



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.

21ST / 22ND MARCH 2020—4TH SUNDAY IN LENT, YEAR A

Dear Parishioners, Friends and Visitors,

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS / COVID-19 UPDATE

We are living in strange and unprecedented times. There is no event in living memory that can compare to what we are going through now. The last similar event was a hundred years ago, in 1920, with the Spanish Influenza. While there is no need to panic, we do need to take necessary measures to protect ourselves and our loved ones. Strange and unprecedented events require new, strange and unprecedented responses!

As you are aware, it has been announced that gatherings of more than 100 people are no longer possible. The bishops in Victoria have asked us to stop celebrating Mass and other celebrations, in public, with immediate effect. It is essential that we, as a faith community, are aware of, and comply with, all government and health protocols. We are aware that all this is a source of deep sadness to the faith-filled People of God in our parish and all over the world. Sunday without Eucharist is unthinkable, especially as we approach this most sacred time of Easter.

We need to remind ourselves that even when we cannot participate in Mass at Church, God is still with us. This is NOT a punishment from God. God travels and suffers with us even in these difficult moments. Now is a time to turn to God in prayer. Let us pray for each other, continuously. Let us pray especially for those who are most vulnerable. I invite you to think laterally and come up with creative solutions as to how we can together live through faithfully this time. Elderly members of our community, and people who are struggling financially, are going to be in very serious difficulties as we will not always be able to reach out to them as much as we would like to. How can we be God to other members in the community at these times?

Mass can no longer be celebrated in public, yet our parish church will remain open as usual from 7:30am to 5:00pm. You are welcome to come and spend time in prayer. I will continue to celebrate Mass in private, and offer prayers for you, on a daily basis. You are welcome to send me your personal prayer intentions. We will make an effort to live-stream Mass on the parish facebook page. I will continue to post my Sunday reflections on the parish web page, on our facebook page and by email, I will also try to do this on a daily basis. Parts of the newsletter will also continue to be published. You can also follow Mass and other prayers on the internet, there are some links at the end of this letter. I am aware that many of us do not use the internet. I invite you all to try to reach out to each other and help each other live through these most difficult times. Please let us know if there are ways we can help.

During this time, I will be available for anyone who would like to come to the parish house for Reconciliation, spiritual direction, a chat over a cup of tea or coffee, or Communion. You are also welcome to come and take Communion to elderly relatives at homes or in aged care facilities. I am also available to visit the sick and administer the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick wherever necessary. Please email the parish office at heidelberg@cam.org.au or ring the parish house on 9457 1066. You can also make use of my mobile 0403843796.

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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

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May I invite you to create a support network in order to support especially those who are living on their own? May I please invite you to keep in touch, by phone or by internet, with parishioners who are in need of company? One could ring these people three or four times a week to check on them. You can also offer to do shopping for those who are elderly, sick or homebound.

Let us pray for courage and hope during these strange and very difficult times.

Mario mssp

CANCELLED EVENTS DTO COVID-19:

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

MUSIC FOR ORGAN AND TRUMPET

PETER KEARNEY CONCERT

THEOLOGY IN THE PUB

LEGION OF MARY RETREAT

ST JOHN'S WALKING GROUP: Next Monday, 22nd March, will be our last walk for this term. Please meet us outside the parish house at 10:00am to walk, chat and drink coffee. Hopefully, our walks will resume on Monday 20th April. For further information please contact Jan 0423 478 504.

PROJECT COMPASSION, LET'S GO FURTHER, TOGETHER: Thirty-two-year-old Sakun lives in a village in central east India. She developed polio as a child and has difficulty walking. Until now Sakun, an indigenous Gond woman, has been isolated in her community, unable to earn a livelihood and without knowledge of government schemes that could help her. After joining a Caritas Australia-funded program, Sakun has learned new skills and gained important mobility. Through their strategic guidance and support, Sakun now earns her own income and makes a small profit which goes towards her family's basic needs. She is more resilient, more confident and more independent

Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 to help uplift vulnerable communities and support the rights of indigenous peoples around the world.

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. Visit www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion

SICK AND ELDERLY PARISHIONERS: who need our help and assistance. Let us keep them in our prayers. Please inform the parish office of any parishioners who need help. Thank you.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

RECENTLY MARRIED: Dermott Simmons with Millicent Stafford.

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.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Grindon Cannon, Sr Grace Rogers RSM.

*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**.*

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 16:1. 10-13

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 22

TOGETHER: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

LEFT SIDE:

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit.

RIGHT SIDE:

He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort

LEFT SIDE:

You have prepared a banquet for me
In the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.

RIGHT SIDE:

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever

TOGETHER: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 5:8-14

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing

to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said: Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

John 9: 6-9.13-17.34-38

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

SOME HANDY RESOURCES:

DAILY MASS: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYRq7AjVimr-hcHFJD_HVaQ—or—<https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>;

SUNDAY MASS: <https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/multimedia/web-cast/>;

DAILY READINGS: <https://universalis.com/mass.htm>—or—<https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/living-word/>;

DAILY PRAYER: <https://www.pray.com.au/>