



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.

13TH / 14TH JUNE 2020, BODY AND BLOOD OF JESUS SUNDAY, YEAR A

Dear Parishioners, Friends and Visitors,

This Novel Corona Virus COVID-19 has caused some interesting shifts in the way we think and behave. I think that even the way we pray and are Church has changed. We have been pushed, some would say kicking and screaming, to try other things. If I may reflect with you on some of my learnings during this time.

I had never thought of doing live-streaming before, much less live-streaming of Masses. I had never done any live-streaming for any occasion, yet this time it seemed the right thing to do. 'Mass for you at home,' Mass recorded in a television studio and transmitted on TV screens weeks or months later, is the longest continuous programme on TV; it has been going on for fifty years. I believe that nothing beats being physically present in church and actually participating in the Mass. This is especially true of the Eucharist; one cannot receive Eucharist from home! Very often in life, while we know what is the ideal position, we cannot always reach it, and at times we need to settle on a second best option that is still good. Perhaps this 'second best' can be a reminder of what we are missing and what we are hoping for.

I have a feeling that during the COVID-19 weeks and months, social media, especially the internet, has come of age. I have often mused with other parishioners about what the situation would have been like a hundred years ago, during the Spanish Flu; they had no TV, internet and often not even a radio. I suspect that many of us today would have gone totally mad in that situation. In 2020 we can watch TV and follow the different films and programmes, and we can also keep in touch with family and friends over the internet.

While it is important to reach out and be physically present to the ones we love, and nothing can ever substitute our physical presence, at times we need to rely on a good use of the internet to maintain our relationships. There were many Masses being live-streamed from a variety of venues, so why the need to start live-streaming from St John's also? I felt that this was a good way to be parish together, especially at a time when our church remained closed. Every morning many parishioners joined to participate in our parish Mass and many have shared with me that they felt this connection to the parish kept them going spiritually and emotionally.

Like many other things in life, the internet and social media can be abused and can be the cause of very serious trouble, like bullying. Yet, when used appropriately, it can be a great tool for the spreading of the good news. There are many inspiring articles and reflections that are shared on the internet and social media, apart from its use for live-streaming of Mass and other prayer events. A car can be a very useful tool, but in the wrong hands it can also be an instrument of mass murder, as we have witnessed too often!

There are times in our life where, due to work, sickness or old age, we can no longer participate in the life of the Church by being present to each other as a Church community. It is very important for us to realise that our faith does not depend solely on our physical presence in the community, but on our intimate and personal relationship with God. I believe that during this time many have experienced prayer in a different way by sitting silently in prayer and reflecting on the word of God for us.

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: pol.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.

SEQUENCE FOR THE FEAST OF THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST.

Sing forth, O Zion, sweetly sing
The praises of thy Shepherd-King,
In hymns and canticles divine;
Dare all thou canst,
thou hast no song
Worthy his praises to prolong,
So far surpassing powers like thine.

Behold the bread of angels, sent
For pilgrims in their banishment,
The bread for God's
true children meant,
That may not unto dogs be given:
Oft in the olden types foreshadowed;
In Isaac on the altar bowed,
And in the ancient paschal food,
And in the manna sent from heaven.

Come then, good shepherd,
bread divine,
Still show to us thy mercy sign;
Oh, feed us still, still keep us thine;
So may we see thy glories shine
In fields of immortality;

O thou, the wisest, mightiest, best,
Our present food, our future rest,
Come, make us each
thy chosen guest,
Co-heirs of thine,
and comrades blest
With saints whose dwelling
is with thee.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

RECENTLY BAPTISED: Audrey Oates, Felix Amore.

ANNIVERSARY:

*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.***

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). We can then try to make a roster of helpers for each Mass. Thank you.

HELP NEEDED: We dedicated people who can spend some time each week to make sure that our prayer space is clean. This involves 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.

FOOD TRAIN: a parishioner, a mother of four young children, is presently very sick and is requesting support with meals two or three times a week. If anyone can help with this act of charity, can you please contact the school secretary, Leanne Bradley, on 9459 2963. Your support will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

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.

SAFEGUARDING PRAYER: We the parishioners of St John's Heidelberg commit ourselves as a community in which our children, young people and vulnerable adults are nurtured and have a voice that is heard. May we treasure them, be vigilant and fearless in protecting them from harm, and live as a community ensuring that the well-being and safety of all children is at the forefront of all we do and each decision we make.

