



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.

1st JANUARY 2023, SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

*Wishing all Parishioners, Visitors and Friends a
Very Happy New Year 2023
Filled With God's Abundant Blessings!*

Dear Friends,

Since we celebrate the *Feast of Mary, the Mother of God*, on New Year's Day, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy and Peaceful New Year. I pray that the Lord Jesus and His Mother Mary may enrich your lives during the New Year with an abundance of God's blessings. Today's *Feast of Mary, the Mother of God* is a very appropriate way to begin a new year. This celebration reminds us that the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, is also our Heavenly Mother.

The solemnity shows the relationship of Jesus to Mary. It's a perfect example of how we should venerate Mary under all of her titles and is a good foundation for our understanding of Mary's place in Christology. The Church puts the feast of this solemnity on the first day of the New Year to emphasize the importance of Mary's role in the life of Christ and of the Church. We commemorate the various saints on different days of the year, but Mary is the most prominent of them all. She has a special role and mission given to her by God. As Mother of our Redeemer and of the redeemed, she reigns as Queen at the side of Christ the King. She is a powerful intercessor for all of our needs here on earth. In celebrating her special feast day, we acknowledge this great gift for the Church and world; we call on her to be actively involved in our daily life; we imitate her virtuous life as a great inspiration; and we cooperate with all the graces we get through her.

Mary, Mother of God. Pray for us.

Fr Vinh-Parish Priest

Thank you from Fr Vinh Nguyen:

1. To everyone who assisted with the Christmas celebrations. These included the musicians and singers, readers, commentators, altar servers, communion ministers (at Mass and to the sick), collectors, flower and sacristy helpers, church cleaners, counters and many of you who worked quietly behind the scenes for the celebrations including our celebration of the Feast of St John-our Parish Patron Saint on Tuesday, 27 December 2022.
2. On behalf of the Priests' Retirement Foundations, the Priests' Remuneration Fund, the Archbishop, and myself, I thank all who contributed, or will contribute, to the Christmas Offerings.
3. Thank you to the parishioners who were personally kind to me and staff sending cards and gifts. I really appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King,
who rules heaven and earth for ever.

FIRST READING

Nm 6:22-27

The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'Say this to Aaron and his sons: "This is how you are to bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them: May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace."

This is how they are to call down my name on the sons of Israel, and I will bless them.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 66:2-3. 5. 6. 8.

Response: May God bless us in his mercy.

God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help.

R./

Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples.
you guide the nations on earth.

R./

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him.

R./

SECOND READING

Gal 4:4-7

When the appointed time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born a subject of the Law, to redeem the subjects of the Law and to enable us to be adopted as sons. The proof that you are sons is that God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts: the Spirit that cries, 'Abba, Father', and it is this that makes you a son, you are not a slave any more; and if God has made you son, then he has made you heir.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our ancestors
through the prophets;
now he speaks to us through his Son.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 2:16-21

The shepherds hurried away to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told. When the eighth day came and the child was to be circumcised, they gave him the name Jesus, the name the angel had given him before his conception.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and for ever.



HAVE YOU THOUGHT? WHAT A WOMAN!

Luke's image of Mary is a very strong one. We must remember that Mary was no more than a girl – probably 14 or 15 years old. This was the usual age for young women to marry at that time. However, there wasn't much that was normal about the previous nine months of her life. In the midst of all the chaos involved in giving birth away from home and in less than ideal circumstances, she remains completely calm and 'treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart'. What an extraordinary young woman!

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

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

ANNIVERSARY: Franco Piermarini, Mary White, Sheila Kemp.

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