



# 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.

*26TH/27TH SEPTEMBER 2020, 26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A*

## FAREWELL TO A LEGEND

It was with a heavy heart that I received a text message from a mate on Thursday night letting me know that Dean Jones had died. Jones loomed large in my love of cricket growing, not only because he was such a great player but because he was a Victorian. I can hear Bill Lawry now announcing him onto the MCG. Not only Victorian, Jones actually grew up in nearby Coburg, which makes it all the more special. If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, then I certainly flattered Dean Jones. If he did it, you can be sure I was soon following suit.

The innings that began my fandom was the 145 he made in a one day game against England at the Gabba back in 1990. I was only 8 but I remember it so well. Especially the 6 he hit off the spinner Eddie Hemmings. He danced down the wicket and hit it about 20 rows back over mid-on. Possibly my favourite cricket shot of all time. What also stood out to me that day was that he never wore a helmet. Even early on against the quicks. So of course, when I started my competitive playing days a couple of years later, I only ever walked out with a baseball cap. I always used Kookaburra bats, donned a pair of Oakley shades in the field with a smear of zinc on the bottom lip. To be honest, I liked wearing sunglasses playing sport about as much as the taste of zinc cream, but I sure as hell wasn't going to leave them off. I'll never forget one day out at Yarraville when I dropped a sitter fielding at square leg. All I hear whilst sheepishly picking the ball up and lobbing it over to mid-wicket is my mate's old man yell out, "Take those #@#! sunglasses off!"

Though cool and cavalier, Jones was also a man of real integrity and principle. To the detriment of his professional career ultimately. He walked away from the game he loved prematurely as he wasn't into the political and preferential games being played by selectors, who continuously looked to other players despite Jones' excellent record. He has always been vocal on the threat of match fixing in the game and the man practiced what he preached, reportedly turning down an offer of \$40,000 from a bookmaker to provide information before a game, at a time when the practice was rife.

We lost a great Victorian icon on Thursday, but more sadly a family lost a husband and father. If the social media cues are to be followed, he was a much loved and very generous and caring man to those closest to him. He was a hero to me and to many in the game of cricket, but even greater is that he was seen as a hero by those who knew him far better than I did. May he rest in 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  
3084  
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:** meeting on  
Zoom All Welcome. contact Sue  
mob 0499260206.  
**PARISH PILGRIM STATUE OF MARY:**  
Statue not in circulation until  
further notice mob Sue  
0499260206  
**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.*

### **2020 WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES**

#### **REMEMBERING, WORKING AND PRAYING FOR MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES**

On this 106th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, we remember, pray for, and commit to working to change the horrible reality of many in 'our own backyard'. We acknowledge and give thanks for the many parish communities across the state, along with those working within our Catholic social services and other organisations and community groups, who are making considerable efforts to assist people seeking asylum, refugees, and other migrants who hold temporary visas—many remain in harsh circumstances in detention centres, and the majority of the 115,000 living in the Australian community have been deemed ineligible for any federal government support payments during COVID-19, making many at risk of homelessness and despair. In his message for World Day for Migrants and Refugees, Pope Francis tells us, "You have to know in order to understand" and "It is necessary to be close, in order to serve". Only when different elements of the community work together — individuals, parishes, schools, universities and organisations — can we effectively advocate for systemic change and provide for people's immediate necessities and other spiritual and social needs.

