



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.

**22ND / 23RD FEBRUARY 2020—7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A**

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: THURSDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2020**

**7:30PM TO 9:30PM, FRANCIS XAVIER MEETING ROOM, PARISH HOUSE**

*Dear Parishioners, Visitors to our parish, and Friends,*

*The Church, the Parish family community, is all of us; together we form the People of God, the Body of Christ. Most often, our reality of Church is limited to our weekend Eucharist meetings where we come, as one body, to praise and thank God for his many gifts to us, individually and as a community.*

*My role as parish priest is to journey with this community as together we grow in faith and in our relationship with God. My 'expertise' is to break open the word of God for the community and to help the community by leading in worship and prayer. My role puts me in a position where I am also expected to administer the property of the parish. I do not like to talk much about money, but it is an important part of our reality as Church since, without money, we would not be able to function as a community! It is also ultimately my responsibility to ensure that our buildings are well maintained. I am assisted in these roles by the Parish Pastoral Council, the Finance Committee, Mrs Stella and the school staff, the Pastoral Team, and various other volunteers that offer their time and energy.*

*The Annual Parish Meeting is an opportunity to come together as one body to continue our conversation about the life of our parish community. This year two items are on the agenda: our 2019 annual financial report, and a discussion of the document, fruit of meetings with a number of groups in the parish, to be presented to the Australian Plenary Council in the coming months.*

*I invite you to participate as Church and attend our annual meeting.*

*Thank you; Mario mssp*

## 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.*

## **PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

**RECENTLY MARRIED:** Matthew Hutton with Eloise Goss, Marc Higginson with Bianca Crema.

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

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Wanda Zebrowski, Wal Dicker, Joseph Rochford, James Byrnes, Brian & Michael Hankin, Peg & Con Power, William Foote.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Sr Teresa Clareborough, Geoff Nesbitt.

*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**.*

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

## PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT—YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2019

INCOME	2019	2018
Stewardship	164,329	166,603
Loose Change	36,512	40,334
Donation	31,280	28,176
Rent - Parish Hall	47,457	37,617
Rent - Yarra Street Properties	19,800	14,750
Catholic Social Services	8,351	18,838
Religious Education Classes	1,463	883
Other Income	1,611	2,130
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>310,803</b>	<b>309,331</b>
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EXPENSES		
Office Administration	16,778	25,178
Church Requisites & Pastoral Exp.	14,103	8,594
Cleaning & Gardening	18,000	17,754
Catholic Church Insurance	41,660	21,738
Archdiocesan Levy	27,116	29,688
Employment Expenses	43,231	79,511
Other Property Expenses	51,217	36,001
Provision: Future Maintenance / Capital Expenditure	50,000	50,000
Consultants	9,390	8,492
Interest on loan	7,760	8,943
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>279,255</b>	<b>285,899</b>
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<b>OPERATING SURPLUS</b>	<b>31,548</b>	<b>23,432</b>
Add: Interest from investments	15,120	9,606
Add: Income from Primary School	0	0
<b>NET SURPLUS</b>	<b>46,668</b>	<b>33,038</b>

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2019

ASSETS		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Investments	781,278	715,680
Receivables	797	943
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>782,075</b>	<b>716,623</b>
<b>LIABILITY</b>		
Loan (Catholic Development Fund)	175,000	200,000
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES:</b>		
Payroll provisions	9,730	2,495
Clearing Accounts	81	6,891
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>184,811</b>	<b>209,386</b>
<b>NON CURRENT LIABILITY</b>		
Provision: Future Maintenance / Capital Expenditure	100,000	50,000
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; PROVISIONS</b>	<b>284,811</b>	<b>259,386</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>497,264</b>	<b>457,237</b>

22 Feb/ 23 Feb	<b>Sat 6:00pm</b>	<b>Sun 8:30am</b>	<b>Sun 10:30am</b>	<b>Sun 5:00pm</b>
1st Reader	Madi Lew-Kee	Marguerite Ryan	Karen Frost	Peter Penson
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader	Grace Lew-Kee	Pietro Sciotto	Michael Leonard	TBA
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
29 Feb/ 1 Mar	<b>Sat 6:00pm</b>	<b>Sun 8:30am</b>	<b>Sun 10:30am</b>	<b>Sun 5:00pm</b>
1st Reader	Peter Penson	Barbara Barnes	Michelle Robertson	Leela Cherubim
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader	Moira Di Cesare	Claire Newsome	Michael Leonard	Mark Aiello
Communion	Adrian Daly	Bill Barnes	Geraldine Manuel	Jenny Hollaway
	Marco Di Cesare	Fiona Curry	Doris Schembri	Des O'Brien
	Jan Mc Caffrey	Jerzy Kmita	TBA	Matthew Sanders
	Michelle Penson	Oliver Kmita	TBA	Olivia Sanders
Counters	<b>23 Feb:</b> Des O'Brien, Peter Peyton, Percival Makin & <b>1 Mar:</b> Garry Sproules, Janice McGrath, Giuseppe Amoroso.			
<b>Collection Weekly Average for January</b>				
Parish		Presbytery		<b>HEIDELCARE : 0490 254 928</b>
Stewardship	\$3,953.13	Stewardship	\$709.29	
Loose	\$726.95	Loose	\$375.00	<b>MORNING TEA, 1st March:</b> Carmel & Marguerite
<b>Thank you</b> for supporting St John's financially. Please advise if your credit card is lost/stolen or the expiry date has changed.				

