



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.

*17TH/18TH DECEMBER 2022, FOURTH 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 celebration of Christmas-the Birthday of Jesus Christ our Saviour is coming very close, one more week to go. On this the Fourth Sunday of Advent, our readings of Mass focus on the circumstances leading up to the first coming of Jesus, the event which sets the pattern for his coming to us now and at the end of time. The Gospel stresses the key role of Mary in the work of our salvation. In addition, today's Scripture texts describe God's promise to David and its fulfillment in Jesus, the Son of David. They also tell us that God's preparation for the coming of Jesus was full of surprises.

In today's Gospel, the message of the angel of the Lord given to Joseph in his dream tells us much about the child that Mary bears and his role in God's plan. He is conceived by the Holy Spirit. His name will be Jesus, which in the Hebrew means "Yahweh saves." He will be the fulfillment of the prophecy heard in today's first reading from Isaiah: ". . . The virgin shall be with child . . . and shall name him Emmanuel which means "God-is-with-us."

Joseph does as the angel of the Lord directs. He takes Mary to be his wife and accepts the child in her womb as his own. Joseph and Mary are both cooperative with God's plan. They are both models for us of what it means to be faithful servants of God.

Like Joseph and Mary, let us try to learn God's plan for our lives. The Good News in today's Scripture message is not only that God is making provision for the salvation of His people, but also that He has a plan for each individual person. Just as God called Mary, He calls every mother to raise her child in the awareness of God's nurturing presence, His unconditional love and His guiding commandments. In many cases, our work for God seems rather ordinary, but each ordinary task which we carry out fits into God's plan in ways that we cannot yet understand. God desires not the skill of our hands and talents alone, but the love of our hearts. The Babe in the Manger reminds us of what God has done and is still doing for us. What are we doing in return? Let us show our gratitude to God by living as true followers of Christ: "Behold, here I am Lord, your humble and grateful servant. Let it be done to me according to Your word." St. Francis said, "We are the mother of Christ when we carry him in our heart... and we give birth to him through our holy works which ought to shine on others by our example."

God bless,

Fr Vinh-Parish Priest

**ENTRANCE HYMN: HOLY VIRGIN, BY GOD'S DECREE**

Holy Virgin, By God's Decree,  
 You Were Called Eternally;  
 That He Could Give His Son To Our Race.  
 Mary, We Praise You, Hail, Full Of Grace.  
 Ave, Ave, Ave, Maria.

By Your Faith And Loving Accord,  
 As The Handmaid Of The Lord,  
 You Undertook God's Plan To Embrace.  
 Mary We Thank You, Hail, Full Of Grace.  
 Ave, Ave, Ave, Maria.

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,  
 and let the clouds rain down the Just One;  
 let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

**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 7:10-14*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.' Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us."

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM***Psalm 23:1-6*

**Response:** Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,  
 the world and all its peoples.  
 It is he who set it on the seas;  
 on the waters he made it firm.

**R./**

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?  
 Who shall stand in his holy place?  
 The man with clean hands and pure heart,  
 who desires not worthless things.

**R./**

He shall receive blessings from the Lord  
 and reward from the God who saves him.  
 Such are the men who seek him,  
 seek the face of the God of Jacob.

**R./****SECOND READING***Romans 1:1-7*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us..

Alleluia!

**GOSPEL***Matthew 1:18-24*

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

## 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

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;  
and his name will be called Emmanuel.

## COMMUNION HYMN: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.

## Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.  
Make us your living voice. **Ref.**

Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed moving in this place. **Ref.**

## RECESSIONAL HYMN: HAIL MARY, GENTLE WOMAN

Hail Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with you.  
Blessed are you among women  
and blest is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners now  
and at the hour of death.  
Amen.

## Refrain

Gentle woman, quiet light,  
morning star, so strong and bright,  
gentle Mother, peaceful dove,  
teach us wisdom; teach us love.

You were chosen by the Father;  
you were chosen for the Son.  
You were chosen from all women  
and for woman, shining one. **Ref.**

Blessed are you among women,  
blest in turn all women, too.  
Blessed they with peaceful spirits.  
Blessed they with gentle hearts. **Ref.**

## GOSPEL FOCUS – WHAT'S IN A NAME?

It appears from the passage that Mary's child is to be called both Jesus and Emmanuel. Emmanuel is not intended as a different name for Jesus but rather one of the many titles that will be applied to him. The title means God-is-with-us. That one word, Emmanuel, sums up the essence of Jewish and Christian belief. The Jewish people's faith in God was built on the basis that God travelled with them and through their lives. Christians believe that God took on an even closer sense of being with us through God's incarnation in the life of Jesus.

17/18 December	Sat 6:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am	Sun 5pm
Reader	Domenica Ashworth	Michelle LeMaster	Margaret Andrews	Peter Penson
Communion	Lorraine Mascarenhas	Marni Mant	Elizabeth Williamson	Michelle Penson
24/25 December	Sat 6:00pm	Sat 9:00pm	Sun 8:30am	Sun 10:30am
Reader	Michelle LeMaster	Peter Penson	Margaret Andrews	Mary Kotefski

**COLLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK ENDED 11TH 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
109.55	777.65	295.00	428.00	380.95	680.00

**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).

**MORNING TEA:** will be available this weekend, Sunday December 18th, in the St Francis Xavier Room at the rear of the Parish House, following the 10.30a.m. Mass. Parishioners and visitors warmly welcome.

**A BIG THANK YOU:** to the companies that sponsor the EYRIE. With the sponsors help we are able to keep this magazine going. Please support them when you can. If you or someone you know would like to become a sponsor we would love to hear from you. Please contact Mary at the Parish Office or Michelle 0499891101.

**MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSION APPEAL:** The special collection in aid of the Melbourne Mission Fund raised \$734.90. Thank you for your generosity.

**STEWARDSHIP (THANKSGIVING) ENVELOPES:** The next instalment is available in the porch of the church.

**ST JOHN'S PARISH OFFICE CLOSED:** from Friday, 23rd December to Wednesday, 4th January 2023. Urgent requests, please email at [heidelberg@cam.org.au](mailto:heidelberg@cam.org.au) Thank You.

**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**




**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](http://www.melbcatholic.org/ivanhoe) and click on the News Page or phone Fr. Bill Edebohls 0427 879 733.

**FATHER VINH DO:** has been appointed Assistant Priest to the affiliated parishes of St Anne, St Bede & St Bridget North Balwyn. He is very excited to take up his appointment on December 20th. We wish him every blessing.

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

**RECENTLY BAPTISED:** Dominic Rizzo.

**THE SICK:** Vin Sier, Agnes Fernandez, David Morck, Alan Briges, Mary Stella, Margaret Thomas, Judy Catlow, Joan O'Donoghue, Aileen Powell, Helen Griffiths, Noah Thorley.

**ANNIVERSARY:** Adeline Sharkey, Mary Sullivan, Teresa Dickson.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Father Joseph Patrick Hynan PE.

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