



# 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.

**PARISH PRIEST** Fr Joel Peart  
**PARISH SECRETARY:** Mary Peeris  
**PASTORAL PASTORAL COUNCIL**  
**CHAIR:** Michelle Robertson  
**COUNCIL MEMBERS:**  
Domenica Ashworth;  
Timothy Boyle  
Margaret Bradley  
Moiria 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:**  
52 Yarra Street Heidelberg 3084  
t: 9457 1066  
e: heidelberg@cam.org.au  
w: pol.org.au/heidelberg  
Facebook.com/stjohnheidelberg  
**OFFICE HOURS:**  
Tues—Fri 9:30am to 2:30pm  
**MASS TIMES:** Tues to Sat: 9am &  
Sat Vigil 6pm, Sun: 8:30am &  
10:30am.  
**RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION):**  
by appointment, Sat 9:30-  
10am  
**WEDDINGS:** By appointment  
**FIRST RECONCILIATION,**  
**FIRST COMMUNION, CONFIRMATION:**  
Parish Secretary (9457 1066)  
**LEGION OF MARY, PARISH PILGRIM**  
**STATUE OF MARY:** Statue not in  
circulation until further notice.  
mob Sue 0499260206  
m: 0414 289 304

**ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY**  
Maureen Stella (Principal)  
55 Cape St Heidelberg 3084  
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office@sjheidelberg.catholic.edu.au  
**HALL HIRE:**  
Contact parish office during  
hours.

## 2ND /3RD JANUARY 2021, *THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD* *A HAPPY NEW YEAR 2021*

### 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.

Dear friends,

Well, we made it! I've no doubt many of you will be experiencing a sense of relief that this year is over. It's been one out of the box that's for sure.

Though it has been tough, I have bristled a little when I've heard people say or write that 2020 was a disaster that ought to be forever forgotten, or sentiments to that effect. I picked up the 2020 Yearbook of Australian Motorcycle Magazine the other day that had the caption of "Good Riddance!" on the cover in reference to the year we've had. You may well share these thoughts – 2020 might have been the *annus horribilus* that it no doubt was for many – but you might not want to presume that for everyone.

I know that for the couples that I married early and then later in the year (and my own sister's impromptu wedding in July), for the parents that welcomed children into the world and baptized them into the faith, and for Richmond Tiger and Melbourne Storm fans (!), the year most certainly wasn't all doom and gloom. In fact it will likely be especially marked with much affection and the best of memories.

I hope that you are able to look back on the year that was and count some blessings; to continue to give thanks to God even through trials is the measure of true faith. I also hope that you are looking forward to the new year with excited anticipation: that it will be the one where you commit yourself to doing the will of God more than ever, trusting that whatever the future holds "...you will be able to conquer all things, through Him who loved us" (Philippians 8:37)

*Ad Multos Annos!*

Fr Joel.

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Ronald Watts.

**ANNIVERSARY:** Joy & Frederick Meacham, Beryl & John Shields.

**PRAYER FOR THE SICK:** Mary Teresa Wright, James Artinopoulos, Philomena Misale and Brett Ralph, Elizabeth Finn, Pauline Hewatt, Giovanni Mirabella.

*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***

**FIRST READING**

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and your daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you, the wealth of the nations come to you; camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM***Psalm 79:1-2 7-8 10-13***RESPONSE:** Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

O God, give your judgement to the king,  
to a king's son your justice,  
that he may judge your people in justice  
and your poor in right judgement.

R./

In his days justice shall flourish  
and peace till the moon fails.  
He shall rule from sea to sea,  
from the Great River to earth's bounds.

R./

The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts  
shall pay him tribute.  
The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts.  
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,  
all nations shall serve him.

R./

For he shall save the poor when they cry  
and the needy who are helpless.  
He will have pity on the weak  
and save the lives of the poor.

R./

**SECOND READING**

Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Jesus Christ, through the gospel.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have seen his star in the East;  
and have come to adore the Lord.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward, and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

**GOSPEL FOCUS – GOING HOME**

The wise men, are warned in a dream not to go back to Herod and they go home by a different way. How could they do anything but go home another way – indeed, go home as different people? They are changed by their encounter with the child Jesus and they go home a different way; in a different state; in a whole different frame of mind. When we genuinely encounter Jesus – in scripture, in life, in prayer, in ourselves – then we cannot go home the same way; we must go home by a different way as the wise men did.