



# 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.

## 7<sup>TH</sup>/8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2020 32<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

### RUNNING YOUR OWN RACE

Tuesday past marked the first time in my life that I didn't watch the running of the Melbourne Cup. At least not live. I was out enjoying the sun and the next time I looked at the clock it was right on 3pm. I should probably be kicked out of Melbourne for such a grave offence, but I'm willing to cut myself a bit of slack on this one. Sport has been a nice distraction and a means to mark the weeks over the lockdown period, but it hasn't nearly held the same significance in pure sporting terms as it would in other years. At least for me. The Grand Final a couple of weeks ago, played under lights at a strange ground, felt more like an Ansett Cup than the decider of the Premiership. Golf tournament winners look more like they've won a raffle for a meat tray than taken out a major PGA event and half a million euros in prizemoney. Without the usual crowds and with much bigger problems for most people to worry about, the intensity just isn't there.

But back to the Melbourne Cup. It was a sensational ride by Jye McNeil on Twilight Payment. And almost unprecedented in the way in which he won, leading from start to finish. History and common wisdom tells you that the last place you want to be as you head past the post for the first time in the Cup is out in front. You should sit back in the pack at an easier pace and simply set yourself up as you come onto the final straight to get a run at the line. It could be argued that if Prince of Arran was given a better chance at that it would have run over the top of both Tiger Moth and Twilight Payment. But the Melbourne Cup is run over 3200 metres, not 3250.

Post race, Jye McNeil said the horse settled into a great rhythm and was breathing well as a he continued to stretch out the field. So he let him keep running like that. It might have been tempting to reduce the pace little to ensure there was something left in the tank, but McNeil thought better. There's not a bad life lesson in that. We can certainly learn from others and be inspired by them, but ultimately each of us must tread our own path to heaven. Run your own race – not somebody else's. I saw a good little quote the other day which hints at something similar. It read, "Comparison is the thief of joy". If Jye rode the way almost every other Melbourne Cup winner has been ridden, he almost certainly wouldn't have won the race. Instead he rode the way he needed to with what he was given, and ended up a happy man indeed!

*Fr Joel Peart*

### 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 4: A HEART OPEN TO THE WHOLE WORLD

We experience social friendship, we seek what is morally good, and we practice social ethics because we know that we belong to a universal family. We are called to encounter, solidarity, and gratuitousness. The conviction that all human beings are brothers and sisters forces us to see things in a new light and to develop new responses ( FT 128).

*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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 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.

**....CONT'D**

When our neighbour happens to be an immigrant, complex challenges arise. As long as no substantial progress is made to avoid unnecessary migrations—and that means creating the conditions needed for a dignified life and integral development in the countries of origin—we are obliged to respect the right of all individuals to find a place that meets their basic needs, and where they can find personal fulfilment ( FT 129).

We must do our best to welcome, protect, promote, and integrate those who arrive. To that end, we should increase and simplify the granting of visas, adopt programmes of sponsorship, open humanitarian corridors, provide housing, guarantee personal security, grant access to basic services, and ensure consular assistance, among other things ( FT 130). The arrival of persons who are different from us becomes a gift when we receive them with open hearts and allow them to be true to themselves ( FT 134). Gratuitousness is the ability to do things simply because they are good in themselves, without concern for personal gain or recompense ( FT 139). Only a social and political culture that is imbued with a spirit of gratuitous acceptance will have a future ( FT 141).

There must be a healthy tension between the global and the local. We need to pay attention to the global so as to avoid narrowness and banality. Yet we also need to look to the local, which keeps our feet on the ground ( FT 142). It is impossible to be "local" in a healthy way without being sincerely open to the universal, without feeling challenged by what is happening in other places, without openness to enrichment by other cultures. Every healthy culture is open and welcoming ( FT 146). The world grows and is filled with new beauty, thanks to the successive syntheses produced between cultures that are open and free ( FT 148). Human beings are limited beings but are themselves limitless ( FT 150).

