



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.

20TH / 21ST JUNE 2020, 12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

Dear Parishioners, Friends and Visitors,

In my last two reflections on this weekly newsletter, I have decided to reflect on the parish prayer, so beautifully prepared by Fr Ted, and which we pray each day and before each Sunday Mass. I believe this prayer can easily be taken as our parish community's mission statement. The prayer invites us to *'cherish and maintain our parish heritage;*' I would like to unpack this statement.

Our parish community is one of the very first parishes established in the Melbourne Archdiocese. The diocese of Melbourne was established in 1848 and St John's parish in 1851. We therefore have a long history as a parish and an old church building to remind us of this and to look after. We are entrusted to look after this rich heritage we inherited.

Part of the heritage is also the faith we practice and the Catholic tradition we have inherited. The question that arises is: how do we preserve heritage? We know that for a valuable property to be handed down to later generations, it has to be restored and maintained. In some building this also requires updating the building to suit contemporary needs and at times even replacing some of the original stones and structures that made up the building. One can choose not to replace the original stone, but this may cause the building to deteriorate and eventually fall apart.

I use this as an analogy. Perhaps it may be easy to understand the need to preserve a building, it is not as easy to understand how to preserve tradition. Tradition is often compared to a precious but very fragile artefact; an expensive and unique work of art. At times it is compared also to a lump of clay. The art of enjoying and preserving tradition is in the way it is *'handed down.'* The word tradition means handing down.

In museums, precious historic artefacts are often locked away behind glass cabinets so no one can touch them. They are nice to look at, but no one can interact with them. We are afraid that if anyone touches them, they can be damaged and lost forever. The other option is to open up the glass cabinets and let everyone handle the precious artefact, allowing people to enjoy it and risk it being damaged.

This is where the second image of the lump of clay comes in handy. Each time I hand down the lump of clay, it actually changes shape; as each successive generation accepts it and interacts with it, the clay will change in shape and will be marked with the fingerprints of all who handled it, but it is still alive and being enjoyed by all.

Our faith, our Catholic tradition, too needs to be handed down from one generation to another. In doing so we need to allow each successive generation to accept it and change it in a way that it can be understood and accepted by faithful Christians of that era. If we lock up our tradition a glass cabinet, we are guaranteed that it will never change, but we also know that it will become a museum piece and eventually die. This handing down of tradition is a very old concept and can be even observed in the scriptures, where stories are adapted to suit changing cultures.

Let us, as we pray, continue appreciating and handing down the heritage entrusted to 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.

Mary Help of Christians, 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.

TIME TO SAY GOODBYE! It is sad to farewell a family that has welcomed me for the past seven years and that I have come to love. I thank you all, young and not-so-young, for the way you welcomed, accepted and loved me. I have to admit, I enjoyed every single bit of my stay at the beautiful St John's. I have tried my best to love you and to 'wash your feet' as best as I could. Hopefully the water I used was neither too hot nor too cold on your feet! In the gospel according to Luke Jesus tells the following story: "Suppose one of you has a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Will he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, 'Come along now and sit down to eat'? Won't he rather say, 'Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink'? Will he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty'" (17:7-10). While I appreciate the many kind words I have received from you, I can only say in return: 'I have done nothing special, I have just carried out what was expected of me to the best of my ability.' If I may, in return, can I kindly ask you to please remember me in your prayers to the Father. I do promise to return your the favour each time I celebrate Mass.

God bless you all! Mario mssp

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

RECENTLY BAPTISED: George Prowse.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Cecily Devasia, Alan Castles.

*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: As you are aware, from Monday 22nd June 50 people can be present at church for Mass. This gives the opportunity to Fr Joel when he takes over next month, to consider the options available. Please note that: NO decision in this regard has been made yet. For this to be able to happen, we need ushers and people to clean up the church between Masses. 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.



REGISTERING WHEN IN THE CHURCH: we have an obligation to take the name and a contact number of all who attend Mass to help stop the spread of the virus. To do this we have introduced a QR code which

can be scanned using a smart phone, and asked to insert your FIRST NAME and CONTACT NUMBER. Copies of this QR code and instructions are on the seats. You are requested to help those without a smart phone to enter their details. This system is a safe way of keeping records. The records will not be kept by the parish and can ONLY be used in case of a positive COVID-19 diagnosis.

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.

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.

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?

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

On Sunday 28th June I will be celebrating my farewell Mass at St John's. This Mass will be live-streamed at 10:30am (there will be no 8:30am Mass) and I invite you to join with me from your homes. The Mass will be available of both Facebook (facebook.com/stjohnheidelberg) and Youtube (https://youtu.be/Du4_bjxObbo). Unfortunately at this stage of restrictions we cannot celebrate properly as a family and the church will NOT be open to parishioners on this day.

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

I plan to be on my way to the Philippines in the first week of December. In the interim I will be staying at Hoppers Crossing North Parish, and on retreat. (My email address is mario.zammit@hotmail.com) You can follow my progress on the Hoppers Crossing North Facebook page (facebook.com/stjamesapostlehcn).

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

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 20:10-13

Jeremiah said: 'I hear so many disparaging me, "Terror from every side! Denounce him! Let us denounce him!" All those who used to be my friends watched for my downfall, "Perhaps he will be seduced into error. Then we will master him and take our revenge!" But the Lord is at my side, a mighty hero; my opponents will stumble, mastered, confounded by their failure; everlasting, unforgettable disgrace will be theirs. But you, Lord of Hosts, you who probe with justice, who scrutinise the loins and heart, let me see the vengeance you will take on them, for I have committed my cause to you. Sing to the Lord, praise the Lord, for he has delivered the soul of the needy from the hands of evil men.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 68:8-10,14,17,33-35**Response:** Lord, in your great love, answer me.

It is for you that I suffer taunts, that shame covers my face,
that I have become a stranger to my brothers,
an alien to my own mother's sons.
I burn with zeal for your house
and taunts against you fall on me.

R./

This is my prayer to you, my prayer for your favour.
In your great love, answer me, O God,
with your help that never fails:
Lord, answer, for your love is kind;
in your compassion, turn towards me.

R./

The poor when they see it will be glad
and God-seeking hearts will revive;
for the Lord listens to the needy
and does not spurn his servants in their chains.
Let the heavens and the earth give him praise,
the sea and all its living creatures.

R./

SECOND READING

Romans 5:12-15

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of Truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord, and you also will be my witnesses.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 10:26-33

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the house-tops.

'Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows.

'So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But the one who disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.'

OF WHOM TO BE AFRAID?

As a basic human emotion, fear can go two ways. It can be a safeguard and protection. Or it can be a force that cripples and disables. The key thing is to distinguish well-founded fear from that which is illusory or based on deception. A great part of spiritual direction consists in helping people to recognise their fears and see whether they are based on falsehood or reality.

Today's gospel addresses challenges believers face in living out and giving witness to their faith. Ringing through it is the refrain: 'Do not fear.' Jesus acknowledges that there will be much that will dismay believers and make them afraid. He urges them to distinguish appropriate from inappropriate fear.

Disciples need not fear persecutors who can only kill the body. Our physical existence is held in God's hands; we are precious in God's sight— infinitely more so than sparrows, none of whose falling to the ground escapes divine notice. In all threats, then, we can be confident that God will see them through to eternal life.

For disciples, the only truly valid fear is that of falling out of God's favour. The warning, 'Fear him, rather, who can destroy both body and soul in hell,' may refer, then, to those whose evil influence and deception could bring this about.

God's only desire is to impart to us eternal life. But we can so alienate ourselves from the outreach of divine love as to face eternal loss. It is of such a consequence that people ought truly to be afraid.

Fr Brendan Byrne sj