



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.

Central to the mission of St John's Parish is an unequivocal commitment to fostering the dignity and integrity of children and young people and providing them with a safe and supportive environment in which to flourish.

*22ND/23RD JULY 2020, 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A*

**'IT IS YOUR FACE O LORD THAT I SEEK, HIDE NOT YOUR FACE' (PSALM 27:8)**

Our chief purpose in this life is to be holy, because God is holy. Each one of us will be restless until we rest in God in this life, and ultimately to rest in the sleep of peace in the new life to come is what we are called to. In that new life we will no longer see God under the veil of the sacraments and other treasures of our faith, but we will see God as he really is. We will look upon his face and thus contemplate his beauty and love: the height of heavenly glory.

Though no person here on earth can see the face of God and live (Exodus 33:20), we do pray that God looks at us: that he lifts his countenance upon us and watches over us always (Numbers 6:24). The heart of our Christian faith is belief in the incarnation of God in the person of Jesus Christ. God assumed our human nature in order that he might redeem it. The face of Jesus is quite literally the most beautiful thing the world has seen.

In my last parish, many of the Italians had a great devotion to the Volto Santo: the Holy Face. We had a large painting and shrine dedicated to it in the corner of St Ambrose' Church. I'll admit that the image itself wasn't overly flattering, but that's not really the point. A more ancient tradition is that of Veronica's Veil, the fabric that wiped - and left an image of - the face of Christ as he carried his cross to Calvary. The name "Veronica" is the Latin version of the Greek word berenike, or "bearer of victory", rendered perhaps not so eloquently in English to "Bernice". The Catholic Encyclopedia however, suggests the name began from the words "vera icona" or "true image" and thus named the lady in light of the relic. According to apocryphal sources, Veronica is the same woman who in the Gospel of Luke was cured of her ailment by touching the hem of Our Lord's garment. A brave and faithful woman she was!

What's my point here? In short, God taking on a human face in Christ means that our human faces bear an image of the Divine. Currently in Melbourne, whenever we are out, our faces are to be covered by the wearing of a mask. This is not a good thing. Now before anyone labels me an "anti-masker", let it be known that I understand why we're being asked to do so at the moment (despite studies suggesting that the effectiveness of face masks is minimal, especially when they are not applied and handled properly). But we as Christians must know that to cover our faces is to cover up the most obvious reflection of the image and likeness of God within us. It renders us less than what we are, which will naturally lead to people treating one another as such. Society is very fractured at the minute. I can only think that this disconnect will be exacerbated by not being able to meet each other "face to face". I know in certain parts of the world, people wearing face masks is a common sight. I really hope that doesn't happen here once the danger of this virus has subsided. You might very slightly increase the chance of getting or spreading a lurgie, but that's a risk we should all be willing to take so that we can get a glimpse of an image of God each day, and also share ours with the world.

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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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?

### **WHEN THIS IS OVER**

When this is over, may we never again take for granted a handshake with a friend, full shelves at the store, conversations with neighbours, a crowded theatre, Friday night out, Sunday mass, a routine check-up, the school rush each morning, coffee with a friend. The stadium roaring, each deep breath, A boring Tuesday, life itself.

When this ends, may we find that we have become more like the people we wanted to be, we were called to be, we hoped to be and may we stay that way--better for each other because of the worst.

- Laura Kelley Fanucci

**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:**

**ANNIVERSARY:** Herman Langen, June & Barry Plant.

**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.***

**THE SPIRITUAL ROSARY PILGRIMAGE:** This is an invitation to take part in a pilgrimage through the events of Jesus life through the scriptures with Mary by your side...and all from your home. Throughout this online event you will be led by some fantastic Catechists and speakers with names such Dr Scott Hahn, Jason Evert, Fr Donald Calloway and Christopher West included in the line-up. The pilgrimage starts on September 8, the birthday of Mary, and concludes on October 7 which is the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. You can register online at <https://www.parousiamedia.com/the-spiritual-rosary-pilgrimage/>. You might also join the Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/237167150722245>

**CATECHIST CLASSES 2020:** All classes for, Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation have been cancelled for 2020.

**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.

**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.

## TREASURE KNOWLEDGE

The Jesus questions his disciples about popular perceptions of who he is. Their report shows that people cast him in familiar but totally inadequate roles. The reality requires a leap in imagination and faith achieved in Simon Peter's response: 'You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God'. Beyond being Messiah of Israel, Jesus is related to God in a unique, filial way.

Peter has conferred a title upon Jesus. Now Jesus confers a blessing and three roles upon him. He is 'blessed', not because he is virtuous, but because God has revealed to him a knowledge that unaided human understanding could never achieve. Everything the Church has to say flows from this God-given knowledge of Jesus. This is the inexhaustible treasure that it holds in trust for the world.