LET US 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?

ST VINCENT DE PAUL WINTER APPEAL:

Every day at Vinnies, we see that ordinary people are able to make an extraordinary difference in their local communities. We are inspired by the joy of the gospels and our Catholic social teachings to do things that matter. The spirit to feed, heal, shelter, nurture, and inspire – the power to change lives – is in everyone.

As we enter this winter in the shadow of coronavirus, your commitment to helping those experiencing disadvantage, poverty, loneliness and homelessness is still very much needed and appreciated.

There will be no cash collection for this appeal this year, as there are currently no (or limited) Church Masses. You can donate by calling 13 18 12 or by visiting vinnies.org.au. You can also drop off your donations at the parish office or, outside office hours, by putting them clearly marked, in the chute at the parish office. We will forward these donations to Vinnies. Donations of \$2 or more are tax-deductible.

You are also welcome to drop off non-perishable foods for our deliveries of hampers. Please place your donations in the basket in the church foyer. Thank you for your generosity.

28TH JUNE LIVE-STREAMING OF FAREWELL MASS.

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)

Fr Joel Peart, presently at Brunswick Parish, will be your new Parish Administrator 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

ST JOHN'S PARISH SCHOOL: This week we welcomed back students from years 3 to year 6. Welcome back!



FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 8:2-3.14-16

Moses said to the people: 'Remember how the Lord your God led you for forty years in the wilderness, to humble you, to test you and know your inmost heart – whether you would keep his commandments or not. He humbled you, he made you feel hunger, he fed you with manna which neither you nor your fathers had known, to make you understand that man does not live on bread alone but that man lives on everything that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

'Do not then forget the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery: who guided you through this vast and dreadful wilderness, a land of fiery serpents, scorpions, thirst; who in this waterless place brought you water from the hardest rock; who in this wilderness fed you with manna that your fathers had not known.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 147:12-15.19-20

Response: Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.

O praise the Lord, Jerusalem! Zion, praise your God!

He has strengthened the bars of your gates,
he has blessed the children within you. R./

He has established peace on your borders,
he feeds you with finest wheat.
He sends out his word to the earth
and swiftly runs his command. R./

He makes his word known to Jacob,
to Israel his laws and decrees.
He has not dealt thus with other nations;
he has not taught them his decrees. R./

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 10:16-17

The blessing-cup that we bless is a communion with the blood of Christ, and the bread that we break is a communion with the body of Christ. The fact that there is only one loaf means that, though there are many of us, we form a single body because we all have a share in this one loaf.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord;
whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 6:51-58

Jesus said to the Jews: 'I am the living bread which has come down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world.'

Then the Jews started arguing with one another: 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' they said. Jesus replied: 'I tell you most solemnly, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you will not have life in you. Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood has eternal life, and I shall raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in him. As I, who am sent by the living Father, myself draw life from the Father, so whoever eats me will draw life from me. This is the bread come down from heaven; not like the bread our ancestors ate: they are dead, but anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.'

THE BREAD OF LIFE

The Gospel for today's feast comes from Jesus' long discourse on 'the Bread of Life' in the sixth chapter of St John. At this final stage of the discourse Jesus explicitly links the gift of the Eucharist with the manna ('bread from heaven') that sustained the Israelites during their time of wandering in the wilderness of Sinai.

For most of the discourse, however, Jesus has been speaking of himself as 'the Bread of Life' in a more general sense. The people want him to emulate Moses, who arranged for 'bread from heaven' (the manna) to be given to their ancestors. But Jesus refuses to be just another figure like Moses, turning on miracles for the people. He identifies himself, rather, with the manna itself. He is the 'Bread' that God has sent down from heaven.

While the original manna simply sustained the Israelites in their journey through the wilderness, the new 'Bread from heaven' sustains life in a far deeper sense. Jesus describes it as 'my flesh for the life of the world'—an allusion to his death, in which he will lay down his earthly life that the world might share the eternal life of God.

In the Eucharist, the Body and Blood of the Lord are always the body 'given up' for us and the cup 'poured out' for us. In this sacramental mystery believers encounter a divine communication of sacrificial love and life foreshadowed by but far surpassing what the Israelites experienced at Sinai.

Fr Brendan Byrne sj