



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.

7TH / 8TH MARCH 2020—2NDSUNDAY IN LENT, YEAR A

Dear Parishioners, Friends and Visitors,

This Sunday's gospel we read the story of the apostles Peter, James and John who go up a high mountain to experience the transfiguration of Jesus. On the mountain the three disciples saw a different aspect of Jesus they had never experienced before. His face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light! What a wonderful experience.

This story is reminiscent of the story of Moses in the book of Exodus when we are told that, after seeing God face to face, the skin of his face became radiant (Ex 34). Moses' face shone because he had come face to face with God and his face was reflecting God's glory. Jesus is God himself; his face does not reflect light but is light itself, and not only his face, but his whole body shines with God's glory.

We can look at our sisters and brothers around us and realise that they do not simply reflect God, but are temples of God. God lives in them; they are images of God. We cannot always experience this transfiguration, as at times we are blinded, or we find it difficult to climb the 'mountain of God,' where it all happens.

During Lent, as we participate in Project Compassion, organised by Caritas Australia, we are being encouraged to participate in this transfiguration of our sisters and brothers. The appeal is that with our assistance, many can live a better life.

Last January, together with a number of our parishioners, I had the opportunity to go back to the Philippines where there too, we could see people being transfigured through the generosity of many benefactors. One of our experiences was with Fr Joe Cremona, in the parish of Pagalangang in Dinalupihan, Bataan. Fr Joe reaches out to many children, young people and adults giving providing them with different tools for their future. These people too are transfigured to better reflect the image of God in their life.

On the last Sunday of each month, many of you, very generously, donate towards the gold coin collection. In 2019, a total of \$6,000 was collected. Thank you. For the past few years, we have been forwarding this contribution to the St Catherine of Alexandria parish, in Pagalangang. I am sure that your generosity will continue to transfigure these young children and their families, in their needs.

Thank you for your generosity.

.... Mario mssp

PROJECT COMPASSION, LET'S GO FURTHER, TOGETHER: Twenty-seven-year-old Phany, lives in a village in western Cambodia. Struggling to earn a living as a farmer, she was forced to leave her daughter behind in the village, to take up construction work in the city. Phany joined the Upholding Community Dignity Together programme, where she learnt new farming techniques, such as a drip irrigation system, which enabled her to get a better yield from her vegetable crops and to conserve water in her drought-stricken region. Phany's community also took part in training in health, nutrition, hygiene and disaster preparedness, arming them with better strategies to cope with environmental changes.

Your donation to Project Compassion helps mothers like Phany continue to uplift their communities, and provide food for their families. Visit www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion

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

GOSPELS OF HOLY WEEK AND EASTER: by Fr F. Moloney sdb, 16th to 19th March, Don Bosco Retreat Centre, Lysterfield. Cost \$430 all inclusive (retreat, meals, accommodation, etc). Information and registration: Candy 9752 2432 or dbrclysterfield@gmail.com

LEGION OF MARY RETREAT: Enclosed Semi-Silent Retreat on March, Sat. 27th to 29th, at Pallotti College, Millgrove. See notice board in porch. Contact Caroline 0423 838 756 or Sue 0449 260206

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND: 17th to 19th April, from 7:00pm Friday to 5:00pm Sunday. Accommodation and meals provided. Information and bookings: Mercy & James 0409 183 676 / vicbookings @wwme.org.au / wwme.org.au

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.

SICK AND HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS: Please let us know about them? Contact Elizabeth (0447195553) with the information.

GEMS 50+: Tuesday 10th March. You are invited to a cooking demonstration after which we will share what has been cooked. 10:00am to 12:00pm in the Francis Xavier meeting room. Bring your appetite!! Contact: Elizabeth 0447195553

ST JOHN'S WALKING GROUP: Every Monday, except for public holidays, we meet outside the parish house at 10:00am to walk, explore, chat and drink coffee. You are very welcome to join us. For more information please contact Jan (0423 478 504).

ST PIUS X PARISH FAIR: Sunday 29th March 10:00am to 2:00pm. Animal farm, market stalls, face painting, sausage sizzle, Devonshire teas, cake stall. Indoor market stall—\$20 includes table & two chairs. Enquires edwmargaret@yahoo.com.au or 94975319.

PALMS AUSTRALIA: All trades and professions are requested by communities abroad seeking to build the capacity of their organisations and the skills of their people. Not asking for money or gifts that contribute to degrading dependence. Your assistance will help to develop self-reliance and sustainable solutions to poverty. Palms Australia will provide you with thorough preparation and support. You will be rewarded with riches greater than you might imagine. Visit www.palms.org.au and talk to Roger on 0422472567, or email palms@palms.org.au

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

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

ANNIVERSARIES: Joseph Dickinson.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Graziella Pesenti, Eileen Wilson.

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.***

7 Mar/ 8 Mar	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Madi Lew-Kee	Jack Naden	Bob Dowling	Matthew Sanders
2 nd Reader	Grace Lew-Kee	Michael Leonard	Joanne Martinez	Peter Penson
Communion	Maria Basilone	Margaret Bradley	Tim Boyle	Charito Cosio
	Emma Chang	Pauline Griffiths	Ann Domaingue	Leo Cosio
	Lorraine Mascarenhas	Chris Ratnayake	Mary Furlan	Michelle Penson
	Donna Richardson	Alice Wong	Brian Mc Intosh	TBA
14 Mar/ 15 Mar	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Michael Leonard	Ronnie Maloney	Robyn Laurie	Mary Kotefski
2 nd Reader	Anita Metcalf	Pietro Sciotto	Elizabeth Williamson	Rosemary Vecchies
Narrator	Adrian Daly	Marguerite Ryan	Claire Newsome	Margaret Andrews
Other Voices	Jan Mc Caffrey	Garry Sproules	Peter Penson	Mark Aiello
Communion	Noel Micallef	Stanly Devasia	Leo Hernandez	Jenny Hollaway
Counters	8 Mar: Graeme Foote, Michael Tilley & 15 Mar: Tim Booth, Nigel Mant, Shane Byrnes.			
Collection Weekly Average for February				
Parish		Presbytery		HEIDELCARE : 0490 254 928
Stewardship	\$3,303.74	Stewardship	\$564.39	
Loose	\$751.22	Loose	\$350.00	
Thank you for supporting St John's financially. Please advise if your credit card is lost/stolen or the expiry date has changed.				

