



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.

1ST / 2ND AUGUST 2020, 18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

CLEANING OUT THE STOREROOM

"Every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both old and new" - Matthew 13:52

This verse concluded last Sunday's gospel. Typical of Our Lord's parables, the meaning of this rather obscure text are many and varied. It's a parable, so Jesus is not giving us instructions on house cleaning, but on matters of faith. Firstly, the householder is bringing these things out, which means he is not leaving the deposits and treasures of his faith to sit and collect dust, but looking to utilize them and assess their worth. Secondly, that there are things both new *and* old being brought out gives us the hint that our Catholic faith has some treasures that are ancient but still very valuable. In fact, I'd argue that it is primarily the older practices and devotions - those that have stood the test of time - that are the ones to be valued most. Much like antique, handcrafted furniture and fittings as opposed to the flat pack junk you'll see in most of today's stores! That said, new is sometimes needed as well and is miles better when it comes to things of the home: appliances and cookware, cleaning products and electronics that make life easier and certainly safer. Likewise, the development of doctrine and the way in which we convey the Christian message today is more conducive for the working of the Holy Spirit. Ultimately, the two combined – tradition and inspiration - help us live out the faith founded 2000 years ago in our own day and age.

Ironically, I've actually spent much of these past few days cleaning out things from the parishes storerooms. Both the garage and the gardener's shed here, along with a couple of spare rooms in the presbytery have been given a good clean out. Left over building materials and old paint cans, along with dodgy appliances and broken garden tools all went into the 6-cube skip sitting in the driveway. Much of what we took out was put back in, but not before a clean and then a neat arranging. It's opened up the space nicely. They do say cleanliness is next to Godliness!

Speaking of things going out of garages, I got a call from my motorbike mechanic on Tuesday evening to say that his workshop had been broken into and my bike stolen! I was somewhat flattered that of all the bikes, the crooks thought mine was one of three in there worth knocking off. Police called the following day to say they'd recovered the bike and that it was being towed to their depot in Cambellfield to be dusted for prints etc. Call me a cynic, but I'd be stunned if they actually found anyone connected to the crime. Insurance should take care of most things, though it was frustrating that 90% of the parts that I'd already paid for had been fitted to the bike. Oh well. As my Gospel reflection suggests, Our Lord isn't actually concerned with material possessions and physical stuff, but the things of faith. Learning these lessons hard is usually the only way!

Blessings,

Fr Joel.

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.

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.

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.*

KEEP HOPE ALIVE: As time passes and we are kept apart longer, we are unable to nourish each other with the human touch necessary for our wholeness and well-being. We so often have taken for granted the smiling faces, shining eyes, kisses and hugs that keep us alive and connected. We are also kept from celebrating together the Eucharist, our great gift. So for now we pray, and hold each in our hearts and invisible arms, knowing we are all held in the heart of our loving God. We will come out the other side of this richer, stronger, more loving and more grateful for our many gifts. Keep hope alive and trust we will see the Light shine once again in every heart and eye... stronger than before. God is near.

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.

NEW SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE MEMBER REQUIRED: We are looking for a new member to continue the important work of Moira di Cesare who has stepped down after four years on the committee and to help us ensure our parish remains a place where all are included and can prosper. If interested, please contact Fr Joel at the Parish House or Michelle on 0499 891 101.

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 0499 891 101 to discuss.

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?

HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY TO MAUREEN HOWARD.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

RECENTLY DECEASED: Grace Anne Faulkner, Bill Folwell.

ANNIVERSARIES: Peter Morck, Robert Bruce, Barry Mc Brearty, Hilda Duff-Betuel.

PRAYER FOR THE SICK: Colin Bolger, Giovanni Mirabella, Patrick Morel, Sandra Ashton, Sam Palmieri.

CATHOLIC CARE SUNDAY APPEAL: Next weekend is the CatholicCare Sunday Appeal. As our parish's social service agency, CatholicCare delivers family and relationship counselling, refugee and settlement support, education and school programs, and pastoral services. Donations from our parish community will help care for the most vulnerable families in our community.

Please donate to CatholicCare Sunday Appeal. Your support and generosity will help break barriers to social inclusion and strengthen families and communities to live life to the full.

You can donate online at www.ccam.org.au/SundayAppeal or call (03) 9287 5513.

All gifts of \$2 and above are tax deductible

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.

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 this winter are 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 at the parish office during office hours between Tuesdays and Fridays, from 9:30am to 2:30pm. Thank you for your generosity.

LET'S GET TOGETHER: During this very challenging time where we are no longer able to gather together as community, I invite you to participate in a weekly Conversation Hour during which we will explore life as it is today and anything else you would like to share or discuss, with a cuppa and snack. As well, while at home we have plenty of time to watch our favourite TV shows and movies. The suggestion is that each month or fortnight we watch the same movie on Iview then gather to share our thoughts and reactions. Both these activities would be on Zoom, a digital way of being able to gather as a group, to talk and see each other face to face.....a way of gathering as community. For further information and/or to express your interest in joining one or both of these groups please contact the Parish House on 9457 1066 or Jan on 0423478504.

“YOU GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO EAT”

The disciples function rather like a modern celebrity's “minders”. When Jesus has finished healing the sick, they urge him to send the crowd away to buy food for themselves before nightfall.

Jesus reacts to the word “buy”. He will not send people away to buy anything—nor should the disciples. When they point out with astonishment that they barely have enough for themselves (five loaves and two fish), Jesus, acting the part of divine Wisdom who speaks in the First Reading (Isa 55:1-3), freely provides more than enough food for the whole multitude.

His gestures in doing so—taking the loaves, blessing, breaking and giving them—clearly foreshadows the institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper (Matt 26:26). To participate in the Eucharist is to experience the same divine hospitality so lavishly provided by Jesus.

The miraculous feeding and the Eucharist which it foreshadows bring out that the essence of what God wants to do for us is simply be a most generous Host at the banquet of eternal life. At the same time, since it depicts people being fed with real food, it bears directly, in a sacramental sense, upon the problem of world hunger. The Lord who took pity on the large crowd, looks with similar eyes upon our world and instructs us, as he instructed his disciples, “Give them something to eat yourselves”. In the words of the Venerable Pedro Arrupe (former Jesuit General): “The Eucharist will never be complete so long as people still go hungry in our world”.

Fr Brendan Byrne SJ

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O God, come to my assistance;
 O Lord, make haste to help me!
 You are my rescuer, my help;
 O Lord, do not delay.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55: 1-3

Thus says the Lord: Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money, come! Buy corn without money, and eat, and, at no cost, wine and milk. Why spend money on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy? Listen, listen to me and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy. Pay attention, come to me; listen, and your soul will live. With you I will make an everlasting covenant out of the favours promised to David.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 144:8-9. 15-18.

RESPONSE: The hand of the Lord feeds us:
 he answers all our needs.

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
 slow to anger, abounding in love.
 How good is the Lord to all,
 compassionate to all his creatures.

R./

The eyes of all creatures look to you
 and you give them their food in due time.
 You open wide your hand,
 grant the desires of all who live.

R./

The Lord is just in all his ways
 and loving in all his deeds.
 He is close to all who call him,
 call on him from their hearts.

R./

SECOND READING

Romans 8:35. 37-39

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
 No one lives on bread alone,
 but on every word that comes from the mouth of
 God. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:13-21

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick.

When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered, 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me,' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven,
 endowed with all delights and sweetness in every
 taste.

or

I am the bread of life, says the Lord;
 whoever comes to me will not hunger
 and whoever believes in me will not thirst.