



ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PARISH
& PRIMARY SCHOOL

ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PARISH

52 Yarra Street
HEIDELBERG



We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which our parish stands, the Wurundjeri-Balluk clan of the Woi wurrung people in the Kulin Nation.

St John's Parish is committed to fostering the dignity, encouragement and integrity of children and young people and providing them with a safe, supportive and enriching environment.

11TH / 12TH JULY 2020, 15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

Dear Friends,

I pray this letter finds you well! Though I have had the pleasure of meeting some of our faithful during my first week here, I was looking forward to meeting another 50 or so over this weekend. Alas, it was not to be as restrictions on those living in Metropolitan Melbourne tightened up again. It is sad, but don't be discouraged: God does his best work out of times of adversity, provided we remain faithful to Him in prayer and our good works.

Be assured that over the next few weeks the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered each and every day in our parish church for you and your intentions. I have been asked by some if I will be livestreaming masses over the internet like some other priests and parishes have done. I will not be doing this, at least for the time being.

Firstly, I'm not very tech savvy and I am not on any social media platforms such as Facebook. I think screen time is actually one of the major obstacles to fostering the peaceful interior life that Our Lord wills for us, so I'm not overly keen in encouraging you to fill your day with another half an hour or so on the computer.

Secondly, the sacraments of our Church are effective in their reality but also by their physical presence. They do not have the same effect when they are displayed on a screen. Back in March, the Archbishop granted a dispensation to the faithful of Melbourne from the obligation of attending mass on Sunday. I fear that the impression given is that a livestreamed mass is the obvious and best substitute for the real thing, to which I disagree.

There are many other ways of praying and expressing our devotion to God that the church encourages whenever mass is not available: using the Sunday readings and celebrating a Liturgy of the Word, especially where two or three can gather in His name; praying the Rosary or Divine Mercy Chaplet; doing some good spiritual reading or reading of the lives of the saints; and of course through private prayer and meditation.

As well as the personal prayer, I encourage you also in acts of charity that might not have been possible when life was a little busier: calling a friend or writing them a letter; tidying up the garage or office or tending to the garden. It was great to see families during the first lockdown back in March out together on a bike ride or walking the dog; hearing of the playing of board games of an evening or cooking a meal together. When all this is over, I hope to heaven that none of you who are able bodied are still watching mass on the internet! But I certainly do hope you are still praying the rosary, reading the scriptures and spending quality time with your family.

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PARISH PRIEST Fr Joel Peart
PARISH SECRETARY: Mary Peeris

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:

Tues—Fri 9:30am to 2:30pm

MASS TIMES: No public masses at this time

RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION):

By appointment

WEDDINGS: By appointment

FIRST RECONCILIATION,

FIRST COMMUNION, CONFIRMATION:

Parish Secretary (9457 1066)

LEGION OF MARY: Not meeting

at this time

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 PRIMARY

Maureen Stella (Principal)

55 Cape St Heidelberg 3084

t: 9459 2963;

office@sjheidelberg.catholic.edu.au

HALL HIRE:

Contact parish office during

hours.

All that being said, if you have found mass online a great way to hear the readings and make an act of spiritual communion, then please continue doing so. You have a great opportunity during this time to get to see and hear regularly from the chief shepherd of Melbourne: Archbishop Peter Comensoli. He has his mass televised from St Patrick's Cathedral every Sunday at 11am. The link is as follows: <http://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>

If not our Archbishop, then pick any one of the thousands of priests in the English speaking world who will have their mass streamed or uploaded online. You will hear from me plenty over the coming years: maybe take the chance now to hear from someone you never would have otherwise in this lifetime!

The sacrament of confession will still be available, albeit by appointment. If you want to uphold your right to anonymity, simply express to Mary at the office your wish to receive the sacrament and nominate a time, and I will be in the sacristy/confessional with the sacristy door unlocked. I am also available for pastoral visits if the need arises.

My prayers go with you.

In Christ,

Fr Joel.

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.

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.

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.

CHURCH CLOSURE: In returning to Stage 3 restrictions, the public celebration of Mass will not happen and the church will be closed again to any private prayer for the next six weeks. Let us continue to look out for each other. If you need help with anything during this time, please let us know by ringing the Parish Office, 94571066. God bless you all.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

RECENTLY DECEASED: Daniel Pereira

ANNIVERSARY: Tom Dennis

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*

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.

PARISH OFFICE NEW WORKING HOURS: The Parish office will be closed on Mondays instead of Wednesdays. So herein after the parish office will function between Tuesday to Friday from 9:30am to 2:30pm.

GEMS: Hello GEM members and friends. We hope you are staying well and are happy. It seems such a long time since we have enjoyed each others' company. We have heard from many of you that you are looking forward to the time we can gather together again. If you need anything during this next period of lock-down, help with shopping, a ride to a medical appointment, a chat with someone please let us know by ringing the Parish Office, 94571066. We would be most happy to help. God bless you all and take care.



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.

EYRIE ADVERTISEMENT SPACE: We would like to thank our past and present sponsors of the Eyrie Magazine for their generous contributions in assisting us to print such a great colour magazine for our Parish.

We understand that it is a hard time for some businesses and we have a few spots vacant for our next editions in September and December. If you have a business and would like to advertise it in the magazine both on line and in hard copy we would be pleased to hear from you.

Those in the know say..... this is THE TIME TO ADVERTISE

Email at heidelberg@cam.org.au or phone Michelle 0499891101 to discuss.

THE WORTHWHILENESS OF JESUS' MESSAGE

Adopting the shorter form of today's Gospel, let us concentrate on the riches contained in the parable of the Sower taken simply by itself.

Jesus probably told the parable to counter discouragement among his disciples stemming from the poor response his message was receiving from many quarters.

So, taking a familiar image from agricultural practice of his day, Jesus pointed to the very casual way in which those going out to sow a crop scattered the seed about. By no means all of it landed in good soil. Quite a bit could land in the three situations—on the path, on rocky ground, among thorns—resulting in the loss described.

Isn't this all rather wasteful? Not at all! The sower knows that each seed that falls on good soil will bear a yield many times in excess of itself: a hundredfold, sixty or thirty. This abundance so vastly outweighs the losses that he can afford to be casual and wild.

Like the sower, Jesus scatters his message far and wide. In the case of many who hear him the word suffers the fate of the seed that is lost. But when it really strikes home and finds a welcome, the corresponding "yield"—hundredfold, sixty, thirty—more than compensates for all the loss.

In the face of opposition and indifference, Jesus does not lose confidence. When the word finds a generous response in the human heart, there is no limit to the riches of God's love and grace that can be channeled through such persons into the world.

Fr Brendan Byrne SJ

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face;
I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

FIRST READING

 Isaiah 55:10-11

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

 Psalm 64:10-14.

Response: The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

You care for the earth, give it water,
you fill it with riches.
Your river in heaven brims over
to provide its grain.

And thus you provide for the earth;
you drench its furrows,
you level it, soften it with showers,
you bless its growth.

You crown the year with your goodness.
Abundance flows in your steps,
in the pastures of the wilderness it flows.

The hills are girded with joy,
the meadows covered with flocks,
the valleys are decked with wheat.
They shout for joy, yes, they sing.

R./

R./

R./

R./

SECOND READING

 Romans 8:18-23

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower;
all who come to him will live for ever.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:1-23

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled:

You will listen and listen again, but not understand, see and see again, but not perceive. For the heart of this nation has grown coarse, their ears are dull of hearing, and they have shut their eyes, for fear they should see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and be converted and be healed by me.

'But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.

'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'