**GOLD COIN COLLECTION:** This weekend at all Masses. Money collected will help assist Missionaries of St Paul working in the Philippines. Thank you for your generosity. Tax-receipts available.

**ASH WEDNESDAY:** 26th February Masses at 9:15am, 2:15pm (primary school), 7:30pm. Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence.

**PRAYER DURING LENT:** Every Monday during Lent, starting from 24th February, we read, discuss and pray with the Sunday readings. Scripture meetings will be led by Fr Mario. At the parish house from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. Everyone is welcome, even if you have not put down your name to attend.

**WAY OF THE CROSS:** every Friday at 7:30pm.

**PROJECT COMPASSION:** Lent is a time of fasting and helping out the poor. Please take home a donation box. Boxes will be returned on Holy Thursday and after Easter. Tax-receipts available.

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

**PARISH COMMUNITY DINNER:** Wine and Pizza night on Saturday 7th March at 7:00pm, after Mass at the Francis Xavier meeting room in the parish house. Join us for a simple meal building community. Please put your name on the sheet in the porch or ring the office. Donation at the door.

**THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2020:** 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.

**GEMS 50+ (GREGARIOUS ENERGETIC MEMBERS OF ST JOHN'S):** This 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:** on Tuesday 3rd March at Palace Cinema Balwyn, 231 Whitehorse Rd Balwyn. 'A Beautiful Day in the Neighbourhood' Movie and lunch \$20; booking essential—Elizabeth (0447195553)

**ST JOHN'S WALKING GROUP:** will be undertaking a walk with a difference on Monday 24th February leaving from outside the parish house at 10:00am to catch the train to Flinders Street then walking from Birrarung Marr to Alexander Gardens. Please join us as we explore this 'different space.' For more information please contact Jan on 0423 478 504.

**CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS FORMATION:** Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a weekly religious formation program for 3-6 year old children. 'The Atrium' is a unique hands-on environment filled with sensorially rich materials for children's faith formation. The materials are focused on scripture and liturgy and based on the Montessori Method of Education. Sessions run on Thursday mornings at St Pius X in Heidelberg West. Contact Julie 0404 658701

**LET THE HEART LISTEN:** 15-week programme Thursday mornings, starting 27th February, for people involved in listening to and supporting others. Includes: principles of listening and discernment, facilitated group participation, guided reflection etc. Facilitated by Carole Carmody rsm, at Heart of Life, 296 Glenferrie Road, Malvern. Cost \$680. Information: info@heartoflife.melbourne or 9890 1101.

**FIRST READING**

Leviticus 19:1-2. 17-18

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: 'Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy."

"You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord."

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 102:1-4.8.10.12-13

**TOGETHER:** The Lord is kind and merciful.**LEFT SIDE:**

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,  
all my being, bless his holy name.  
My soul, give thanks to the Lord  
and never forget all his blessings.

**RIGHT SIDE:**

It is he who forgives all your guilt,  
who heals every one of your ills,  
who redeems your life from the grave,  
who crowns you with love and compassion.

**LEFT SIDE:**

The Lord is compassion and love,  
slow to anger and rich in mercy.  
He does not treat us according to our sins  
nor repay us according to our faults.

**RIGHT SIDE:**

As far as the east is from the west  
so far does he remove our sins.  
As a father has compassion on his sons,  
the Lord has pity on those who fear him.

**TOGETHER:** The Lord is kind and merciful.**SECOND READING**

1 Corinthians 3:16-23

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

Make no mistake about it: if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are, or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia Whoever keeps the word of Christ,  
grows perfect in the love of God. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Matthew 5:38-48

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

**'BE PERFECT AS YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER IS PERFECT'**

Jesus' reinterpretation of the Jewish law (Torah) in today's gospel focuses upon retaliation and love of enemies.

In the tribal situation of early Israel, where institutions of justice were barely established, the law of strict reciprocity in regard to injury ('an eye for an eye,' etc.) sought to contain and limit the spiral of violence—to bring 'pay back' to a closure that all parties would recognise as fair.

Jesus, however, commends a readiness to disarm violence by being prepared to accept double what the perpetrator requires. This may be unrealistic on the level of society as a whole where evil and evildoers must be resisted and restrained. If, in the face of injury and unreasonable demand, disciples of Jesus, on an individual or small group level (as, for example, in Christian non-violent protest), do adopt such a stance, their freedom to do so will stem from consciousness of the far greater generosity they have themselves received from God.

Likewise, Jesus resists the general human tendency to hate one's enemies in the name of the disposition and action of God, whose 'children' his disciples know themselves to be. They will truly show themselves God's children if they reflect the divine action in this radical way.

In conclusion, Jesus offers a definition of what it means to be 'perfect': 'You must be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.' The stress here falls upon the little word 'as': perfection means acting towards others, including one's enemies, as the Creator acts towards all, good and bad alike.

Fr Brendan Byrne sj