To find out more go to: <http://www.css.org.au/Article-View/Article/23727/Remembering-working-and-praying-for-migrants-and-refugees#.X2l6V5MzbOQ>

Lord, May your love and light shine in and through me today in a way that no mask can hide. May my eyes dance with the laughter and joy replacing my hidden smile. May my actions of care and concern speak louder than my muffled voice ever could. And may the generosity of my heart radiate out through who I am and how I respond to the world around me, so that others may not see my mask but your image shining out, moving in and through me today. Amen

*Prayer written by a teacher on bus supervision who noticed how impoverished were our encounters when our faces remain hidden behind masks. It was written on the first day that masks became compulsory in greater Melbourne, July 2020.*

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

**ANNIVERSARY:** Antonio (Tony) Campese, Wal Kennedy.

**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.***

**FAREWELL & THANK YOU TO FR MARIO:** Dear members of the St. John’s community, as many of you will want to show appreciation for all that Mario has given to our community we thought we’d organize a group gift. Easier for everyone to pay online and sign the card and we can give one great gift! There’s no obligation but if you’d like to contribute, we’ll present the gift voucher to Mario in late November. Link to contribute at <https://www.grouptgether.com/FarewellFrMario>

Alternatively if you wish to contribute by cheque/cash they can be dropped off at the Parish office or please contact Michelle Penson on 0499 891 101.  
*Thank you. Parish Pastoral Council*

**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.

**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.

**Reflection:** Take some time to think about what things you are thankful to God for while we all endure this difficult time. What stories have you heard that showcase unexpected acts of kindness? What ways can you reach out to people in your home, your organisation, your team or your neighbours to find out how they truly are? Reflect on what ways you can make yourself and others feel better through self-reflection, connection, prayer and giving?

## CONVERSION FOR LIFE

The parable about two sons in today’s Gospel can be understood on various levels. In Jesus’ own context it probably served to defend his practice, shocking to the religious authorities, of celebrating the discovery of God’s mercy with those considered outcasts and sinners.

At a deeper level, the parable shows that what God looks to—and can wait with infinite patience for—is the final outcome in people’s lives. God can put up with an initial No, and many other No’s besides, on the way to a final and lasting Yes.

From the human angle, people who appear religious and obedient from the start may never have sufficiently plumbed the depth of God’s mercy to know God as God really is. Conversion at depth and the knowledge of God that goes with it overflows into a pattern of life truly reflecting God’s grace. But a hard, judgmental attitude to others may indicate lack of true conversion and knowledge of God: something that may leave such people waiting at the door, while those whom they thought far less worthy enter into the fullness of life before them.

What ultimately determines fitness for eternal life is conformity of the human heart to the heart of God. None of us could ever amass sufficient good works to merit even a second of life with God. That life will be God’s gift in abundance if only we have grown—sometimes in the course of a very winding and to-and-fro journey—into the capacity to receive it

*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 – SAYING ‘YES!’

In many ways, it is easy to say ‘Yes’ and not really mean it. Some people do it all the time in their lives. They say ‘Yes’ when they have no intention at all of following through on their commitment. It’s easy to say ‘Yes’ and not mean it when it comes to faith as well. It’s pretty easy to turn up at Church on a Sunday and be seen to be doing the ‘right’ thing. But if our faith doesn’t change the way we live, then maybe we’re really saying ‘No’ to God.

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

All that you have done to us, O Lord,  
you have done with true judgement,  
for we have sinned against you  
and not obeyed your commandments.  
But give glory to your name  
and deal with us according to the bounty of your  
mercy.

### FIRST READING

Ezekiel 18:25-28

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 24:4-9.

**Response:** Remember your mercies, O Lord.

Lord, make me know your ways.

Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:  
for you are God my saviour.

R./

Remember your mercy, Lord,  
and the love you have shown from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth.

In your love remember me,  
because of your goodness, O Lord.

R./

The Lord is good and upright.

He shows the path to those who stray,  
he guides the humble in the right path;  
he teaches his way to the poor.

R./

### SECOND READING

Philippians 2:1-11

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but

everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus: His state was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;  
I know them, and they follow me.

Alleluia!

### GOSPEL

Matthew 21:28-32

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'



### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Remember your word to your servant, O Lord,  
by which you have given me hope.

This is my comfort when I am brought low.

or

By this we came to know the love of God:  
that Christ laid down his life for us; so we ought  
to lay down our lives for one another.