



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.

*15TH / 16TH JULY 2020, 20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A*

## LOOK WHERE YOU'RE GOING

Walking or driving around the past few months, I have noticed a series of advertising boards at bus stops and other such places that happened to pique my interest. This is obviously their intent, but I would at least like to think that I am largely impervious to billboard advertising. These signs I was seeing about would simply be a photo of a starry night sky or beautiful landscape and at the bottom of the picture would be the words "Look Up". You might have seen them yourself. To find out what this was all about I went and, pardon the expression, looked it up.

What I found was interesting. Look Up is a movement that is literally encouraging people to more often point their gaze upwards to, and I quote from the website, "...live a life with a deeper connection to the world around us and the people we share it with". A noble goal indeed. It is based on a scientific study, the report and findings of which are on the website. Some of the benefits include helping your brain be more creative, assist you in thinking longer term and, when you look up and into someone else's eyes, you build empathy and trust. Stress levels are reduced and you're generally much happier.

This Saturday is the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, arguably the greatest feast day in honour of Our Lady. It is the day where we celebrate the belief that at the end of her earthly life, Mary the Mother of Jesus was taken up body and soul into heaven. We could speak of all the ways in which this was a most right and just reward for the most faithful of disciples, but essentially, Mary went to heaven because she had her eyes fixed firmly there throughout her life. He who came down from heaven, Jesus Christ her son, she accepted and received and loved with love beyond all telling. And she continued to ponder all the mysteries of Christ in her heart. Ultimately, where her eyes looked and where her heart was, is where Mary ended up.

In a time where we are locked down and perhaps feeling a little gloomy, it's important that we do look up and out to those around us and give them that sense of trust and security in such uncertain times; we ought to take every opportunity, however limited, to get outside and see the beauty of God's creation. It will make you happier now and throughout your life. Most of all, like Our Blessed Mother, let's keep our hearts and the eyes of our mind on the things of God. Look to heaven like she did, and you too will end up there.

Peace,

Fr Joel.

**PARISH PRIEST** Fr Joel Peart  
**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  
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t: 9457 1066  
e: heidelberg@cam.org.au  
w: pol.org.au/heidelberg  
Facebook.com/stjohnheidelberg  
Instagram.com/stjohn.heidelberg

**OFFICE HOURS:**  
Tue - 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 PARISH  
PRIMARY SCHOOL:**  
**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.*



**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.*

### **IN CARING FOR OTHERS IN STAGE 4 OF LOCKDOWN:**

What interactions with others were significant to me today?

What care and compassion did I show?

What was going on in my head during these interactions? Was I truly present?

What control do I have over the circumstances of these individuals? Did I do all that I could in this point in time? What can I do for tomorrow?

**STRENGTH FOR THIS CHALLENGING TIME:**  
We pray for your love and compassion to abound as we walk through his challenging time.

We ask for wisdom for those who bear the load of making decisions with widespread consequences.

We pray for those who are suffering with sickness and all who are caring for them.

We ask for protection for the elderly and vulnerable to not succumb to the risks of the virus.

We pray for misinformation to be curbed that fear may take no hold in hearts and minds.

As we exercise the good sense that you in your mercy provide, may we also approach each day in faith and peace, trusting in the truth of your goodness towards us.

### **PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Joseph Lau.

**ANNIVERSARY:**

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

*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.***

### **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 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.

**SIGNIFICANT BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:** If you or a loved one are celebrating a significant birthday (18th, 21st, 30th, 40th...) or a wedding anniversary please let us know at the parish office (Heidelberg@cam.org.au) so we can celebrate and pray for you as a community.

**EYRIE ADVERTISEMENT SPACE:** 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.

Email at [heidelberg@cam.org.au](mailto:heidelberg@cam.org.au) or phone Michelle 0499 891 101 to discuss.



**CATHOLICCARE SUNDAY APPEAL:** CatholicCare is deeply grateful for the support during last week's CatholicCare Sunday

Appeal. Because of the generosity of our parish community, CatholicCare can continue to ensure that vulnerable families and communities have the opportunity to live life to the full. Thank you for making a difference.

For more information about CatholicCare visit: [www.ccam.org.au](http://www.ccam.org.au)

### **FAITH THAT BREAKS BOUNDARIES**

The perseverance and faith of the desperate Canaanite woman in today's Gospel is all the more striking because of the rebuff that she initially receives. Jesus' treatment of her is, at first sight, one of the most disturbing things in the Gospels. At first, he ignores her, then he insists that his mission is restricted to Israel. Finally, he rebuffs her with a heartless image about not throwing the children's food to dogs.

Instead of taking offence at what the image implies for her and her people, the woman seizes upon it and, with superb wit, turns it to her own advantage. Certainly, food prepared for the children is not intended for domestic animals. But children eat untidily. That provides opportunity for pet dogs under the table to lap up the scraps that fall.

Developing the image in this way, the woman boldly challenges the restriction of Jesus' messianic mission to Israel alone, and wins from him recognition that he is Messiah not only for the Jews but also the One 'in whose name Gentiles (non-Jews, like herself) will place their hope' (Matt 12:21).

In a very real sense, this woman of Canaan foreshadows and prepares the way for that great mission to the nations of the world, upon which, at the end of the Gospel, the risen Lord will send the infant Church (Matt 28:16-20).

The woman stands in for all of us Gentiles. We can learn from her faith. But we can also learn from her humble recognition of the priority of the Jewish people in the scheme of salvation.

*Fr Brendan Byrne SJ*

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### **HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

When Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, the 'Promised Land' they sought was the land of Canaan (approximately the area of modern Israel, TransJordan, Syria and Lebanon). Here they were commanded to utterly destroy the Canaanites and to subdue the land. (Exodus 23:23-24) The Israelites never successfully removed all the Canaanites from the Palestine region. By the time of Jesus, the Israelites had established themselves in the region between Judea in the south and Galilee in the north, while the original inhabitants of the area had been 'squeezed out' – predominantly to the north. The Canaanites were dispossessed of their land by the Israelites and it is easy to see why there was tension between them.

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;  
and look on the face of your anointed one;  
one day within your courts  
is better than a thousand elsewhere.

### FIRST READING

Isaiah 56:1-6-7

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 66:2-3 5-6. 8

**Response:** O God, let all the nations praise you!

O God, be gracious and bless us  
and let your face shed its light upon us.  
So will your ways be known upon earth  
and all nations learn your saving help.

R./

Let the nations be glad and exult  
for you rule the world with justice.  
With fairness you rule the peoples,  
you guide the nations on earth.

R./

Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.  
May God still give us his blessing  
till the ends of the earth revere him.

R./

### SECOND READING

Romans 11:13-15. 29-32

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom  
and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

### GOSPEL

Matthew 15:21-28

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.



### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

With the Lord there is mercy;  
in him is plentiful redemption.

or

I am the living bread that came down from  
heaven, says the Lord.  
Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever.