



# ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PARISH

52 Yarra Street

HEIDELBERG



ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PARISH  
& PRIMARY SCHOOL

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  
 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: 9:15am &  
 Sat Vigil 6pm, Sun: 8:30am, &  
 10:30am & Sunday 5pm.  
**RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION):**  
 by appointment, Sat 9:30-10am  
**WEDDINGS:** By appointment  
**FIRST RECONCILIATION,**  
**FIRST COMMUNION, CONFIRMATION:**  
 Parish Secretary (9457 1066)  
**LEGION OF MARY,** Weekly meeting  
 Wed. 10.30am at Francis Xavier  
 Meeting room, Parish House.  
 Pilgrim statue of Mary:, Contact  
 Sue 0449260206  
**ST JOHN'S WALKING GROUP:** regular  
 Monday morning walks leaving from  
 outside the Church in Yarra Street at  
 9.30am. To register please contact  
 Jan on 0423478504.  
**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 office  
 hours.

## 13TH/14TH MARCH, 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR B

### 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 brothers and sisters,

### Feast or Fast?

In the coming days, we have some of the greatest feast days of our church's year to celebrate. The feast of St Patrick is this Wednesday March 17, then the feast of St Joseph this Friday the 19th. Not too far down the track is the solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord on March 25.

As the name suggests, these days are meant to be marked with a feast: good food and drink shared, hopefully, with good company! But we are also, as you are no doubt aware, in the midst of the season of Lent. which is to be observed by practicing fasting and penance. So what to do?

We are blessed here in Melbourne in that we have St Patrick as the patron of our diocese, with our mother church and Cathedral named after the great apostle to Ireland. So, St Patrick's Day is elevated from a feast to a solemnity – the highest of honours. On these days the Mass celebrated is similar to a Sunday. It includes the Gloria, three readings and the psalm, and the priest wears white vestments. So too the feast of St Joseph, which in some parts of the world is still a holy day of obligation.

So, if St Joseph's Day (or St Patrick's Day or the Annunciation) falls on Friday in Lent (as it does this year), abstinence is not obligatory on this feast. From the Code of Canon Law:

**Can. 1251** *Abstinence from meat, or from some other food as determined by the Episcopal Conference, is to be observed on all Fridays, unless a solemnity should fall on a Friday.*

This is always the rule. There is no fasting or abstaining ever required on Sundays or solemnities.

Many I know feel that if they don't go from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday abstaining from the chocolate or booze which they chose to forego, it's not a proper Lent. I appreciate the sentiment and bless you if you want to uphold that. But it is important to honour these celebrations in some way. Easter is greater than Good Friday and there are far more solemnities to celebrate than days of penance and fasting in our church. We as Christians are ultimately a people of triumph and joy, not doom and gloom. I know I'll be having a Guinness on Wednesday and a glass or two of red on the Friday. Feel free to join in!

With every blessing,

Fr Joel

13 / 14 March	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Michael Leonard	Marguerite Ryan	Elizabeth Williamson	Des O'Brien
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader	Grace Lew-Kee	Wendy Hernandez	Joanne Martinez	Mary Kotefski
Communion	Domenica Ashworth	Margaret Bradley	Tim Boyle	Charito Cosio
20 / 21 March	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5:00pm
1st Reader	Peter Penson	Pietro Sciotto	Michelle Robertson	Leela Cherubim
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader	Adrian Daly	Karen Frost	Elizabeth Williamson	TBA
Communion	Lorraine Mascarenhas	Pauline Griffiths	Mary Furlan	Jenny Hollaway

**ANOINTING (HEALING) SERVICE OF THE SICK:** St John's parishioners are warmly invited to attend St Pius X Catholic Church at 419-431 Waterdale Road, Heidelberg West on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March @ 11am for the Sacrament of the Anointing within mass. Transport available. Elizabeth 0447 195 553, Margaret 0439 891 009.

**HOLY WEEK/EASTER:** Last year we were unable to celebrate Holy Week. This year we will celebrate but with some restrictions in place. You will find sign-up sheets at the back of the church for helpers we will need for the Holy Week/Easter ceremonies.

**GEMS 50+:** Next gathering, Tuesday March 16th at 10.00a.m. in the Francis Xavier Meeting Room. Games morning. New members are always welcome and Transport available. Elizabeth 0447195553.

**ST JOHN'S COMMUNITY DINNER:** The Old England Hotel on Friday, March, 19th at 6.30p.m. **Fully Booked.**

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** Each Friday during Lent at 6.00p.m. in the church. **Please note they will not be prayed on Friday March 19th, which is the Solemnity of St Joseph.**

**PROJECT COMPASSION:** Arsad, an Indonesian farmer, had no toilet at home and was often sick due to the practice of open defecation. Through Caritas Australia's support, Arsad and his community improved hygiene and sanitation, and funded their own toilets.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 and help improve health and wellbeing of communities in Indonesia so they can work towards eradicating poverty, providing a better future for all.

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or phoning 1800 024 413.

