



ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PARISH  
& PRIMARY SCHOOL

# 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.

## *30TH/ 31ST JANUARY 2021* *4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B*

Dear brothers and sisters,

We celebrated the feast of St Thomas Aquinas during this past week – on Thursday to be precise. Some would say St Thomas is arguably the greatest theologian the Catholic Church has ever had. Others would say that there is no argument: he is hands down the greatest theologian the church has ever had.

A priest of the Order of St Dominic, he was born in 1221 in southern Italy to a noble family but renounced his titles and heirs to take up the religious life. His family were dead against him doing so and went to great lengths to prevent him joining the order, including kidnapping him on his way to the monastery and at one stage sending a woman of disrepute up to his room to try and seduce him otherwise. Thanks be to God, he chased that woman out of his room and managed to elude the grasp of his two brothers, and from there got to work on becoming both a saint and doctor of the church.

What we find in the theology of St Thomas is a precision and clarity regarding some of the deepest mysteries of our faith. While others would rely on allegory and more abstract means to help us understand the things of God, Thomas brought a more scientific and investigative approach to make his discoveries. It is no wonder, as he learnt from St Albert the Great, a great theologian and natural scientist, who formed the basis for what we now know as the scientific method.

In order to come to the truth, Thomas would posit a claim or outline a teaching of our faith. He would then formulate several different challenges and arguments seeking to refute that claim. He would 'put in under the microscope' you might say. The claim would either stand up to the challenges or falter, and thereby show if the belief was to be held as true or not.

As I suggested to the congregation who were present at Thursday's mass, we would do well to adopt such a strategy in our own lives. When making a decision it is a wise thing to raise every possible counter argument as to why you might not go down that path. If after that you can still justify the call, then go for it. Likewise when we take a position about current issues, we should raise our own challenges to the position to make sure we are not just accepting popular opinion or being blinded by our own bias. It will give you peace of mind to know that you have a considered opinion, and also be helpful for when people wish to oppose you, as there is a good chance that you have already satisfied every possible argument against it in your own mind!

With every blessing,

*Fr Joel Peart*

**PARISH PRIEST** Fr Joel Peart  
**PARISH SECRETARY:** Mary Peeris  
**PASTORAL PASTORAL COUNCIL**  
**CHAIR:** Michelle Robertson  
**COUNCIL MEMBERS:**  
Domenica Ashworth;  
Timothy Boyle  
Margaret Bradley  
Moira Di Cesare  
Karen Frost  
Russell Lew-Kee  
**SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE CHAIR:**  
Michelle Penson (0499 891 101)  
**PASTORAL WORKER:**  
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  
**OFFICE HOURS:**  
Tues—Fri 9:30am to 2:30pm  
**MASS TIMES:** Tues to Sat: 9am  
(9:15am from the 2nd of Feb) &  
Sat Vigil 6pm, Sun: 8:30am, &  
10:30am. (Sunday 5pm mass  
recommences on 7th Feb)  
**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 0449260206. Weekly  
meeting Wed 10:30am at  
Francis Xavier Meeting room,  
Parish House.  
**ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY**  
Maureen Stella (Principal)  
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.*

### TEACHING AND HEALING WITH AUTHORITY

Today's Gospel (Mark 1:21-28) describes the first public act of Jesus. He enters the synagogue at Capernaum, teaches with impressive authority and dramatically frees a man possessed by an evil spirit.

What is really surprising is that the people in the synagogue seem just as impressed by the authority with which Jesus teaches as by the authority with which he drives out the demon. The two activities are not unconnected. Driving out the demon enacts more visibly and physically a liberation that his teaching produces in the hearts and minds of the people. As they drink in his words, they are set free from captivities of prejudice, fear, scruples, guilt, and ignorance about God. A false image of God can truly be an enslavement.

The ancient world attributed to demonic possession various pathologies that modern medicine would ascribe to mental illness. Beyond clear cases of possession, the demonic can refer to any condition that controls human lives, inhibiting freedom and choice, stunting personal growth, alienating persons from God and their own true humanity, rendering relationships with others poisonous or destructive. Addictions of all kinds come to mind (substance abuse, alcoholism, gambling, pornography, etc.), their destructiveness symbolized by the "convulsions" inflicted on the man in this scene by the departing demon.

Rather than being mere spectators of what is being described, the Gospel invites hearers to identify with Jesus' audience in the synagogue, listen to his teaching, and to consider ways in which our own lives need to be set free through the teaching and the power of Jesus.

*Fr Brendan Byrne SJ*

### HISTORICAL CONTEXT – HE SAID WHAT?

In an age when most people were illiterate, Jesus appears to have been quite well educated. Some suggest that he may have spoken three or four different languages. He obviously spoke everyday Aramaic, as it was spoken in that region. Jesus also appears to have been taught Hebrew, the language of religious texts and religious practice. Greek, the language of trade in marketplaces, was a language that Jesus probably used when helping Joseph sell his carpentry products at stalls and markets. Finally, Jesus probably picked up a reasonable amount of Latin, the language of the Roman occupiers – he was able to hold a conversation with Pontius Pilate.

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

**RECENTLY BAPTISED:** Michael Bruno.

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

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Eva Herman.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Josephine Sheahan.

