



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 Vinh Nguyen

PARISH SECRETARY: Mary Peeris

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE:

Elizabeth Williamson (0447195553)

SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE CHAIR:

Michelle Penson (0499 891 101)

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 &

5pm

ADORATION: After Friday morning
Mass with Benediction.

EXPOSITION: Wednesday 7.30pm-
8.30pm

RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION):

Friday 8.45am & during Adoration,

Sat 9:45 am & 5:30pm

WEDDING, BAPTISM, FIRST

RECONCILIATION, FIRST COMMUNION,
CONFIRMATION:

Parish Secretary (9457 1066)

LEGION OF MARY: Meet every

Wednesdays at 10.30am at parish

house in the Francis Xavier Room.

All Welcome. Fatima Statue

Enquires, Contact Sue

0449260206

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.

10TH/11TH DECEMBER 2022, THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A

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,

The Third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called "*Gaudete Sunday*". *Gaudete* is the Latin word meaning "rejoice." Today's Mass begins with the opening antiphon: "Rejoice in the Lord always." In the past, when Advent was a season of penance, the celebrant of the liturgy used to wear vestments with the penitential colour of purple or violet. In order to remind the people that they were preparing for the very joyful occasion of the birth of Jesus, the celebrant wore rose-coloured vestments on the Third Sunday. Today we light the rose candle, and the priest may wear rose vestments, to express our joy in the coming of Jesus, our Saviour. The primary common theme running through today's readings is that of encouraging joy as we meet our need for the preparation required of us who await the rebirth of Jesus in our hearts and lives. The second common theme is that of bearing witness. The prophet Isaiah, Mary and John the Baptist all bear joyful witness to what God has done and will do for His people.

Today's Gospel tells us that John the Baptist came as a witness to testify to the Light. The coming of Jesus, the Light, into the world is cause for rejoicing as he removes darkness from the world. We should be glad and rejoice also because, like John the Baptist, we, too, are chosen to bear witness to Christ Jesus, the Light of the world. We are to reflect Jesus' Light in our lives so that we may radiate it and illuminate the dark lives of others around us. The joyful message of today's liturgy is clear. The salvation we await with rejoicing will liberate both the individual and the community, and its special focus will be the poor and lowly.

St Paul advises us to "*rejoice always*" by leading blameless, holy, and thankful lives guided by the Holy Spirit, because Christ is faithful to his promise that he will come again to reward us.

May the season of Advent be the season of grace, hope and joy for each of us.

God bless,

Fr Vinh-Parish Priest

ENTRANCE HYMN: REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS

Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice.
 Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice.
 Rejoice rejoice and again I say rejoice
 Rejoice rejoice and again I say rejoice *(Twice)*

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
 Indeed, the Lord is near.

CONFITEOR

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.
 have mercy on us.
 For you alone are the Holy One,
 you alone are the Lord,
 you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
 with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.
 Amen.

FIRST READING*Isaiah 35:1-6,10*

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let
 the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth
 flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy.
 The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the
 splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the
 glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands, steady all
 trembling knees and say to all faint hearts,
 'Courage! Do not be afraid. Look, your God is
 coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of
 God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the
 blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed,
 then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues
 of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has
 ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion
 shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy
 and gladness will go with them and sorrow and
 lament be ended.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM*Psalms 145:6-10*

Response: Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
 who is just to those who are oppressed.
 It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
 the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

R./

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
 who raises up those who are bowed down,
 the Lord, who protects the stranger
 and upholds the widow and orphan. **R./**

It is the Lord who loves the just
 but thwarts the path of the wicked.
 The Lord will reign for ever,
 Zion's God, from age to age. **R./**

SECOND READING*St James 5:7-10*

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming.
 Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the
 precious fruit of the ground until it has had the
 autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to
 be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's
 coming will be soon. Do not make complaints
 against one another, brothers, so as not to be
 brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is
 already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your
 example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take
 the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
 he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
 Alleluia!

GOSPEL*Matthew 11:2-11.*

John in his prison had heard what Christ was
 doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you
 the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for
 someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell
 John what you hear and see; the blind see again,
 and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the
 deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the
 Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is
 the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began
 to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go
 out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in
 the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see?
 A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear
 fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what
 did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you,
 and much more than a prophet: he is the one of
 whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my
 messenger before you; he will prepare your way
 before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children
 born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has
 never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of
 heaven is greater than he is.

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

(At the words that follow, up to and including and became man, all bow.)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin
Mary, and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and
glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come.
Amen

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess you
Resurrection until you come again.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

COMMUNION HYMN: O COME DIVINE MESSIAH

O come, divine Messiah!
The world in silence waits the day
When hope shall sing its triumph
And sadness flee away.

Refrain:

Dear Savior, haste! Come, come to earth
And show your face; Dispel the night
and bid us hail the dawn of grace.
O come, divine Messiah!
The world in silence waits the day
When hope shall sing its triumph
And sadness flee away

O come, desired of nations,
Whom priest and prophet long foretold,
Come break the captive fetters,
Redeem the long lost fold.