Simon's first role is indicated by his name: 'Peter' (= 'Rock'). He is 'rock', again not because of his personal qualities but because of his knowledge of Jesus. Built on this 'rock', the Church will be a community of life, against which the powers of death ('gates of the underworld') will not prevail. The gift of keys, a biblical image (see the First Reading) signifies delegated authority (from Jesus) in the household of God (the Church).

The final role, 'binding and loosing', refers to the power to interpret and adapt Jesus' authoritative teaching to new situations. In this way the Church, as both expression and foretaste of God's reign ('Kingdom of Heaven') on earth, is equipped to discern God's will in the changing circumstances that will confront and challenge it in its passage down the ages.

*Fr Brendan Byrne SJ*

### 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.

### LIVING THE GOSPEL -

#### **WHO DO YOU SAY I AM**

The question that Jesus asks the disciples is a question he asks of all of us. How we answer that question reflects our relationship with Jesus. But more importantly, how we answer that question reflects the way we live our life in response to who we believe Jesus to be. If we truly say that we believe in Jesus as the son of God, then how do we live our lives in such a way that we act on that belief? The gospel shows us that an inadequate answer to that question leads to missing the point of all that Jesus is.

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me;  
save the servant who trusts in you, my God.  
Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the  
day long.

### FIRST READING

Isaiah 22:19-23

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master  
of the palace: I dismiss you from your office, I  
remove you from your post, and the same day I  
call on my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiah. I invest  
him with your robe, gird him with your sash,  
entrust him with your authority; and he shall be a  
father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the  
House of Judah. I place the key of the House of  
David on his shoulder; should he open, no one  
shall close, should he close, no one shall open. I  
drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will  
become a throne of glory for his father's house.  
father's house.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalms 137:1-3. 6. 8.

**Response:** Lord, your love is eternal; do not  
forsake the work of your hands.

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,  
you have heard the words of my mouth.  
Before the angels I will bless you.  
I will adore before your holy temple.

R./

I thank you for your faithfulness and love  
which excel all we ever knew of you.  
On the day I called, you answered;  
you increased the strength of my soul

R./

The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly  
and the haughty he knows from afar.  
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,  
discard not the work of your hands.

R./

### SECOND READING

Romans 11:33-36

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his  
wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to  
penetrate his motives or understand his  
methods! Who could ever know the mind of the  
Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who  
could ever give him anything or lend him  
anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by  
him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

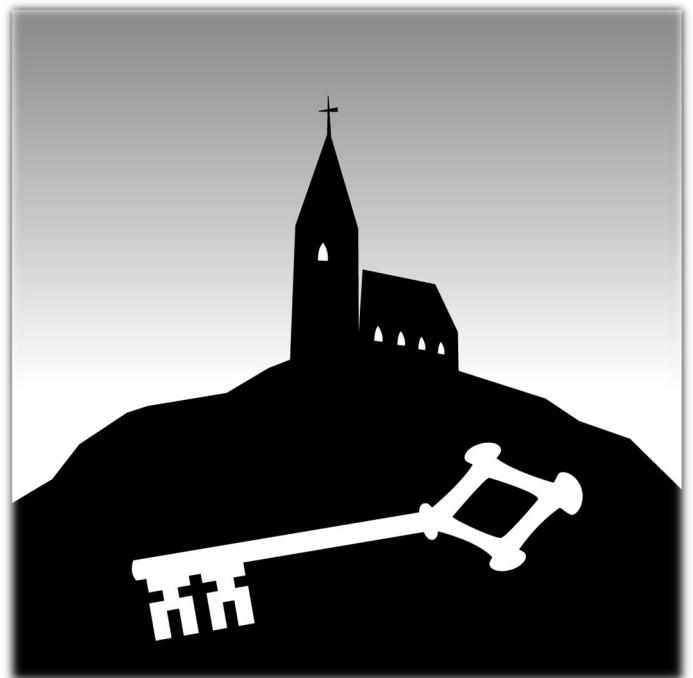
Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my  
Church; the gates of hell will not hold out against it.  
Alleluia!

### GOSPEL

Matthew 16:13-20

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea  
Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who  
do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said,  
'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and  
others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But  
you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon  
Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the  
Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of  
Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not  
flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my  
Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are  
Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And  
the gates of the underworld can never hold out  
against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom  
of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be  
considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose  
on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.'  
Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell  
anyone that he was the Christ.



### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work,  
O Lord;  
you bring forth bread from the earth  
and wine to cheer the heart.

or

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood  
has eternal life, says the Lord,  
and I will raise him up on the last day.