of life. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 5:13-16

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'

BE SALT AND LIGHT

To appreciate what Jesus has in mind in the images of 'salt' and 'light' we need to recall the setting of the sermon that continues in the gospel for today. Jesus is addressing his disciples in the presence of a great crowd of burdened and afflicted people gathered on the plain below (Mt 4:23-25).

In the opening words of the sermon Jesus called 'blessed' people prepared to live in the vulnerable, non-grasping ways listed in the nine beatitudes. Now it becomes clear that they thereby become a blessing not just for themselves but for the burdened mass of humanity as well. As those who really lift other people's burdens, they become and remain the 'salt of the earth' and 'light of the world.'

Salt can hardly 'lose its taste.' Nevertheless, if it is contaminated and so (in the days before refrigeration) rendered useless for preservation, it is only good for salting the path outside the house, where it will be trampled underfoot. Disciples who fall away from their vocation may face a similar fate.

Jesus' comments in relation to 'light' fall into two parts. First, in biblical tradition Jerusalem was the archetypal 'city built on a hilltop.' When the temple was illuminated at night, Jerusalem could well be described as 'the light of the world.'

Secondly—and more mundanely—one does not go to the trouble of lighting a lamp and then hiding it.

So we are to be like lamps kindled by God. Schooled by Jesus, our good works are to give light and hope in a darkened world.

Fr Brendan Byrne sj