



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.

25TH / 26TH APRIL 2020, THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR A

Dear Parishioners, Friends and Visitors,

ST JOHN'S PARISH CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

I do not often write about our Parish Primary School in this space, usually, when I need to communicate with our school parents I write to them directly with them through school media. This time, as we face COVID-19 circumstances, I thought it would be good to write something in our parish newsletter also.

As we are all aware, we have been obliged to keep our schools closed. Only a very small number of students have been attending our school over the past two weeks—children whose parents are involved in essential services and therefore cannot stay at home with their children.

During the last week of term one, and during the school holidays, our school staff, very ably led by our principal, Mrs Maureen Stella and our deputy principal, Ms Elizabeth Whiting. Our staff have been meeting very regularly over the internet planning and working hard so that enough material is available for our students. From the various emails we have received from school parents, we are happy to know that the programme of work prepared thus far has been very well received and is working well.

This has certainly not been an easy exercise. Firstly we all miss our personal contact with students in our school. Our school is looking very bare and empty without the many happy feet and smiling faces running around and greeting us. Teaching on line has been a great learning curve for our staff—not without some technical hiccups, I am sure. Thank you to our teachers for all their hard work.

This circumstance has also been very challenging for parents who, suddenly had to take on the added role of teachers of their children, apart from running their own work from home. I thank our parents for their patience and understanding during this time. While school in general is supposed to be a joyful and happy experience, this also applies for work carried out at home. Children learn more when they are relaxed and happy. Teachers and parents are trying their very best to keep their children engaged in learning and enjoy what they are doing.

I also understand that this can be a very stressful time for our young children. Some are missing their friends and their social life, which is so important for them as they grow. While many are enjoying working on their equipment and being engaged, some may also struggle. Thank you parents and carers for doing your best to manage this strange situations!

The catch phrase is: 'we're all in this together!' Indeed we are and we know that together we will all be on the other side of Covid also! Go gently and stay safe (I add stay sane!)

Mario mssp

PARISH ROSE GARDEN: Our parish is proud to have a very nice rose garden that is enjoyed by us as a parish and by many visitors. In order for this rose garden to keep flowering regularly, it needs the commitment of one hour each week, during the flowering season, to remove the dead roses. The parishioner who used to keep our roses going is leaving the parish and needs to be replaced. It would be great if we could have a number of parishioners who can take on this weekly ministry. Anyone interested please contact the parish office for more information. Thank you.

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:

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 to do. We make this prayer, through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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.

FOR DAILY PRAYER YOU CAN VISIT:

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

Dear brothers and sisters, through the Paschal Mystery we have been buried with Christ in Baptism, so that we may walk with him in newness of life. And so, now that our Lenten observance is concluded, let us renew the promises of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and his works and promised to serve God in the holy Catholic Church.

Do you reject sin so as to live in the freedom of God's children? I do

Do you reject the glamour of evil and refuse to be mastered by sin? I do

Do you reject Satan, father of sin and prince of darkness? I do

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth? I do

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died and was buried, rose from the dead and is now seated at the right hand of the Father? I do

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting? I do

God, the all-powerful Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and forgiven all our sins. May he also keep us faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

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.

ANNIVERSERY: Eileen & Allan Sproules, Roy McKenna, Antony & Nicolas Flood, Margaret Teague.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Mafalda Portelli.

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.***

PROJECT COMPASSION, LET'S GO FURTHER, TOGETHER: Some of us may not be able to hand in our Project Compassion boxes, envelopes or cash, to the parish. Here are some options that may help you.

ONLINE: Please count the cash in your boxes and envelopes, go online at 'lent.caritas.org.au,' securely donate using your credit card.

BY CHEQUE: to Caritas Australia, GPO Box 9830, Sydney NSW 2001

ONLINE CASH TRANSFER: either through your online banking or at a bank branch. Banking details: BSB 062 217 A/C NO 1007 2446 A/C Name – Caritas Australia. Use your surname followed by PC as a reference.

AT ST JOHN'S PARISH: you can also drop off your contribution to St John's and we will forward it in your name.

IF YOU CAN'T LEAVE HOME: you can call Caritas Australia on 1800 024 413 and let them know, or contact the parish and we will arrange a pick up for you. Thank you for your generosity.

'Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things, with great love.' Saint Teresa of Calcutta.

COVID CHURCH SERVICES AT ST JOHN'S: We will continue to offer Church services on our Facebook page: facebook.com/stjohnheidelberg. As this is a public page anyone can follow these services, even without a personal Facebook profile. Live streaming: Mass at 9:15am on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday; Rosary and adoration at 5:00pm on Sunday, Monday, Thursday and Friday; Saturday evening: Rosary and adoration at 5:30pm followed by Vigil Mass at 6:00pm; Sunday: Mass at 8:30am. Please join us in prayer.

CHURCH DONATIONS: Thank you to the parishioners who have continued to support the works of the parish. We understand that some may have lost their job and are struggling to make ends meet. We appreciate your struggles and pray for you and your families. You can still support the work of the parish through your prayers. To support the parish financially some parishioners have chosen to drive by and drop off their thanksgiving envelopes in the chute at the front door of the parish house. Others have mailed us their contribution by cheque. Thank you to all these—kindly indicate the purpose of your donation, parish or priest support, and if you have an envelope number please quote the number on an accompanying note. You can also donate by direct debit to our parish bank account. Account name: St John's Catholic Parish, BSB: 633 000 Account Number: 138400957. Kindly indicate your thanksgiving number and parish or presby in the reference section. If you do not have a thanksgiving number please include your family name. You can also use the facility on the parish web page, bottom left hand side, or on the parish Facebook page. Please use the comments section to include your details. All your contributions are greatly appreciated. This helps us continue meeting our financial commitment. Thanks!

KARDIA FORMATION: at this time of COVID physical isolation, Kardia is offering the possibility of a six-day retreat at home from 3rd to 9th May, or the Full Spiritual Exercises from home, over a period of 90 days. These retreats take place from home, and meetings with the spiritual directors happen over the internet through a program called Zoom. If you are interested in participating in any of these retreats please write to: enquiries@kardia.com.au to discuss these options further. This is a good opportunity for spiritual growth.

EMMAUS IS OUR STORY

An attractive feature of the resurrection stories in the gospels is the way in which the risen Lord appears to people exactly as they are: to the disciples in their fear, to Mary Magdalene in her sorrow, to Thomas in his doubting. The episode told in today's Gospel is no exception. Jesus appears to two disciples in their bitter disillusionment and loss of hope. By not revealing himself to them immediately but by simply accompanying them as a companion on the way, the Lord respects their experience and lets them tell their story to the end. Only then does he pick it up and weave it into his own instruction.

He shows them how the recent events in Jerusalem follow the path indicated for the Messiah in the Scriptures, rather than the path of political liberation central to their own messianic hope. Captivated by this companion, the two disciples constrain him to be their guest. But once indoors, a reversal takes place. They who had offered hospitality to him find themselves guests at a meal he provides. The Eucharistic gestures at the breaking of the bread reveal him at last as risen Lord.

Instantly, he vanishes from their sight. Reflecting on how their hearts had burned within them as he explained the scriptures, they hurry back to Jerusalem to share their experience with the other disciples. The whole story perfectly models the life of the Church. Fortified by the Spirit, the Church walks alongside disillusioned, hurt humanity, kindling hope through the Word (the scriptures) and offering through the sacrament (the Eucharist) the hospitality of God.

Fr Brendan Byrne sj

FIRST READING

Acts of the Apostles 2:14,22-23

On the day of Pentecost, Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him:

I saw the Lord before me always, for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me. So my heart was glad and my tongue cried out with joy: my body, too, will rest in the hope that you will not abandon my soul to Hades nor allow your holy one to experience corruption. You have made known the way of life to me, you will fill me with gladness through your presence.

'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 15:1-2.5.7-11

TOGETHER: Lord, you will show us the path of life.

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.

I say to the Lord: 'You are my God.

O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;
it is you yourself who are my prize. R./I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,
who even at night directs my heart.

I keep the Lord ever in my sight:

since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. R./

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my body shall rest in safety.For you will not leave my soul among the dead,
nor let your beloved know decay. R./You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand happiness for ever. R./**SECOND READING**

1 Peter 1:17-21

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious

blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us:
make our hearts burn with love when you speak. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 24:13-35

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.