***We Remember in our Prayers our Year 12 students  
 who are 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**

**PRAYER FOR THE SICK:** Pauline Hewatt, 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.***



**BE PREPARED!**

**VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL:** Christmas is approaching and our Parish would normally be asking for food and toy donations to provide Christmas hampers to our Vinnies community. This year, because of COVID-19, we are asking for parishioners and our school community to assist us with monetary donations. The money will be used to buy food and gift vouchers to be given to our vulnerable families. We are requesting that this be done by the 11th December, so we can deliver the vouchers in time for the recipients to shop for Christmas. Could you place your donations in an envelope, clearly marked "Vinnies Donation", and place it in the chute next to the front door of the Parish House, please. We thank you for your continuing support towards the St John's Vinnies Christmas appeal.

The parable of the Wise and Foolish Bridesmaids addresses the situation of the Church as it awaits the return of its Lord (the "Bridegroom"). The time of waiting has become very long indeed but the Church still proclaims: "Christ will come again", and lives in that hope and in the sense of accountability that accompanies it. The key thing is to use the time of waiting profitably, so as not to be caught out when the Bridegroom arrives, whether that be at the moment of death or end of time.

The five wise and five foolish bridesmaids depict two possibilities for believers. The oil needed for their lamps represents the good deeds that Jesus commends in this gospel, especially the works of mercy that feature so prominently in the parable of the Great Judgement (Matt 25:41-56). The five wise bridesmaids will meet the Bridegroom with their lamps blazing with this "oil". The five foolish, on the other hand, represent the kind of believers who cry out, "Lord, Lord" but have no good works to accompany their confession of faith (see 7:21).

The parable—and the Gospel as a whole—remind us that the words of dismissal at the Eucharist, "Go in peace, glorifying the Lord with your life", are no perfunctory conclusion to the rite but a programme for living the twin commandment of love of God and love of neighbour. Those who take them to heart have always with them the "oil" required for salvation; they can "sleep" without anxiety about being caught short by the sudden arrival of the Lord.

*Fr Brendan Byrne SJ*

**STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES:** The next cycle of thanksgiving envelopes including monthly, quarterly and yearly envelopes for next year are ready to be picked up from the parish office, Tuesday to Friday between 9:30am to 2:30pm. Thank you for your generosity. Your continued contributions help the parish meet its financial commitments.

**COVID-SAFE MASSES AT ST JOHN'S:** Inside the church Tuesday to Friday at 9am, Saturday at 9am & Vigil mass at 6pm. Sunday 9am & 10am. Email at heidelberg@cam.org.au or call parish office Tuesday to Friday on 9457 1066 between 9:30am and 2:30pm 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.

**HISTORICAL CONTEXT – WHERE WAS THE BRIDE?**

It may seem a little odd that the bridegroom was travelling to the wedding hall by himself. What appears to have been the custom is that the bridesmaids escorted the bride to the hall whilst the groom remained behind to settle matters with the bride's family. Whilst the bride price, or dowry, would have been agreed well before the wedding, the family would emphasise and even haggle over the value of gifts to further reinforce the great value of the bride and the wise choice that the groom and his family had made.

**LIVING THE GOSPEL – LIVING IN HOPE.**

A feature of Christian faith is an approach to life that views the future with hope. In our world today many people look to the future with distrust and even fear. As Christians, we look forward with hope. When change occurs, some allow that change to happen to them whilst others engage in the change process and approach it with hope and expectation. Today's gospel reminds us to be ready for what the future holds; to look with hope towards what lies ahead, but to ensure that we've prepared ourselves properly. The future can only be viewed with expectant hope if we've done the proper preparation!

## Entrance Antiphon

Let my prayer come into your presence.  
Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

## FIRST READING Wisdom 6:12-16

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim. By those who love her she is readily seen, and found by those who look for her. Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes herself known to them. Watch for her early and you will have no trouble; you will find her sitting at your gates. Even to think about her is understanding fully grown; be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you. She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her and graciously shows herself to them as they go, in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 62:2-8.

**RESPONSE:** My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God, for you I long;  
for you my soul is thirsting.

My body pines for you  
like a dry, weary land without water. R./

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary.  
to see your strength and your glory.  
For your love is better than life,  
my lips will speak your praise. R./

So I will bless you all my life,  
in your name I will lift up my hands.  
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,  
my mouth shall praise you with joy. R./

On my bed I remember you.  
On you I muse through the night  
for you have been my help;  
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. R./

## SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Be watchful and ready:  
you know not when the Son of Man is coming.  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five of them were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'



## Communion Antiphon

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me  
repose, near restful waters he leads me.

Or

The disciples recognized the Lord Jesus in the  
breaking of bread.

## 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.