

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

See, I have God for my help.  
The Lord sustains my soul.  
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart,  
and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

## FIRST READING

Wisdom 12:13.16-19

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything, to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly. Your justice has its source in strength, your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all. You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned and you expose the insolence of those who know it; but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, you govern us with great lenience, for you have only to will, and your power is there. By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men, and you have given your sons the good hope that after sin you will grant repentance.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalms 85:5-6. 9-10. 15-16.

**Response:** Lord, you are good and forgiving.

O Lord, you are good and forgiving,

full of love to all who call.

Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer

and attend to the sound of my voice.

R./

All the nations shall come to adore you  
and glorify your name, O Lord:

for you are great and do marvellous deeds,  
you who alone are God.

R./

But you, God of mercy and compassion,  
slow to anger, O Lord,  
abounding in love and truth,  
turn and take pity on me.

R./

## SECOND READING

Romans 8:26-27

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;  
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

Matthew 13:24-43

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn.'"

He put another parable before them, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.'

He told them another parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.'

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfill the prophecy:

I will speak to you in parables and expound things hidden since the foundation of the world.

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord, the gracious, the merciful,  
has made a memorial of his wonders;  
he gives food to those who fear him.



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.

## 18TH / 19TH JULY 2020, 16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

Dear friends,

I pray you are all well and have had a blessed week.

I wouldn't usually draw your attention to more clerical matters, but the priests and parishes of our archdiocese received a letter from the Vicar General a day or so ago, informing us of a number of personnel changes and appointments across the archdiocese. That might not be typically noteworthy, but what stands out in this letter (and I dare say in the next few to come) is the number of parishes being put under the pastoral care of very few priests. I quote a section of the letter here:

*Currently, in the Bayside region, Fr David Cartwright and Fr Dean Mathieson are preparing to work together with the people across five parishes. In the inner north, Fr Linh Pham and Fr Greg Bourke are also preparing to work together with the people of four parishes. Last month, Fr John Salvano and Fr Toan Nguyen took responsibility for the pastoral leadership of the parish of Greythorn in addition to the communities of North Blawyn and East Kew. Their neighbours Fr Brendan Reed and Fr Trac Nguyen added to their pastoral care the parishes of Surrey Hills and Wattle Park on top of their responsibility for Camberwell, Balwyn and Deepdene.*

Phew! Just reading that exhausted me. But it is indicative of where we are at, with parish numbers in the inner suburbs declining as well as the number of priests to care for them simply not available. (I suppose those two issues go hand in hand.) Now I don't pretend to offer any quick fire solutions here, because there isn't any. But bringing it to your attention I might bring it to your prayer and appreciation. Firstly, these communities that are being absorbed into others will no doubt be feeling a great sense of loss and hurt. People who have given their time and money over a lifetime to support their parish, only to see it now unable to stand on its own is a sad reality and one that would be hard to accept. Secondly, priests having their time and abilities stretched across several suburbs will need nothing short of the grace and strength of God to survive! May He grant them all they need in ministering to His people.

In Christ,

Fr Joel.

## NEW DIRECTOR OF VOCATIONS

Speaking of priests and appointments, we have a new Director of Vocations here in Melbourne: Fr Jerome Santamaria. I think the Archbishop has made a great call on this one! Fr Jerome has many gifts and is one of the hardest working fellows I know. He is a fine example of a priest himself who will carry out the role with the wisdom and inspiration needed. May God bless his efforts as he takes on the very challenging role of helping young people discern God's call for them in life, and especially in assisting young men enter formation for the priesthood.

Fr Joel.

**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.

**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.

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.*

**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.

**"HEART OF LIFE" RETREAT IN EVERYDAY LIFE:** "All Shall Be Well", for over five weeks, beginning Monday, 3 August and concluding 31 August. This at-home retreat, available via Zoom, invites you to spend some time in prayer at home each day pondering your experiences of the day, and to be accompanied by a prayer-companion on how God might have been present for you. To register please call 9890 1101 or email holsc@bigpond.com, no later than Monday 27 July.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.



**WHEN PATIENCE IS BETTER THAN ZEAL**

Today's Gospel presents a further image from agriculture in Palestine. A poisonous weed called darnel affects wheat crops. In the early stages it looks very like the young shoots of wheat. By the time both plants can be distinguished their roots are so entwined as to make tearing out the darnel very injurious to the wheat.

The parable addresses the disciples' dismay at the continuing prevalence of evil in the world. If, as Jesus teaches, the Kingdom of God has dawned, why has God not intervened to root out evil once and for all? Like the wheat and darnel in the field, good and evil are at present so inextricably co-existent as to make too ruthless an attempt to eradicate the one fatal to a successful harvest of the other. In the harvest time to come, however, God will deal once and for all with evil, before gathering in the "wheat" of the kingdom.

The parable also challenges the kind of religious zeal that, filled with moral outrage, wants to go in and root out from the community of believers any considered unworthy to be there.

It can even apply on an individual level. So often a person's good qualities spring from the same source as their less desirable ones. An irascible person may struggle vigorously for justice; a laid-back character may be a good listener—and so on.

Christianity's long history of intolerance—the Inquisition, etc.—shows the tragedy and folly of being more zealous to root out evil than to encourage good, leaving to God the final judgment.

Fr Brendan Byrne SJ

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Nadege Morel.

**ANNIVERSARY:** John Ryan, Agnes Mary Jones, Denise Catherine.

**PRAYER FOR THE SICK:** Colin Bolger, 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*