



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

SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE CHAIR:
Michelle Penson (0499 891 101)

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE:
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):
Sat 9:45-10:30am & 5:30-6pm

WEDDINGS: By appointment

**FIRST RECONCILIATION,
FIRST COMMUNION, CONFIRMATION:**
Parish Secretary (9457 1066)

LEGION OF MARY: Tue 7:30pm
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

15TH AUGUST. THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

"Man must not be forced to act contrary to his conscience" - Dignitatis Humanae, Vatican II

Dear brothers and sisters,

One thing I have found rather interesting over the years of celebrating and preaching on the lives of the saints, is how often family members did their best to prevent these holy men and women from taking up religious life. Francis of Assisi, Thomas Aquinas, Rose of Lima, Rita of Cascia to name just a few. Another is a saint we honoured during the week, that is Saint Clare of Assisi.

I've no doubt these family members meant well: marriages often meant security and future wellbeing and ensured that family alliances and levels of class were maintained. But those things mean nothing to those on fire with love of God. The stories of each of these saints is quite inspirational, but Saint Clare was particularly dramatic in her refusal to do anything other than give her life to Christ through prayer and penance. She went so far as to cutting off her hair to make herself less attractive to potential suitors. Shortly after having made her profession and taken up the veil at the age of 17, Clare's father marched over to the church to bring her back home. This young girl literally clung to the altar as her father tried to drag her out. Clare would not be moved.

From these beginnings, the Order of St Clare was formed, known commonly today as the Poor Clares. There are roughly 20,000 nuns of this order spread across 75 countries throughout the world today. Not bad for something that started with a teenage girl being inspired by a sermon over 800 years ago! It's a testament to what can happen when someone has a deep love of Christ and a determined will. It proves as well that great things can happen when you ignore the opinions and pressures of those around you and pursue that which you know to be right in your heart and mind.

There are plenty of strong opinions and pressures put on people today to do all sorts of things because of Covid. The taking of the vaccine is one of those. I have friends - both lay and cleric - who have had the jab, others who haven't yet and a number who likely never will. Good luck to all of them. I just hope none of them have made a decision or will make a decision that goes against their will and what they believe to be right. For those who are struggling to follow their conscience on this because of coercion from those around them, hang in there. You have plenty of friends in heaven on your side, with Saint Clare being one of them.

God speed,
Fr Joel.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

THE SICK: Robert Sciacca, Concetta Molinaro, Joan Geoghegan, Marie Caldwell, Jacob Draper.

ANNIVERSARIES: Fransi Widjanarko.

*Please submit any items for the newsletter, including sick, recently deceased and anniversaries, by **Thursday***