Ref:

O come in peace and meekness,
And lowly will your cradle be;
All clothed in human weakness
Shall we your Godhead see.

Ref:

RECESSIONAL HYMN: IMMACULATE MARY

Immaculate Mary we praise God in you:
His power and His mercy,
His grace given to you,
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria!
Ave, Ave, Ave, Maria!

Predestined for Christ by eternal decree,
God willed you both virgin and mother to be.
Ave, Ave, Ave, Maria!
Ave, Ave, Ave, Maria!



HISTORICAL CONTEXT – LEAST AND GREATEST

Jesus declares that the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater even than John whom he has just finishing praising as greatest of all men. It is an indication that in the kingdom, things are not as they are on earth. The blind, lame, deaf, poor and lepers that Jesus named earlier would have been seen as the very lowest of society. Their afflictions were seen as punishments from God and so it was assumed that they, or their parents, had done something to deserve this punishment. Jesus rejects this interpretation and shows these people to be the most open to responding to his message.

10/11 December	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5pm
Reader	Pamela Smith	Pietro Sciotto	Margaret Andrews	Annaliza
Communion	Domenica Ashworth	Christopher Ratnayake	Brian McIntosh	Sally Tramontana
17/18 December	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5pm
Reader	Domenica Ashworth	Michelle LeMaster	TBA	Peter Penson
Communion	Lorraine Mascarenhas	Marni Mant	Elizabeth Williamson	Michelle Penson

COLLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK ENDED 4TH DECEMBER 2022

ST JOHN'S PRESBYTERY CHEQUE- BSB 083-347 A/c 659225267			ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH - BSB 083-347 A/c 658806318		
Envelopes	Loose Collection	Bank Direct	Envelopes	Loose Collection	Bank Direct
130.05	922.60	182.50	644.85	57.95	2012.50

First Collection is for the support of our parish priest, the Archbishop, the sick and retired priests and priests in less fortunate areas around our Archdiocese of Melbourne (it is taken up after the prayers of the faithful).

Second Collection is for the support of our parish, its welfare and maintenance (it is taken up after Communion).

MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSION APPEAL: This weekend 10th/11th of December at all Masses in support of the mission fund of the Melbourne archdiocese.

STEWARDSHIP (THANKSGIVING) ENVELOPES: The January to April instalment of Stewardship Envelopes is ready to be picked up from the porch of the church. Envelopes are in alphabetical order. Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

COLUMBAN CALENDARS: If you ordered a Columban Calendar and haven't collected it as yet, please see Elizabeth in the church foyer after mass. A few copies of the calendar are still available for sale \$10.

GEMS: The last gathering for the year is this MONDAY, December 12th at the Melbourne Arts Centre for Christmas Melodies followed by lunch at the Old England Hotel. We will reconvene on Tuesday January 24th.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION) BEFORE CHRISTMAS: the Second Rite of Reconciliation will be celebrated at our parish on Friday 16th December at 7:00pm. We gather to pray and prepare ourselves as a community and then have time for individual reconciliation.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES: are available in the church foyer. Money contributed to the Christmas Offering supports our parish priest, sick and retired priests, priests in poorer parishes and the ministry of the archbishop. Thank you for your generosity. These envelopes can be placed in the weekly collection baskets.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME

2ND RITE OF RECONCILIATION:

Friday 16th December 7:00pm

CHRISTMAS EVE: Saturday, 24th December,
6:00pm Mass, Carols 8:30pm, 9:00pm Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY: Sunday 25th December
Masses at 8:30am & 10:30am

No evening Mass on Christmas Day

NEW YEAR'S EVE: Saturday 31st December
6:00pm Mass

NEW YEAR'S DAY: Sunday 1st January
8:30am, 10:30am & 5pm



FINAL CHARISMATIC MASS FOR 2022: and Christmas break-up at St Thomas the Apostle Church, 251 Diamond Ck Road, Nth Greensborough. Thursday, 15th December commencing with praise & worship at 7.30pm followed by Mass at 8pm. Enquiries Rose 0411650339 Emilia 0418 120 902.

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND: The Parish of Ivanhoe has a couple of vacancies for its Parish Pilgrimage to the Holy Land 11th – 28th April 2023. If you are interested please visit the Parish's Website www.melbcatholic.org/ivanhoe and click on the News Page or phone Fr. Bill Edebohs 0427 879 733.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

RECENTLY MARRIED: Emily Andrews & Juan Rincon.

RECENTLY BAPTISED: Jack Carne, Charlotte Duncan, Michael Vocale.

THE SICK: David Morck, Alan Briges, Mary Stella, Margaret Thomas, Joan O'Donoghue, Alice Hyland, Aileen Powell, Helen Griffiths, Noah Thorley, Judy Catlow.

ANNIVERSARY: Keith Ashworth, Teresa Dickson, George O'Callaghan, Ronald Berry, Elvie & George Elliott.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Marilyn Abrahams.

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