#### IN THE COMING WEEKS.....

**Parish Community Dinner:** Friday, March 19th 6.00p.m. Old England Hotel. **NO STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

**Presentation of students preparing for First Communion 2020 candidates:** Saturday, March 20th 6.00p.m. Mass, Sunday, March 21st, 10.30p.m. mass

**First Reconciliation 2020 candidates:** Tuesday, March 23rd, 7.00p.m

**Stations of the Cross:** Friday, March 26th, 6.00p.m

**First Reconciliation 2020 candidates:** Tuesday, March 30th, 7.00p.m

**Palm Sunday Procession:** 10.30a.m. mass. Gather outside the church

**Second Rite of Reconciliation With individual confession:** Wednesday, March 31st, 7.00p.m

**SHOW, SELL AND SHARE:** On Sunday 2nd May we are planning to hold an Art and Craft Market in the lead up to Mother's Day and to raise much needed funds for Vinnies. If you would like to have a stall to share with us your skills please book in early. Contact Jan on 0423478 504.

**DO YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO CAN'T GET TO MASS ANY LONGER?** Would they like to be visited and perhaps have communion taken to them? Contact: Elizabeth 0447195553

**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.



#### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

**RECENTLY BAPTISED:** Olivia Borin, William Reeves, Florence Esnouf, Amelia Biancucci.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Kevin Smith.

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

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Maxwell Henry Ingram.

Please submit any items for the newsletter, including sick, recently deceased and anniversaries, by **Thursday morning** latest. Thank you.

**ENTRANCE : PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

From all that dwell below the skies  
Let the Creator's praise arise!  
Let the Redeemer's name be sung  
Through every land by every one.

**COMMUNION : BREAD OF LIFE**

**Refrain**

Bread of life, hope of the world,  
Jesus Christ, our brother:  
feed us now, give us life,  
lead us to one another.

As we proclaim your death,  
as we recall your life,  
we remember your promise to return again.

The bread we break and share  
was scattered once as grain:  
just as now it is gathered,  
make your people one.

We eat this living bread,  
we drink this saving cup:  
sign of hope in our broken world,  
source of lasting love.

**RECESSIONAL: BLEST BE THE LORD**

Blest be the Lord, blest be the Lord,  
The God of mercy, the God who saves.  
I shall not fear, the dark of night  
Nor the arrow that flies by day.

He will release me from the nets of all my foes.  
He will protect me from their wicked hands.  
Beneath the shadow of His wings I will rejoice  
To find a dwelling place secure.

I need not shrink before the terrors of the night  
Nor stand alone before the light of day.  
No harm shall come to me, no arrow strike me down,  
No evil settle in my soul.

**A Prayer to Saint Joseph**

*Glorious Saint Joseph, whose power makes the impossible possible, come to my aid in these times of anguish and difficulty.*

*Take under your protection the serious and troubling situations that I commend to you, that they may have a happy outcome.*

*My beloved father, all my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power. Amen.*



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All hymns from 'AS ONE VOCIE'*

**Confetior**

I confess to almighty God and to you,  
my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned,  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,  
*(And, striking their breast, they say:)*  
through my fault, through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;  
*(Then they continue:)*  
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints, and you,  
my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

**Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only  
Son, our Lord,  
*(At the words that follow, up to and including the Virgin  
Mary, all bow)*  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin  
Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was  
buried;  
he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again  
from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand  
of God the Father almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.  
Amen.

**CONFRONTING SIN TO FIND LIFE**

Jesus' mysterious statement at the beginning of today's Gospel that the Son of Man must be "lifted up" alludes to an episode during the Exodus wandering of Israel (Num 21:4-9). Finding themselves in the wilderness without food or water, the Israelites grumble against the Lord and against Moses. As a result they are punished with a plague of poisonous snakes. But God who sent the punishment has also provided a remedy: the erection of a bronze figure of the snake in question. Looking upon this figure acts for the Israelites as a life-giving antidote to the poison. The Gospel finds here a pointer to the coming "lifting up" of the Son of Man upon the cross. As the Israelites found salvation and life by directly confronting what was afflicting them, so those who "look upon" the Crucified One with faith, seeing him as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (1:29), will find eternal life. The following sentence (3:16) wonderfully discloses the extremity of God's love. While desirous that we appreciate the evil and destructiveness of sin by confronting it in the cross, God's whole intent in regard to the world is not to condemn but to save and communicate life. Judgment, then, is not so much something to be executed in the future. Judgment is something that believers already undergo when they expose their lives to the searching but saving light that Christ, as "true Light", brings into the world. It is to this kind of "judgment" that Lent invites us each year.

*Fr Brendan Byrne sj*

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.  
 Be joyful, all who were in mourning;  
 exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

**FIRST READING** 2 Chronicles 36:14-16. 19-23

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."' "

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Psalm 136.

**RESPONSE:** Let my tongue be silenced, if ever I forget you!

By the rivers of Babylon  
 there we sat and wept,  
 remembering Zion;  
 on the poplars that grew there  
 we hung our harps. R./

For it was there that they asked us,  
 our captors, for songs,  
 our oppressors, for joy.  
 'Sing to us,' they said,  
 'one of Zion's songs.' R./

O how could we sing  
 the song of the Lord  
 on alien soil?  
 If I forget you, Jerusalem,  
 let my right hand wither! R./

O let my tongue  
 cleave to my mouth  
 if I remember you not,  
 if I prize not Jerusalem  
 above all my joys! R./

**SECOND READING** Ephesians 2:4-10

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus. This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
 God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,  
 that all who believe in him might have eternal life.  
 Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

**GOSPEL** John 3:14-21

Jesus said to Nicodemus: The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son.

On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed,  
 I saw and I believed in God.