



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.

28TH / 29TH MARCH 2020—5TH SUNDAY IN LENT, YEAR A

Dear Parishioners, Friends and Visitors,

It is with a deep sense of gratitude that I share this message with you. I am infinitely grateful to God above all, for his constant faithfulness and mercy towards me; gratitude to the Melbourne Archdiocese for the trust it placed in me when I was asked to look after the Heidelberg parish; and, most of all, to you, the parish family at St John's, for your warm welcome and for accepting me as part of your family.

I arrived at Heidelberg, totally unannounced and unexpected, in October 2013. Fr Ted was not feeling well, I was looking for a new ministry, and Archbishop Hart asked me whether I could minister for a few months among you. The initial agreement was for three months! I had heard of the Austin Hospital, because a good friend of mine had done some studies there, but I had absolutely no idea where Heidelberg was on the map. A month after I arrived in Heidelberg, I was asked whether I would like to stay on as parish priest! These seven years at St John's have been a time of great grace; it has been inspiring journeying with you all.

It is time now to part ways. I understand this is not the ideal way of giving you this news, but our Novel friend Corona Virus has interfered, so I have to make this announcement by letter rather than in person to you at Mass. I will be leaving St John's and moving to a mission in the Philippines. As a member of the Missionary Society of St Paul, I have been in the Philippines a number of times for short periods of time; this time it will be a permanent posting for me. Someone once told me that, although it will be difficult to leave family and friends at St John's, I cannot leave my heart here; it will be of no use to you and I would be of no use in my new mission. Instead I will carry you with me in my heart.

Through Baptism, every Christian is a missionary; we are all invited to spread the Good News wherever we are. Being a missionary is also a way of building bridges between different parts of the Church. My going to the Philippines can also be St John's mission: I will carry your love and support with me in my new mission.

The plan is to leave St John's on Sunday 16th August; after some time with my family and a time of spiritual retreat, I will start my new mission in December or January. I have already prepared the 'parish profile' which will now be sent out to all the priests in the archdiocese for them to consider whether they would like to take on this ministry. We can start praying now for the new parish priest that will be part of your family in a few months' time.

Thank you to all for your love, friendship and support. There are too many people to mention. I will pray for all of you for your generosity towards me. Between now and August I hope we will have time to farewell each other.

Thank you

Go gently

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

CANCELLED EVENTS DUE TO COVID-19:

WAY OF THE CROSS

GEMS 55+

HEIDELCARE

SERVICES PROVIDED DURING THIS TIME:

We have been asked to leave the church closed. As individuals and as families, we can pray at home. The parish has a facebook page: facebook.com/stjohnheidelberg. This is a public page and anyone can follow it, even if you do not have a facebook profile. There is live streaming on: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 9:15am Mass, 5:00pm Rosary (except Tuesday); Friday: 7:30pm Way of the Cross; Saturday: 9:15am Mass, 5:30pm Rosary, 6:00pm Vigil Mass; Sunday: 8:30am Mass, 5:00pm Rosary. Please join us in prayer.

PARISH ROSE GARDEN: a group of dedicated rose gardeners are required urgently. The parishioner who kept our roses going is leaving the parish and needs to be replaced. There is a large number of roses to be looked after and ideally they are maintained, dead headed, on a weekly basis, and pruned in winter. Parishioners and visitors appreciate our beautiful rose garden. Anyone interested in this ministry please contact the parish office for more information. Thank you.

PROJECT COMPASSION, LET'S GO FURTHER, TOGETHER:

Tawonga is a 10-year-old girl, living with a disability. She lives in a village in northern Malawi in a region plagued by food insecurity and poverty. For most of her life, her parents have struggled to put meals on the table. Tawonga often had to miss school because she was too sick from hunger. The family also faced discrimination in their community due to her disability. Since participating in a Caritas Australia supported program, Tawonga's life has transformed. Her family now grows enough food to provide three meals a day, ending the struggle of malnutrition, and helping her thrive at school.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 so this transformational program can continue to empower vulnerable women, men and children, and strengthen the communities around them.

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 BAPTISED: Alessandro Siciliano.

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: Anthony Barnes., Rita Antony.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Augustina Bedin.

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

Ezekiel 37:12-14

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 129

TOGETHER: With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

LEFT SIDE:

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading.

RIGHT SIDE:

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you.

LEFT SIDE:

My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak.
(Let the watchman count on daybreak
and Israel on the Lord.)

RIGHT SIDE:

Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

TOGETHER: With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:8-11

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

John 11:3-7. 17. 20-27. 33-45

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life.

If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live,
and whoever lives and believes in me
will never die. Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.

I knew indeed that you always hear me,
but I speak
for the sake of all these who stand round me,
so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.