



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.

4TH / 5TH APRIL 2020

PALM SUNDAY, YEAR A

HOLY WEEK



Dear Parishioners, Friends and Visitors,

This week we celebrate Holy Week. We start on Sunday with the celebration of Palm Sunday, then Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday.

Even though our church buildings are closed this year, the Church still celebrates this greatest of all weeks. We are the Church, we are the People of God, we are the Body of Christ. This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are not able to come together as a visible Body and People, but we are still able to come together and celebrate in our homes. The family Church is at the basis of the Universal Church. There is no Universal Church if we do not share faith as a family.

This year, in a very special way, we are being asked to be creative in the way we celebrate Holy Week. As usual, we will be using our parish web-site (cam.org.au/heidelberg/), and our parish Facebook page (facebook.com/stjohnheidelberg/) to provide resources to assist you at this time. The parish Facebook page is a public page and can be viewed by anyone, even if you do not have a personal Facebook profile page.

May I suggest we create a sacred space in our homes at this time. This does not have to be a big space, a small coffee table would do the job. Place it in a place where it can become the focal point of your family life at least during this week.

For Palm Sunday we can dress the table with a red cloth. We can place some olive or palm branches or any other type of greenery on the table, to remind us of the entry of Jesus in Jerusalem. We can even place the word Hosanna on this table, to remind us of the shouts of the people welcoming Jesus. As a family, we can then read the gospel of the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem from the gospel according to Matthew (21:1-11).

On Holy Thursday we remember service, the Eucharist and priesthood. We can cover our coffee table with a white cloth and place on it a small jug with water, a small bowl and a small towel. We can come together and read the narration of the Last Supper in the gospel according to John (13:1-15). John explains how Jesus washed the disciples' feet as a sign of service. We can imitate this by going around and washing each other's hands. We can also try to find time to pray in silence, thanking God for the gift of himself in the Eucharist. Please remember to pray for us priests. We need the prayers of you, the people of God, to continue our ministry among you.

On Good Friday we can cover the coffee table with a red cloth and place a crucifix on it, to remind us of the fact that Jesus died for us. We can decorate the crucifix with flowers and candles as we do our own adoration of the cross. We can come together and read the passion of Christ from the gospel according to John (18:1-19:42). We can share the parts of this reading among different members of this family. It is important to spend some time in silence at the end of this reading.

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@sjohnheidelberg.catholic.edu.au

HALL HIRE:

Contact parish office during hours.

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

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER: My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

PRAYER TO ST JOSEPH: You were receptive to God working in your life. Help us by your prayers at this time of trial. You kept Jesus and Mary under your watchful care: may your prayers assist our local Church to respond to those in need. You taught the Christ Child your trade and prayers: help us to follow his example of love. You were part of God's plan for all humanity: assist us to be vigilant and responsible this day. You spent your life in service: may we be mindful of others, particularly the elderly and vulnerable, caring for them in these difficult days. You trusted in the clear primacy of God over all history and every situation: help us to grow in faith and pray to the Father, Thy will be done.

DAILY PRAYER:

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

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.

Happy 25th Wedding Anniversary: Susan & Russell Lew-Kee.

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.

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

Isaiah 50:4-7

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 21:8-9.17-20.23-24

TOGETHER:

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

LEFT SIDE:

All who see me deride me.

They curl their lips, they toss their heads.

'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;

let him release him if this is his friend.'

RIGHT SIDE:

Many dogs have surrounded me,

a band of the wicked beset me.

They tear holes in my hands and my feet.

I can count every one of my bones.

LEFT SIDE:

They divide my clothing among them.

They cast lots for my robe.

O Lord, do not leave me alone,

my strength, make haste to help me!

RIGHT SIDE:

I will tell of your name to my brethren

and praise you where they are assembled.

'You who fear the Lord give him praise;

all sons of Jacob, give him glory.

Revere him, Israel's sons.'

SECOND READING

Philippians 2:6-11

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Christ became obedient for us even to death dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

GOSPEL

Matthew 27:26-54

He ordered Jesus to be first scourged and then handed over to be crucified.

The governor's soldiers took Jesus with them into the Praetorium and collected the whole cohort around him. Then they stripped him and made him wear a scarlet cloak, and having twisted some thorns into a crown they put this on his head and placed a reed in his right hand. To make fun of him they knelt to him saying, 'Hail, king of the Jews!' And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head with it. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the cloak and dressed him in his own clothes and led him away to crucify him.

On their way out, they came across a man from Cyrene, Simon by name, and enlisted him to carry his cross. When they had reached a place called Golgotha, that is, the place of the skull, they gave him wine to drink mixed with gall, which he tasted but refused to drink. When they had finished crucifying him they shared out his clothing by casting lots, and then sat down and stayed there keeping guard over him.

Above his head was placed the charge against him; it read: 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.' At the same time two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left.

The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said 'So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself! If you are God's son, come down from the cross!' The chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him in the same way. 'He saved others,' they said 'he cannot save himself. He is the king of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He put his trust in God; now let God rescue him if he wants him. For he did say, "I am the son of God."' Even the robbers who were crucified with him taunted him in the same way.

From the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?' When some of those who stood there heard this, they said, 'The man is calling on Elijah,' and one of them quickly ran to get a sponge which he dipped in vinegar and putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink. 'Wait!' said the rest of them 'and see if Elijah will come to save him.' But Jesus again crying out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit.

At that, the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom; the earth quaked; the rocks were split; the tombs opened and the bodies of many holy men rose from the dead, and these, after his resurrection, came out of the tombs, entered the Holy City and appeared to a number of people. Meanwhile the centurion, together with the others guarding Jesus, had seen the earthquake and all that was taking place, and they were terrified and said, 'In truth this was a son of God.'