*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** latest. Thank you.*

30 Jan / 31 Jan	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Sue Lew-Kee	Marguerite Ryan	Claire Newsome	-
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader	Grace Lew-kee	Pietro Sciotto	Michael Leonard	-
Communion	Nigel Mant	Pauline Griffiths	Brian McIntosh	-
6 Feb / 7 Feb	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Moira Di Cesare	Garry Sproules	Michelle Robertson	Leela Cherubim
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader	Domenica Ashworth	Barbara Barnes	Joanne Martinez	-
Communion	Emma Chang	Oliver Kmita	Liz Sier	Leo Cosio
<b>MORNING TEA: 7th February - Francoise &amp; Maria</b>				

**MORNING TEA:** in the parish hall recommences next Sunday, February 7th, following the 10.30a.m. mass. Please join fellow parishioners for a cuppa and a chat.

**SACRAMENT PROGRAMME FOR THOSE STUDENTS NOT ATTENDING ST JOHN'S SCHOOL:** Applications are now open for the following: Reconciliation - Year 3, 2021, Eucharist - Year 4, 2021, Confirmation - Year 6, 2021. Please contact Elizabeth, elizabeth.williamson@cam.org.au for an application form or to make an inquiry. Application close on Friday February 26th, 2021.

**CHANGE OF MASS TIMES:** As of Tuesday February 2nd the morning mass time (Tuesday to Saturday) will revert back to the usual time of 9.15a.m. Sunday 5.00p.m. mass will recommence on February 7th.

**ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS IN ST JOHN'S PARISH MAGAZINE:** The Eyrie comes out quarterly and reaches all school families and parishioners on line as well as glossy hard copies. Single Advertisements \$75 per issue or advertise in each of our 4 issues for only \$200 per year. Phone Michelle on 0499891101 or email parish office: heidelberg@cam.org.au

**ORGAN RECITAL:** By Thomas Heywood on Friday 5th February, 2021, 6.00pm-7.00pm at St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne. Music by Bach, Elgar, Verdi, Grieg, Tchaikovsky, Guilmant, Cocker & Mulet. Tickets \$25. Children under 15 free. Bookings: www.trybooking.com/BNSIT

**SEEKING ACCOMMODATION:** a single lady aged 47, who is looking for short to medium term accommodation in a granny flat, or similar. She is hoping for something between \$200 and \$250 per week. Contact Parish Office on 9457 1066 during office hours or email Heidelberg@cam.org.au

**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.

#### LOOKING AHEAD

**Tuesday February 16th :** Shrove Tuesday 9.15a.m. mass followed by pancakes and a cuppa in the Francis Xavier Meeting Room

**Wednesday February 17th :** Ash Wednesday Mass times: 9.15a.m. and 7.00p.m.

**Friday February 19th:** Stations of the Cross 7.00p.m

**Saturday February 20th:** Sacrament of Confirmation for Year 6, 2020 St John's School students. St John's Church.

**Sunday February 21st :** First Sunday of Lent

**Thursday February 25th** Parish Annual Meeting 7.30p.m. Francis Xavier Meeting Room.

**Friday February 26th:** Applications close for Sacrament Programme

Stations of the Cross 7.00p.m

**Sunday February 28th:** Second Sunday of Lent

#### **GEMS (GREGARIOUS ENERGETIC MEMBERS OF ST JOHN'S):**

A parish group for the more mature members of St John's 50+ We meet weekly on a Tuesday from 10.00 -12.00 for games, chatting, morning tea and outings. We are delighted to let you know that we are able to gather again this year. Our first gathering will be on Tuesday, February 2nd, in the Francis Xavier Meeting Room. Please enter at the back of the parish house. Present members and new members are most welcome. Transport available. Elizabeth 0447195553.

**VOLUNTEERS FOR SUNDAY MASSES:** At each Sunday Mass volunteers are needed to go on rosters, to support parishioners in entering their information into the QR system, to be collectors (four are needed for each Mass), clean the seats after each Mass. Any help will be very much appreciated - we are all in this together. To volunteer please contact during office hours Tuesday to Friday, 9:30am to 2:30pm the Parish office on 94571066 or email at heidelberg@cam.org.au

**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.

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Save us, O Lord our God!  
And gather us from the nations,  
to give thanks to your holy name,  
and make it our glory to praise you.

## FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Moses said to the people: 'Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. "Do not let me hear again" you said "the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die"; and the Lord said to me, "All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die."'

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 94:1-2. 6-9

**RESPONSE:** If today, you hear his voice,  
harden not your hearts.

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;  
hail the rock who saves us.

Let us come before him, giving thanks,  
with songs let us hail the Lord.

R./

Come in, let us kneel and bend low;  
let us kneel before the God who made us  
for he is our God and we  
the people who belong to his pasture,  
the flock that is led by his hand.

R./

O that today you would listen to his voice!  
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as on that day at Massah in the desert  
when your fathers put me to the test;  
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' R./

## SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 7:32-35

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's

affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A people in darkness have seen a great light:  
a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death.  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

Mark 1:21-28

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.



## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Let your face shine on your servant.

Save me in your merciful love.

O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.