



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.

## 27<sup>TH</sup> / 28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2020, 13<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

Dear Parishioners, Friends and Visitors,

In my second reflection about our parish prayer—and in my last message to our parish community—I want to reflect on the part where we ask that we *“be people who welcome the stranger, the needy, the sick and the lonely.”* I find it fascinating that the prayer does not simply mention love of neighbour, as Jesus did when asked about the greatest commandment, but it actually mentions different categories of what our sister or brother may look like.

At St John's we have looked after the needy for a long time, our St Vincent de Paul conference is among the first to be established, over ninety years ago. We have always looked after the sick, through our ministry to the hospitals in our parish, and those in their homes or nursing homes. Similarly we have reached out to the lonely, organising Heidelcare for those who need transport, and our GEMS group, bringing together people who may otherwise be lonely. I would like to focus on the *stranger* in our midst.

Unfortunately, as human beings, as much as we like to come together as friends, we also have a serious tendency of creating strangers and of pushing people away from us. We come together in groups and once a group is established, we tend to fall into an 'us' and 'them' mentality. We have formed ourselves into a very successful nation (us), and tend to look down on migrants and refugees seeking to share our life (them). This is not a new phenomenon, here in Australia, different waves of migrants were frowned upon, the 'white Australia policy' being one of the instances.

Yet more distressing is the fact that we tend to do this in Church and religious circles. There are those who attend Mass every Sunday (us) and the others who rarely darken the doorstep of the church building (them). Or, those who follow the dictates and traditions of the Church (us) and those who 'live in sin,' in whichever way it is defined (them). Once again, this is not a new phenomenon by any means. In the Old Testament we find the People of God against the Gentiles, the pagans and the Samaritans. We find the holy and law observing Pharisees, against the unholy and sinful tax collectors and publicans. In the European Middle Ages we see the orthodox, law abiding Christians, against the heretics who were rounded up and burnt at the stake.

The point I am trying to make is that this is a highly unchristian attitude. Jesus invites us to love our enemies as ourselves. My enemy is not the one who tries to shoot me or beat me up in the street, but the person who I cannot understand or even stand. My enemy is the *'them'* part in the equation, the *'stranger'* that I cannot associate with because of his or her way of life or thinking.

Jesus does not teach us to adopt their lifestyle, but to always forgive them 'seventy times seven times.' He invites us to reach out to them and to pray for them, not to judge them and to condemn them. In the parable of the Pharisee and the publican, Jesus condemns the Pharisee because, instead of seeking to enter into a deeper relationship with God, he is more concerned to tell God that his is a good and holy person, not like the publican standing humbly at the back of the synagogue. Let us take our parish prayer seriously each time we pray it, and be open to welcome the stranger in our midst.

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.*

**ALTAR SOCIETY:** As I have retired as coordinator, I would like to sincerely thank all the ladies and gentleman who have helped me with the cleaning, linen and flowers over many years. It has been a pleasure to work with you all; past and present. I would especially like to thank Ann Wyatt, Rachel Campagnaro and Frances Hamilton who have volunteered for over 30 years. Good luck to our new coordinator, Elizabeth Williamson who, I am sure, will be an excellent Coordinator and would love a few more volunteers.

Thank you for your work, friendship and chats.

God Bless you all. Pauline Griffiths.

**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.

**FAREWELL DEAR SISTERS AND BROTHERS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR WELCOME, FRIENDSHIP AND SUPPORT OVER THE YEARS OF OUR JOURNEY. GOD BLESS YOU ALL!**

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

**RECENTLY DECEASED:**

**PRAYER FOR THE SICK:** Giovanni Mirabella.

*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:** Hopefully at some stage in the future we will be allowed 50 people to be present at church for Mass. This gives the opportunity to Fr Joel consider whether it would be appropriate to start doing Sunday Masses. Please note that: NO decision in this regard has been made yet, but, 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 need dedicated people who can spend some time each week to make sure that our church 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?

**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

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), Youtube ([https://youtu.be/Du4\\_bjxObbo](https://youtu.be/Du4_bjxObbo)) and the parish website. Unfortunately due to COVID restrictions, we cannot celebrate properly as a family and the church will NOT be open to parishioners on this day.

The plan is that I visit the parish on Sunday 15th November, and we can be able to celebrate as one big family at the OLMC Nalleijerring Centre before I go to the Philippines.

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).

We welcome Fr Joel Peart, our new Parish Administrator, and wish him well in his new ministry at St John's.

Your friend and priest,  
Mario mssp

**FIRST READING**

2 Kings 4:8-11. 14-16

One day as Elisha was on his way to Shunem, a woman of rank who lived there pressed him to stay and eat there. After this he always broke his journey for a meal when he passed that way. She said to her husband, 'Look, I am sure the man who is constantly passing our way must be a holy man of God. Let us build him a small room on the roof, and put him a bed in it, and a table and chair and lamp; whenever he comes to us he can rest there.'

One day when he came, he retired to the upper room and lay down. 'What can be done for her?' he asked. Gehazi (his servant) answered, 'Well, she has no son and her husband is old.' Elisha said, 'Call her.' The servant called her and she stood at the door. 'This time next year,' Elisha said 'you will hold a son in your arms.'

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Psalm 88:2-3. 16-19

**Response:** Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;  
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.  
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,  
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens.  
R./

Happy the people who acclaim such a king,  
who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face,  
who find their joy every day in your name,  
who make your justice the source of their bliss. R./

For it is you, O Lord, who are the glory of their strength;  
it is by your favour that our might is exalted:  
for our ruler is in the keeping of the Lord;  
our king in the keeping of the Holy One of Israel. R./

**SECOND READING**

ROMANS 6:3-4. 8-11

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia! You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy people. Praise God who called you out of darkness and into his marvellous light. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Matthew 10:37-42

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.'

'Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me.'

'Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will have a prophet's reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy man because he is a holy man will have a holy man's reward.'

'If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

**WELCOMING CHRIST**

The attractive themes of 'welcome' and 'hospitality' running through today's readings sit a bit uncomfortably alongside the opening words of the Gospel, where Jesus starkly rules out 'preferring' family members to loyalty to himself.

The warning reflects the situation of the early church, where the experience, or at least the threat, of persecution was very real, and where some members of a family may have been Christian and some not.

In contemporary societies that are either majority Christian or tolerantly post-Christian, we may not face this challenge so sharply. If, however, we are comfortable in our world, largely sharing its values and aspirations, then some aspect of Christ's message is not getting through to us.

At this point, the theme of 'welcome' in the second part of today's Gospel comes into play. In Matthew's Gospel Jesus is from the start 'Emmanuel—God with us' (1:23). This sense of divine presence stands behind the statement: 'Anyone who welcomes you, welcomes me; and those who welcome me, welcome the One who sent me'.

The stranger, then, who stands before us comes as an emissary and representative of Christ and, further, of the Father, who sent Christ to be the divine presence in our world. In dealing with this person, we are in some sense dealing with our God. As never before, save perhaps immediately after World War II, are so many people being displaced through war, tyranny or economic misery. In the light of this mass movement, Christ's words about discipleship and welcome hold fresh challenge.

*Fr Brendan Byrne sj*