



ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PARISH  
& PRIMARY SCHOOL

# 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.

## 30TH / 31ST MAY 2020, PENTECOST SUNDAY, YEAR A

Dear Parishioners, Friends and Visitors,

This time of COVID restrictions has been the cause of some frustrations but also of some very deep reflections. One such reflection, 'Living sacramentally,' was written by Helen Carboon, congregational leader of the Presentation Sisters in Victoria.

Carboon reminds us that while the sacramental life of the Church is essential for our Christian life, it is actually a very small part of our whole life. We come together as a Body of Christ to be energised through God's Word, the sacraments and our faith community so that we can return home to live what we have celebrated. At the end of the week we go back to our community, carrying with us the fruits of our sacramental living. Thus the gathering of the People of God becomes for us the *source* of our sacramental living, and the *summit* where we consecrate the fruits of that living. Life happens between this *source* and *summit*. If we do not live our life sacramentally, then we are failing the People of God we belong to; if we do not bring the fruits of our living to the *summit* then our sacraments are fruitless and useless.

At the end of each of our celebrations we are told to 'Go out and live what we have celebrated!' This 'mission' (sending) is so important that the Latin phrase '*ite missa est*' actually gave the name to what we now call the 'Mass,' (in Latin 'Missa,' and in Italian 'Messa')! How do I live sacramentally?

As a baptised Christian I am buried in Christ's death so that I live his resurrection. This new life in Christ means that everything I do carries the marks of Christ. What does Jesus teach in the gospel? How do I live those teachings in my daily life? Christ invites me love my sisters and brothers; how do I express this love in whatever I do?

In the sacrament of Reconciliation, acknowledging my sinfulness, I humbly approach the priest, representing God, and 'confess' my sins, requesting to be reconciled with God. This is the celebration of the sacrament, and I am assured that God, a loving Father, always forgives my sins. The sacramental living starts when I leave the church building and I am faced with people I disagree with, people who challenge me, those who have hurt and offended me. How do I live reconciliation here. We are told to pray: 'forgive us our sins as we forgive the sins of those who sin against us.' Because unless we forgive others their sins, then our sins will not be forgiven!

Often I catch myself acting like the Pharisee in the parable of the Pharisee and the publican (Luke 18:9-14). It is a great temptation to go to the synagogue to inform God what a good and holy person I have been; 'not like these sinners who are always offending you!' In the parable Jesus tells us that it is the humble tax-collector who goes home at peace with God, and not the 'holy' Pharisee. The tax-collector, recognised his sins and humbly asked forgiveness; the Pharisee thought he had the right and duty to sit in judgement on the sinful tax-collector.

In our parish prayer we pray that we welcome 'the stranger, the needy, the sick and the lonely.' I have often wondered who is the stranger who we need to welcome in our life. Who is the 'lost son' God is challenging us to embrace every day.

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:**

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 MARY:** O Mary, You shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the foot of the cross, were united with Jesus' suffering, and persevered in your faith.

'Protectress of the Roman people,' you know our needs, and we know that you will provide, so that, as at Cana in Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us. For he took upon himself our suffering, and burdened himself with our sorrows to bring us, through the cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

*We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God; do not despise our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from every danger, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.*

## PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit, Lord of light,  
From the clear celestial height  
Thy pure beaming radiance give.

Come, thou Father of the poor,  
Come with treasures which endure;  
Come, thou light of all that live!

Thou, of all consolers best,  
Thou, the soul's delightful guest,  
Dost refreshing peace bestow;

Thou in toil art comfort sweet;  
Pleasant coolness in the heat;  
Solace in the midst of woe.

Light immortal, light divine,  
Visit thou these hearts of thine,  
And our inmost being fill:

If thou take thy grace away,  
Nothing pure in man will stay;  
All his good is turned to ill.

Heal our wounds, our strength  
renew;

On our dryness pour thy dew;  
Wash the stains of guilt away:

Bend the stubborn heart and will;  
Melt the frozen, warm the chill;  
Guide the steps that go astray.

Thou, on us who evermore  
Thee confess and thee adore,  
With thy sevenfold gifts descend:

Give us comfort when we die;  
Give us life with thee on high;  
Give us joys that never end.

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

**RECENTLY MARRIED:** Natalie Mlinarevic and Slavko Mladenoski.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Packjapathy Amirthalingam.

**ANNIVERSARY:** Francesca Donatina Farinacci, Tean Allison Ingram.

*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.***

**THANK YOU:** for the past ten years, Fran Gasior has been employed by St John's as a manager at the parish hall, looking after the hall bookings. While this has worked well for a number of years, as we went through a parish review of our staff over the past few months, together with the parish council and the finance committee, it has been decided that the work previously done by Fran can now be carried out by the parish secretary. As a parish we are grateful for Fran's contribution and wish her well as she moves on into other ministries.

**THANK YOU ALSO:** to Pauline Griffiths who for a long time, together with Ann Wyatt and other helpers, has carefully and generously looked after the church altar cloths and making sure the church looked clean and tidy for our Sunday celebrations. Pauline has requested permission to retire from this ministry. We thank Pauline for her generous contribution over the years.

