



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.

15TH / 16TH FEBRUARY 2020—6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

SALT AND LIGHT IN THE WORLD

Dear parishioners, visitors and friends,

In last Sunday's gospel, following on from the gospel about the beatitudes, Jesus described what the Christian inspired by the gospel should look like; we are the salt of the earth, light of the world!

Once salt is used on food, and when light shines to enlighten the environment, it is very difficult to extract the salt and the light from the food or the environment it becomes part of. Salt and light become one with the world they add taste and light to! This is a very good example of how we, as Christians, are invited to live.

In our culture today, we tend to break down reality. In our schools we reflect and teach one subject at a time. In medicine we have experts that can deal with one organ of the body, and do not know much about other organs. This is a very contemporary approach. At the time of the gospels, it was easy to hold opposites side by side; they were not seen as being in conflict. One typical example is the parable of the weeds among the wheat. Like the apostles we would want to go in and quickly eradicate all the weeds; Jesus suggests to let them grow together and inform one another.

Our contemporary cultural separation effects the way we experience faith and spirituality. We struggle to see holiness in our secular world. We create sacred spaces to contain our faith to keep it safe from contamination by secularism. This goes directly against Jesus' teaching to be salt and light. As Christians we are called to live in the world and throw light on the world we have been invited to inhabit.

We are continuously create sacred spaces, sacred vestments, sacred music and sacred language, in the process denying God the possibility of inhabiting and communicating with us in and through our own culture and environment. What makes a space, a vestment, music and language sacred is the person and community that it, and not the other way round. The whole of creation and everything that is human, is created and inhabited by God; "And God saw that it was good," is a regular refrain in the creation story. Everything created by God is good and holy and carries God's presence within itself.

At the beginning of the Church, the first Christians made use of pagan temples, buildings, vestments and feasts they found around them and used them for their own purposes. Some names and liturgical vestments we use today, date back from that time. 25th December, the date we celebrate Christmas, was chosen by the early Church because it was a pagan feast to the sun! Along the centuries the Church used contemporary architecture and language to build its temples and to praise God.

There is no real distinction between holy and secular. The great mystery of Christianity is that God became man and consecrated the secular. In Jesus God himself became secular! God talks to us in our daily life, in a way we can understand. It is very easy to go looking for God in his temple, forgetting that we are the temple of God and God dwells in his people. The greatest commandment is to love God and love our neighbour! God is in our neighbour, even if she or he is not religious

... Mario mssp

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 (**class is full!**), 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): Tuesday 18th February in the Francis Xavier meeting room at 10:00am. All welcome to join for some fun, chatter and morning tea or just drop in for a cuppa.

UPCOMING OUTINGS: Tuesday 25th February; Morning Melodies—'Swing Classics' Live music. Lower Plenty Hotel, 4 Main Road Lower Plenty. Includes Entertainment, Devonshire tea, lunch, complimentary wine, beer or soft drink \$20. Doors open at 9:30am; show starts 10:30am. All welcome. Listen, sing along or get up and dance. Booking essential - contact Elizabeth (0447195553)

MOVIE AND LUNCH: Tuesday 3rd March, Palace Cinema Balwyn, 231 Whitehorse Rd Balwyn. 'A Beautiful Day in the Neighbourhood' Movie and lunch \$20; booking essential—Elizabeth (0447195553)

PANCAKE TUESDAY—25th February. Following morning Mass, all welcome to Francis Xavier meeting room, to enjoy some delicious pancakes and a cuppa. Hope you can join us.

ST JOHN'S WALKING GROUP: Monday 17th February, exploring Darebin Parklands. Meeting outside the parish house in at 10:00am. Transport will be shared to the Parklands. Information contact Jan (0423 478 504).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

RECENTLY BAPTISED: Willow Mundy, Stefanie Barbara, Vanessa Failla.

