



# 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.

*3RD/4TH OCTOBER 2020*

*27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A*

## Mass Al Fresco

I'm excited to say that public masses will be back on at St John's, as per the Government and Archdiocesan guidelines that are slowly allowing us to open back up. We are able to say mass in an outdoor space for 5 people (not including the minister). Not many, but it's a start!

Mass will be said Tuesday to Sunday at 9am in the memorial garden maze beginning this Tuesday, July 6. A second mass will be held on Sundays at 10am.

Those wishing to attend mass are asked to email the parish address at [heidelberg@cam.org.au](mailto:heidelberg@cam.org.au) to make their booking. Alternatively, you can call through to the presbytery and inform me of the day you would like to attend or leave a message. Email is preferable as it allows us to easily record the names and contact details of those attending. You will be contacted back to confirm your booking.

Some considerations and conditions:

- ◆ Mass will be held weather pending. If it is raining or blowing a gale, mass will be cancelled. Those who miss out on such days will be offered the next available date.
- ◆ You will be required to wear a face mask during the service, except when assisting with a reading and when receiving Holy Communion.
- ◆ There will be some protocols to see to, so do try to be present at least a couple of minutes prior to mass beginning. If you'd like to go to the sacrament of confession before receiving communion again, be there earlier still. I'll be around the church and happy to oblige.

I ask you to please be patient and understanding through this. I'm sure there a going to be some unforeseen issues that arise. Let's hope that this is a very temporary arrangement and that we can gather again inside our beloved church of St John's soon.

In Christ,

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.*

### **PRAYER FOR THE END OF THE VIRUS**

Almighty and merciful Father, who show your love to all your creation. We come before you asking for a quick control of the Coronavirus currently ravaging our world. Hear graciously the prayers we make for those affected by the virus in various parts of the world. Grant healing to the sick, eternal life to the dead and consolation to the bereaved families. We pray that an effective medicine to combat the sickness be speedily found. We pray for the relevant governments and health authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people. Look upon us in your mercy and forgive us our failings.

*Amen.*

### **WHOEVER HAS GOD LACKS NOTHING**

"For I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little and what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and being in need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."

*(Paul to the Philippians 4:11-13)*

Let nothing disturb you, Let nothing frighten you, All things are passing away. God never changes. Patience obtains all things. Whoever has God lacks nothing; God alone suffices.

*Prayer found in St Teresa of Avila's bible.*

**PONDERING GRIEF:** Reflection event via Zoom', Saturday 17 Oct 2020, 10am-1pm (AEST). Facilitated by Counsellor/Supervisor/Educator Linda Espie, this event provides the opportunity to reflect on and honour our inner life of change and transition. With creative, space and gentle guiding support, this workshop will offer a sacred place for the breadth of human experiencing and spirit to guide individual exploration.

Limited to 10 participants. Cost \$30. Bookings and payment via Trybooking at <https://www.trybooking.com/BLUEA>

For More information, contact holsc@bigpond.com. tel 9890 1101.

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

**ANNIVERSARY:** Grazia Sciotto.

**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.***

**MARCH FOR THE BABIES:** Due to Covid 19 restrictions, the Annual March for the Babies 2020 will be a Live Streamed event @ 1p.m. Saturday October 10. Join in online [www.mftb.online](http://www.mftb.online) for Victoria's largest pro-life event in defence of the victims of Victoria's inhumane abortion laws, unborn children and their mothers. Featured speakers, powerful testimonies, music and opportunities to promote the "culture of life".

**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](mailto:Heidelberg@cam.org.au)) so we can celebrate. and pray for you as a community.

## THE SONG SUNG OVER THE CHURCH

Jesus probably told the parable of the Tenants against the religious leaders in Jerusalem in his day. Because they have resisted the prophets sent by God, the last of whom has been himself, they have shown themselves to be usurpers, retaining for themselves the "vineyard" (Israel) and its "produce" (the life of the people). For them, the arrival of the Kingdom (of God) will mean dispossession and retribution.

The early Church retold the parable in the light of Jesus' death and resurrection, and a belief in his status as God's Son. Also present is a bitter awareness of the No given to the Gospel by the bulk of Israel and a sense of the Church itself, made up of Jews and non-Jews, as the community of the Kingdom. Through the continuing presence of the risen Lord (Matt 28:20), the community can and ought to produce the "fruits" that God desires.

The long and tragic history of Christian intolerance and persecution of Jews calls for sensitivity in handling texts like this that reflect the early Church's disappointment with Israel's No to the Gospel. Today, we should move on from Christian triumphalism at Jewish expense to concentrate upon the "fruits" that God looks for from us. God has made the "rejected stone"—the crucified and risen Lord—the "cornerstone" of the Church. The question for us is whether the "song" sung by God over this new vineyard (cf. the First Reading) is one of delight or disappointment. Inevitably, perhaps, a bit of both. In either case it will be a song of love.

*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.

### HAVE YOU THOUGHT? THE BENEVOLENT LANDOWNER

One of the images from this gospel that would have been puzzling to the audience, and may have tipped them off that Jesus was telling a parable with a particular message, is the image of the landowner being incredibly benevolent and tolerant of his rebellious tenants. Jesus' audience would have known that the law was always on the side of a landowner over his tenants. Any misdeed by a tenant farmer would have been dealt with swiftly and severely and yet the landowner in Jesus' story (God) is almost unbelievably patient and prepared to give the tenants every opportunity to do the right thing.

**FIRST READING**

Isaiah 5:1-7

Let me sing to my friend the song of his love for his vineyard. My friend had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. He dug the soil, cleared it of stones, and planted choice vines in it. In the middle he built a tower, he dug a press there too. He expected it to yield grapes, but sour grapes were all that it gave. And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, I ask you to judge between my vineyard and me. What could I have done for my vineyard that I have not done? I expected it to yield grapes. Why did it yield sour grapes instead? Very well, I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on, and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on. I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug; overgrown by the briar and the thorn. I will command the clouds to rain no rain on it. Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the House of Israel, and the men of Judah that chosen plant. He expected justice, but found bloodshed, integrity, but only a cry of distress.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Psalm 79:9. 12-16. 19-20.**Response:** The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.

You brought a vine out of Egypt;  
to plant it you drove out the nations.  
It stretched out its branches to the sea,  
to the Great River it stretched out its shoots. R./  
Then why have you broken down its walls?  
It is plucked by all who pass by.  
It is ravaged by the boar of the forest,  
devoured by the beasts of the field. R./  
God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted. R./  
And we shall never forsake you again:  
give us life that we may call upon your name.  
God of hosts, bring us back;  
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved. R./

**SECOND READING**

Philippians 4:6-9

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can

understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

I call you friends, says the Lord,  
because I have made known to you  
everything I have learnt from my Father.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Matthew 21:33-43

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son," he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures: It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone. This was the Lord's doing and it is wonderful to see? 'I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'