



# 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.

## 1ST NOVEMBER 2020, *ALL SAINTS DAY*

### ENCYCLICAL LETTER - FRATELLI TUTTI - AN OVERVIEW

OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS ON FRATERNITY AND SOCIAL FRIENDSHIP

**Link:** [http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco\\_20201003\\_enciclica-fratelli-tutti.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20201003_enciclica-fratelli-tutti.html)

#### CHAPTER 3: ENVISAGING AND ENGENDERING AN OPEN WORLD

God is universal love, and since we are part of that love and share it, we are called to universal fraternity, which is openness. There are no "others," no "them"; there is only "us." Human beings can live, develop, and find fulfilment only in the sincere gift of themselves to others; they cannot fully know themselves apart from an encounter with other persons. No one can experience the value of living without having real faces to love ( FT 87). Life exists where there is bonding, communion, and fraternity. Life is stronger than death when it is built on true relationships and bonds of fidelity ( FT 87). Every healthy, authentic relationship opens us to others; we cannot reduce our lives to ourselves or to relationships with a small group ( FT 89). Hospitality is one specific way of opening ourselves and encountering others ( FT 90).

The spiritual stature of a person's life is measured by love, which is the criterion for the definitive decision about a human life's worth. The greatest danger lies in failing to love ( FT 92). Love is more than just benevolent actions; these have their source in a union that is directed towards others, considering them of value, worthy, pleasing and beautiful beyond their physical or moral appearance. Only this way of relating to one another makes a social friendship possible that excludes no one and a fraternity that is open to all ( FT 94). Here, we see the seeds of a vocation to form a community composed of brothers and sisters who accept and care for one another ( FT 96).

This universal openness is existential rather than geographical; it has to do with our daily efforts to expand our circle of friends, to reach out toward the margins, to include those whom I do not naturally consider a part of my circle of interests even though they are close to me. Every brother or sister in need, when abandoned or ignored by the society in which I live, becomes an existential foreigner (FT 97).

There are persons who are treated as "hidden exiles," persons with disabilities who feel that they exist without belonging and without participating. They may be citizens with full rights, yet they are treated like foreigners in their own country (FT 98). A love capable of transcending borders is the basis of "social friendship," the condition of possibility for universal openness (FT 99).

The future is not monochrome: our human family needs to learn to live together in harmony and peace, without having to be all exactly alike (FT 100). Those who form social groups that exclude any outside presence that disturbs their identity and style of life thereby also exclude the possibility of becoming neighbours; they can only be "associates", partners in the pursuit of particular interests ( FT 102). Fraternity is not born only of a climate of respect for individual liberties, or even of a certain administratively guaranteed equality ( FT 103). Nor is it achieved by an abstract proclamation that "all men and women are equal". Instead, it is the result of conscious and careful cultivation of fraternity ( FT 104).

*Cont'd...*

**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)

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**PARISH OFFICE:**

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Facebook.com/stjohnheidelberg

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**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.*

### **....CONT'D**

Social friendship and universal fraternity necessarily call for an acknowledgement of the worth of every human person, always and everywhere ( FT 106); every human being is valuable and has the right to live with dignity and to achieve integral development. That basic right cannot be denied by any country ( FT 110).

To achieve these ideals, Pope Francis calls us to do what is good for ourselves and for the whole human family and thus to advance together towards an authentic and integral growth ( FT 113). He calls us to solidarity, to thinking and acting in terms of community. Solidarity means giving the lives of all priority over the appropriation of goods by a few. It means combatting the structural causes of poverty and inequality; it means remedying the lack of work, land and housing; it means struggling against the denial of social and labour rights ( FT 116). All other rights having to do with the goods necessary for the integral fulfilment of persons, including that of private property or any other type of property, should in no way hinder these rights but should actively facilitate their fulfilment ( FT 120).

No one can remain excluded ( FT 121). Development must ensure human rights—personal and social, economic and political, including the rights of nations and of peoples ( FT 122). Business activity should always be clearly directed to the development of others and to eliminating poverty ( FT 123). We will have peace only when we are able to provide land, housing, and work for all. Real and lasting peace will be possible only on the basis of a global ethic of solidarity and cooperation in the service of the whole human family ( FT 127).

***We Remember in our Prayers our Year 12 students  
who will be sitting for their VCE exams.  
As a community we journey with you in prayer.***

God, we ask that they especially feel your closeness during the time.

Give them calm hearts and quiet confidence in the knowledge  
that you hold them in the palm of your hand.

Bless them with keen understanding and retentive memory.

Give them the ability to grasp things correctly.

Point out the beginning, direct their progress and help them in  
the completion of each of their responses.

Holy Spirit, send them your gifts of wisdom and knowledge.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

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

**ANNIVERSARY:** Annelise Peyton, John Francis Ward, John Griffiths,  
John Mascarenhas.

**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.***

**COVID-SAFE MASSES AT ST JOHN'S:** Tuesday to Saturday at 9am, Sundays 9am & 10am in the church. **All Soul's Mass** on Monday 2nd November at 9am and 10am. Email at [heidelberg@cam.org.au](mailto:heidelberg@cam.org.au) to make a booking .

**NOVEMBER MASSES:** envelopes are available in the porch of the church and can be dropped off at the parish office, sacristy. Names of our departed loved ones will be placed on the altar and remembered at all Masses.