THE SICK: Alan (Jimmy) Caftles, James Artinopoulos, Doreen Booth, Charles Garraid, Giovanni Mirabella, Vita Nativo, Matais Navajas, Brett Ralph, Naoise Wheeler, Mary-Teresa Wright.

ANNIVERSARIES: Timothy White, Maria Bednar, Dennis Kenna, Leigh Hewatt, Catherine Cummins, Maureen Packer, Kazik Radzikowski, John Filippi, Wally Duff.

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.

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
22 Feb/ 23 Feb	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Madi Lew-Kee	Marguerite Ryan	Karen Frost	Peter Penson
2 nd Reader	Grace Lew-Kee	Pietro Sciotto	Michael Leonard	Catie Nesbitt
Communion	Lorraine Mascarenhas	Chris Ratnayake	Leo Hernandez	Des O'Brien
	Domenica Ashworth	Pauline Griffiths	Ann Domaingue	Jenny Hollaway
	Sue Lew-Kee	Stanly Devasia	Mary Furlan	TBA
	Noel Micallef	Bobbie Bartkus	Doris Schembri	TBA
Counters	16 Feb: J Naden, K Frost, M Bradley, D Ashworth, C Ratnayake & 23 Feb: Des O'Brien, Peter Peyton, Percival Makin.			
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.				

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 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.

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.

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.

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).

PARISH COMMUNITY DINNER: on 7th March at 7:00pm, after Mass, venue to be announced. Join us for a simple meal building community. Everyone pays his / her own way.

'SPIRITUALITY OF HUMAN LIFE STAGES,' 'Discernment,' 'The Human Experience of God' and other seminars and reflection days are soon to begin at Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation at its new premises in Malvern. For more information and bookings: www.heartoflife.melbourne / info@heartoflife.melbourne / 9890 1101.

FIRST READING

Sirach 15:15-20

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 118:1-2.4-5.17-18.33-34

TOGETHER: Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!**LEFT SIDE:**

They are happy whose life is blameless,
who follow God's law!

They are happy those who do his will,
seeking him with all their hearts.

RIGHT SIDE:

You have laid down your precepts
to be obeyed with care.

May my footsteps be firm
to obey your statutes.

LEFT SIDE:

Bless your servant and I shall live
and obey your word.

Open my eyes that I may consider
the wonders of your law.

RIGHT SIDE:

Teach me the demands of your statutes
and I will keep them to the end.

Train me to observe your law,
to keep it with my heart.

TOGETHER: .Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!**SECOND READING**

1 Corinthians 2:6-10

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 5:20-22.27-28.33-34.37

Jesus said to his disciples: I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

PLANTING THE LAW IN THE HEART

In today's Gospel Jesus reinterprets the Law of Moses in a way that, without sweeping aside the values the law sought to protect, prioritises values such as justice, mercy, and faith in human relationships (cf. Matt 23:23).

Over against the law's stark prohibitions ('You shall not ...') his pronouncements seek to go beyond mere external restraint to plant the value enshrined in the prohibition deep within the human heart.

So over against 'You shall not kill ...,' Jesus addresses the anger in the heart that might lead someone to kill. Deal with that and the prohibition simply doesn't arise.

Likewise in the matter of adultery, to a man's fundamental attitude to a woman. Is she an object for sexual exploitation (lust) or a fellow human being demanding equality and respect? Get the attitude right and all else will fall into place.

Where the old dispensation looked at divorce entirely from the male perspective and set in place what is basically a "harm minimisation" process, Jesus' exclusion of it stems from a holistic view of marriage as a lifelong union of equals in mutual fidelity and companionship.

Likewise, such trust and faithfulness should prevail in the community of the Kingdom that, to have their word taken seriously, its members should not have to have recourse to oaths—fraught, as such assertions are, with the danger of taking God's holy name in vain.

Looking back, what draws all these pronouncements of Jesus together is an essentially relational sense of human life, flourishing where respect, faithfulness, and consideration of the other prevail.

Fr Brendan Byrne sj