PROJECT COMPASSION: Lent is a time of fasting and helping out the poor. We help those less fortunate through Caritas Australia. Please take home a donation box or a set of envelopes. Boxes and envelopes will be returned on Holy Thursday and after Easter. Tax-receipts available.

ASHES TO EASTER: St John's Parish, and our neighbouring parishes are organising a concert reflection with Peter Kearney. This consists of a prayerful sequence of songs and stories on Lenten and Easter themes, including Easter songs by Sydney Carter. Thursday 26th March, 7:30pm at the Mercedes Hogan Theatre (OLMC), 39 Yarra Street Heidelberg. Free admission; donations appreciated.

PRAYER DURING LENT: Monday evenings during Lent at 7:00pm in the parish house. Parishioners invited to join us for an opportunity to pray, prepare and reflect during Lent. Fr Mario will lead the evenings. Our theme for next Monday is 'Be Opened ... to Listen.' Everyone is welcome even if you did not put your name down to attend.

WAY OF THE CROSS: As we prepare for the passion and death of Jesus, we pray together the Stations of the Cross, every Friday at 7:30pm.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS: every Friday during Lent at St George's Anglican Church East Ivanhoe starting at 6:30pm. All welcome!

GOOD FRIDAY - 10TH APRIL: Each Good Friday the parish Stations of the Cross take place in the church and school grounds. You are invited either to carry the cross from one station to another or to participate as a reader at a station. A family may like to carry the cross together. If you are able to help out with either of these ministries please contact Elizabeth elizabeth.williamson@cam.org.au / 0447195553.

AUSTIN MASS: Next Sunday 15th March. Volunteers please meet at 8:30am for 9:30am Mass. Parishioners are also invited to participate in this Mass to minister to the sick by their presence.

ANOINTING MASS: Monday 23rd March at 9:15am. The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be administered during Mass. Please note change of day Monday and there is only one Anointing Mass on that day. Following the Mass you are invited to morning tea in the Francis Xavier meeting room. Transport available: Elizabeth 0447195553

THE SEASONS OF OUR LIFE: By Marlene McGrath, starting on 7th March at Heart of Life, 296 Glenferrie Road, Malvern. Cost \$140 for four sessions, or \$40 per session. For information or application, contact info@heartoflife.melbourne or 9890 1101.

CATHOLIC MAN BREAKFAST SERIES: on Thursday 19th March. Features Dr Eamonn Mathieson, an Anaesthetist, speaking on 'Medicine and the Culture of Life and Death.' Dr Mathieson is active through the Catholic Medical Association of Australia in supporting Medical Professionals whose desire to act in accord with their conscience is under strain due to laws which now operate in the State of Victoria. Cost is \$50 with group discounts available. Strictly from 7:00 to 9:00am. Inf: michael.bohan@menalive.org.au

DUE TO THE DANGERS CAUSED BY CORONAVIRUS / COVID19, it has been decided that:
 We will no longer have the chalice available at Communion;
 Communion can only be received on the hand;
 Ministers of Communion and priest will use an alcohol based hand sanitizer before and after Communion;
 We are encouraged to refrain from shaking hands at the sign of peace. Thank you.

FIRST READING

Genesis 12:1-4

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing. 'I will bless those who bless you: I will curse those who slight you. All the tribes of the earth shall bless themselves by you.'

So Abram went as the Lord told him.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 32:4-5,18-20,22

TOGETHER: Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

LEFT SIDE:

The word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love.

RIGHT SIDE:

The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine.

LEFT SIDE:

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you.

TOGETHER: Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

SECOND READING

2 Timothy 1:8-10

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy – not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

Matthew 17:1-9

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

A GLIMPSE OF GLORY

The second Lenten Sunday gospel records the mysterious episode of the Transfiguration. In biblical imagery whiteness signals closeness to God. The three privileged disciples glimpse for a moment Jesus' divinity unveiled.

Shortly before this episode he had made clear to them his destiny to suffer and be killed in Jerusalem (16:21). Peter protested at this. He could not square a destiny to suffer with knowledge of Jesus as Messiah and the Son of God (16:16 and 16:22-23).

Now the Father's declaration from on high, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him!' confirms with divine authority that these two truths must be held together: Jesus is God's beloved Son and he is, as he has said, going to fulfil his messianic vocation in this unforeseen, costly way.

Peter had wanted to 'hold' the moment of glory ('Let us build three tents ...'). But there are to be no 'short cuts' of this kind to glory. The Messiah who came, 'not to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many' (20:28), will enter into the pain and suffering of the world to heal it from within. Being God's Beloved Son will not shield him from suffering but actually lead him, out of love, to enter into it more deeply.

It is with this deepened sense of his identity and mission that we are invited to continue with him our Lenten journey to Jerusalem.

Fr Brendan Byrne sj