**HELP NEEDED:** Pauline's retirement now raises the need for other people to please step in. We do need some dedicated people who spend some time each week to make sure that our prayer space is clean. While the carpet is vacuumed by a professional cleaner each week, there is always more work to be done: changing, washing and ironing the altar cloths, wiping down the pews, and other odd jobs as they arise. Can I please ask you to consider if you could make yourself available for this very important ministry please. Training will be provided! Thank you in advance.

**COVID CHURCH SERVICES AT ST JOHN'S:** We will continue to offer Church services on our Facebook page: [facebook.com/stjohnheidelberg](https://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.

**PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS:** Thank you to all who have continued to support the parish through this time. You can also give your contribution by using the link on the parish web site (bottom left) or by using our parish bank account details are Account name: St John's Catholic Parish, BSB: 633 000 Account Number: 138400957. Please indicate purpose of donation in the comments sections. Thanks.

**PLEASE CONTINUE LOOKING OUT FOR EACH OTHER:** is there anyone you are aware of that is sick or needs help? Can you offer to do shopping for them? Can you keep in touch especially with those who are lonely and isolated?

Greetings Parish and School Family  
My final day with you at St John's will be Sunday 28th June. Unfortunately at this stage of restrictions we cannot celebrate properly as a family. The Mass on Sunday 28th June will be live-streamed at 10:30am and I invite you to join with me from your homes.

I hope that as things settle back to normal, it will be possible for me to visit you in the parish for a farewell celebration together later in the year.

Due to borders being closed I do not have a firm date when I will be going to commence my ministry in the Philippines. In the interim I will be staying at Hoppers Crossing North Parish, and on retreat. (My email address will be [mario.zammit@hotmail.com](mailto:mario.zammit@hotmail.com))

Fr Joel Peart, presently at Brunswick Parish, will be your new Parish Priest here at St John's. He will start on 1st July and I wish him well in his new ministry with you all.

Your friend and priest,  
Mario mssp

**COVID-SAFE MASSES AT ST JOHN'S:** At present we are still not having public Masses at St John's. Hopefully things will change in the near future. As we wait, we can use this time to prepare ourselves for coming back. We are being told that we will be needed to take names and numbers of people attending, ensure COVID distancing and, most importantly, clean the church after each Mass. This will certainly take a lot of effort and we need people to take on these responsibilities. Can I please ask you to see how you can help and please contact the parish office with your details. You can either ring the parish office (94571066) or email ([heidelberg@cam.org.au](mailto:heidelberg@cam.org.au)). We can then try to make a roster of helpers for each Mass. Thank you.

**WELCOME BACK:** This week we had the privilege of welcoming back our year prep, 1 and 2 students. Over the last few weeks, the school was very empty and desolate with less than one tenth of the students in attendance. I visited each class last Tuesday and was welcomed by excited students and equally enthusiastic staff who have been doing a marvelous job educating our students remotely. Thank you to our parents for supporting our school at this strange time. Thank you to parents who took time to drop in a note of thanks to our committed school staff.



**FIRST READING**

Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11

When Pentecost day came round, the apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely' they said 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome – Jews and proselytes alike – Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Psalm 46:2-3. 6-9

Response: Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

Bless the Lord, my soul!

Lord God, how great you are,

How many are your works, O Lord!

The earth is full of your riches.

R./

You take back your spirit, they die,  
returning to the dust from which they came.

You send forth your spirit, they are created;

and you renew the face of the earth.

R./

May the glory of the Lord last for ever!

May the Lord rejoice in his works!

May my thoughts be pleasing to him.

I find my joy in the Lord.

R./

Response: Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

**SECOND READING**

1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13

No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord' unless he is under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose.

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

John 20:19-23

In the evening of the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you', and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven: for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

**THE SPIRIT: GOD'S EMPOWERING PRESENCE**

Today's first reading, from the book of the Acts of the Apostles (2:1-11), locates the imparting of the Spirit on the Jewish feast of Pentecost, a pilgrimage feast celebrated fifty days after Passover. In biblical tradition, wind and fire signal the presence and power of God, as when Israel stood before God at the foot of Mount Sinai. What is described here seems to be a central fiery mass from which distinct 'tongues' ('as if of fire:' not real fire!) separate off and come to rest on individuals.

During his earthly life, the Spirit rested only upon Jesus (Luke 3:21-22; 4:14). Now, as he promised (Luke 24:49), it comes down upon the disciples, gathered with Mary his mother, who are now to be his witnesses—in first instance to Israel, eventually 'to the ends of the earth' (Acts 1:8).

The multi-nation variety of people who hear and understand the testimony of the apostles in their own language foreshadows this worldwide mission. In many languages the Church will communicate the single message of God's reconciling love. The gospel (John 20:19-23) associates the gift of the Spirit more closely with the resurrection. On Easter Sunday evening the risen Lord breathes out upon his disciples the Spirit that will empower them to take up the mission he has received from the Father. They are to pass on the reconciliation ('whose sins you shall forgive ...') that he, as Lamb of God (1:29), has brought into the world.

Fr Brendan Byrne sj