**'MEDITATION & MINDFULNESS':** On Zoom Saturday 7 Nov 2020, 10am-1pm. Facilitated by Carol Dyer (B.A. (Psych), Transpersonal & Experiential Psychotherapy Level 5 (Trainer), Cert. Spiritual Direction). It provides an opportunity to broaden your ways of accessing your inner world and listening to what God is inviting you to at this time. There will be some input to enable participants to learn some theory of meditation and mindfulness practices as well as time away from the Zoom screen for meditation and mindfulness practise. Cost \$25. Bookings and payment via Trybooking at <https://www.trybooking.com/663916> Information contact [holsc@bigpond.com](mailto:holsc@bigpond.com), tel 98901101.

**SAFEGUARDING E-BOOK:** The eSafety Commissioner has recently published a free e-book resource 'Online safety for grandparents and carers' which provides advice about online safety issues that children and young people may experience. This resource provides "key advice about online safety issues that can affect children and young people" including practical tips to help grandparents and carers to talk about these issues with children and young people and manage them. Helpful topics include: setting up devices safely; managing time online; preventing unsafe contact from strangers as well as a guide to some of the most popular sites and apps. Grandparents and carers can order a hard copy or download view the resource online at <https://www.esafety.gov.au/seniors/online-safety-grandparents-carers>

## THE BEATITUDES

The gospel of the Beatitudes is often read at funerals and weddings. In its own way, it sounds comforting and indeed it is. However, it is also very challenging—which suggests that “Blessed” is a better rendering of the opening word in each case than “Happy”.

Jesus is instructing his disciples concerning the kind of people they must be, not just for themselves but for the benefit of the mass of afflicted people down below the mountain, who he has just healed.

To this end, the beatitudes describe ways of living that mean putting oneself in a vulnerable situation quite contrary to the values of the world. To be “poor in spirit,” rather than proud and dominant; to feel compassion (“mourn”) because other people suffer; to have a passionate commitment (“thirst”) for justice; to exercise “mercy” rather than taking advantage of those in an inferior position; to actively promote reconciliation (as “peacemakers”); and so forth: all these things make one vulnerable here and now, entailing much loss.

But in light of the hope for the kingdom of God, whose values the Beatitudes enshrine, disciples who adopt this way of life are already “blessed”. Their future happiness is in the hands of an ever-faithful God.

Moreover, living in this way means that they can be “salt” and “light” for the world, especially for the afflicted. It is those who are prepared to live in the vulnerable way commended by Jesus who make the world a hospitable home for all humanity. This is the legacy of the “saints” who have gone before us.

*Fr Brendan Byrne SJ*



### SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT – KINGDOM ATTITUDES

Unlike the Ten Commandments, which describe the rules for life on earth for the ancient Jews, the Beatitudes describe the character or attitudes of people of the Kingdom of God. Like the many Kingdom parables that appear later in this gospel (esp. chapter 13), the Beatitudes present an image of what the Kingdom is like without an explicit explanation of the Kingdom. By praising and honouring the attitudes of the Kingdom, Jesus paints a picture of what life could be and should be like if we choose to live in the Kingdom of God.

### LIVING THE GOSPEL – CALLING ON THE SAINTS

Saints play an important role in the devotional life of many Catholic people, but it is a role that causes some confusion for other traditions. Whilst all prayer is directed to God, sometimes that prayer may be directed through one of the Saints or a Saint is called upon to pray on behalf of the petitioner. Images of people kneeling before statues of Saints has led to a misconception that Catholics pray to Saints, rather than to God through the Saint. The Litany of the Saints, with its ‘Pray for us’ response, calls on the Saints to intercede for us.

## Entrance Antiphon

Let us all rejoice in the Lord,  
as we celebrate the feast day in honour of all the Saints,  
at whose festival the Angels rejoice  
and praise the Son of God.

## FIRST READING

Revelation 7:2-4. 9-14

I, John, saw another angel rising where the sun rises, carrying the seal of the living God; he called in a powerful voice to the four angels whose duty was to devastate land and sea, 'Wait before you do any damage on land or at sea or to the trees, until we have put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.' Then I heard how many were sealed: a hundred and forty-four thousand, out of all the tribes of Israel.

After that I saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. They shouted aloud, 'Victory to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels who were standing in a circle round the throne, surrounding the elders and the four animals, prostrated themselves before the throne, and touched the ground with their foreheads, worshipping God with these words, 'Amen. Praise and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and strength to our God for ever and ever. Amen.'

One of the elders then spoke, and asked me, 'Do you know who these people are, dressed in white robes, and where they have come from?' I answered him, 'You can tell me, my Lord.' Then he said, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb.'

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalms 23:1-6.

**RESPONSE:** Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,  
the world and all its peoples.  
It is he who set it on the seas;  
on the waters he made it firm.

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? R./  
Who shall stand in his holy place?  
The man with clean hands and pure heart,  
who desires not worthless things. R./

He shall receive blessings from the Lord  
and reward from the God who saves him.  
Such are the men who seek him,  
seek the face of the God of Jacob. R./

## SECOND READING

1 John 3:1-3

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is. Surely everyone who entertains this hope must purify himself, must try to be as pure as Christ.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come to me, all you that labour and are burdened,  
and I will give you rest, says the Lord. Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

Matthew 5:1-12

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

'How happy are the poor in spirit: theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage. Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted. Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied. Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them. Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God. Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God. Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.'

'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

## Communion Antiphon

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God.  
Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they shall be called children of God.  
Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of  
righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

## 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.