



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.

**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  
hours.

18TH/19TH SEPTEMBER 2021

*TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B*

*"He was oppressed and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth..." – Isaiah 53:7*

Dear brothers and sisters,

I was rather shocked and a little saddened when I woke up on Wednesday morning to learn that Norm Macdonald, stand-up comedian and actor, had died at the age of 61. Though not to everyone's taste, his deadpan style and sarcasm were hilarious to me. He had an ability to take tragic elements in life and history and somehow make them funny. And he did so without really insulting anyone, which in today's world is pretty much impossible. Though he was never part of a formal church, Norm described himself as a Christian. It was nice to hear one US political commentator (who is a Catholic) say that he and Norm had been exchanging some lengthy messages in recent months, with almost all of them being on the topic of faith. I'm not sure if Norm was ever baptised but here's hoping.

The part that was surprising was hearing that he died from cancer; an acute leukemia that he was diagnosed with 9 years ago. No one knew this, with Norm keeping the fact even from some of his family members. I'm not suggesting anyone unfortunate enough to be in similar circumstance ought to do the same: the support of family and friends can be the thing that gets you through such tough times. And I've no doubt those close to him would be frustrated and even a little angry that they weren't able to offer their support to him. But to bear one's sufferings patiently and in silence is something that God would seem to uphold as exemplary. We were reminded of this on Thursday when we celebrated the memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows. Mary glorifies God and we in turn praise her for her faith and constancy, which is epitomised by her standing at the foot of the cross of her dying Son. As borne out by the scriptures, Mary offers no word nor act of remonstrance as her own heart is pierced with such great sorrow.

It's a great irony that one of the best Norm Macdonald lines was, when being told that some figure in history was in fact dead: "I didn't even know he was sick". Even from the grave Norm is able to deliver punchlines. Funny as that is, the fact that no one knew Norm was sick - that he carried his cross without wanting in any way to burden others - may be one of the things that helps him get to heaven.

In Christ,

Fr Joel.

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord.  
Should they cry to me in any distress,  
I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

**FIRST READING**

Wisdom 2:12, 17-20

The godless say to themselves, 'Let us lie in wait for the virtuous man, since he annoys us and opposes our way of life, reproaches us for our breaches of the law and accuses us of playing false to our upbringing. Let us see if what he says is true, let us observe what kind of end he himself will have. If the virtuous man is God's son, God will take his part and rescue him from the clutches of his enemies. Let us test him with cruelty and with torture, and thus explore this gentleness of his and put his endurance to the proof. Let us condemn him to a shameful death since he will be looked after – we have his word for it.'

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Ps 53:3-6. 8.

**Response:** The Lord upholds my life.

O God, save me by your name;  
by your power, uphold my cause.  
O God, hear my prayers;  
listen to the words of my mouth.

R./

For proud men have risen against me,  
ruthless men seek my life.  
They have no regard for God.

R./

But I have God for my help.  
The Lord upholds my life.  
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart  
and praise your name for it is good.

R./

**SECOND READING**

St James 3:16 – 4:3

Wherever you find jealousy and ambition, you find disharmony, and wicked things of every kind being done; whereas the wisdom that comes down from above is essentially something pure; it also makes for peace, and is kindly and considerate; it is full of compassion and shows itself by doing good; nor is there any trace of partiality or hypocrisy in it. Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness.

Where do these wars and battles between yourselves first start? Isn't it precisely in the desires fighting inside your own selves? You want something and you haven't got it; so you are prepared to kill. You have an ambition that you cannot satisfy; so you fight to get your way by force. Why you don't have what you want is because you don't pray for it; when you do pray and don't get it, it is because you have not prayed properly, you have prayed for something to indulge your own desires.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
God has called us with the gospel  
to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

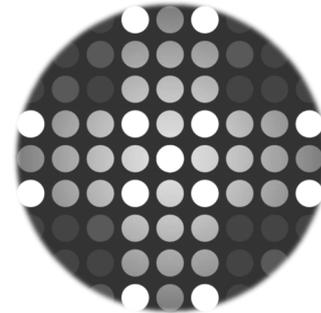
Mark 9:30-37

After leaving the mountain Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee; and he did not want anyone to know, because he was instructing his disciples; he was telling them, 'The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him to death; and three days after he has been put to death he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he said and were afraid to ask him.

They came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the road?' They said nothing because they had been arguing which of them was the greatest. So he sat down, called the Twelve to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all.' He then took a little child, set him in front of them, put his arms round him, and said to them, 'Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept;  
may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

**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 here, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Janina Maj.

**THE SICK:** Jerzy Baczkowicz, Brett Ralph, Margaret Ralph, Jim Artinopoulos, George Cassamity, Elizabeth Finn.

**ANNIVERSARY:** Jan Baczkowicz, Marta and Peter Brejta.