



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

**ASSISTANT PRIEST:** Fr John Pereira

**PARISH SECRETARY:** Mary Peeris

**PASTORAL ASSOCIATE:**

Elizabeth Williamson (0447195553)

**SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE CHAIR:**

Michelle Penson (0499 891 101)

**ST JOHN'S PARISH OFFICE:**

52 Yarra Street Heidelberg 3084

t: 94571066 & 70643906

e: heidelberg@cam.org.au

w: pol.org.au/heidelberg

Facebook.com/stjohnheidelberg

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:**

Tuesday to Friday

9:30am to 2:30pm

**MASS TIMES:**

**Weekdays:** Tuesday to Saturday:

9:15am

**Weekend:** Saturday Vigil 6pm

Sunday 8:30am, 10:30am & 5pm

**ADORATION:** After Friday morning Mass with Benediction.

**EXPOSITION**

Wednesday 7.30pm

**RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION):**

Friday 9.45am (during Adoration)

Sat 9:45 am & 5:30pm.

**WEDDING, BAPTISM, FIRST**

**RECONCILIATION,**

**FIRST COMMUNION, CONFIRMATION:**

Parish Secretary (9457 1066)

**ST JOHN'S HALL HIRE:**

Contact parish office.

**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**

Elizabeth Whiting (Acting

Principal)

*9TH/10TH DECEMBER, SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B*

### 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.*

### PREPARING THE WAY

We often think that we can bargain with God to get the best possible deal out of life. The problem with this bargaining image is that it cannot be reconciled with a Christian faith which believes in Advent. The bargaining image of God is the furthest thing from the mind of the writers of today's readings – Isaiah, Psalm (84) 85, St Peter and St Mark.

These scriptures remind us that God has not held back one thing in his love for us. By becoming one with us in our flesh, God has done everything he can to assure us of his saving love. He has shown us all what can be shown about how to live lives of sacrifice, justice and love and how to transform our world for better.

The image of us 'doing a deal' with God is so prevalent in our theology and prayer that we can find ourselves lapsing into it all the time. 'If you make me well, God, I will lead a better life.' 'I will return to Sunday Mass if I pass my exams.' 'I will raise my children Catholic if I have a fine day for my wedding.' This is all dreadful stuff. And the Church has to take some responsibility for this and correct it.

The scriptures tell us from the beginning of time to the preaching of John the Baptist, to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and to the continuing work of the Holy Spirit among us today, that we have a God who risked everything so that we might know love and life in this world and in the next. We hold and proclaim, in season and out of season, a God who emptied himself of power and might and came to us as a baby.

That's not the profile of a deal-doer. It's the portrait of a lover.

So this Advent let's not ransom ourselves to a benevolent dictator. Let's ask for anything we need with confidence that God has heard our words and so sent love itself in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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**CHILD SAFETY:** St John's Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all our children, young people and vulnerable adults. Children are to be supervised by a parent/guardian at all times in the church and when leaving the church for any reason.

**ENTRANCE: PREPARE YE, THE WAY OF THE LORD**

Prepare ye, the way of the Lord  
Prepare ye, the way of the Lord (Thrice)

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

O people of Sion, behold,  
the Lord will come to save the nations,  
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard  
in the joy of your heart.

**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 40:1-5. 9-11*

‘Console my people, console them’ says your God. ‘Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.’ A voice cries, ‘Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’ Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, ‘Here is your God.’ Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The word of the Lord.

*All reply: Thanks be to God.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

*Psalms 84:9-14.*

**Response:** Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,  
a voice that speaks of peace,  
peace for his people.

His help is near for those who fear him  
and his glory will dwell in our land.

R./

Mercy and faithfulness have met;  
justice and peace have embraced.  
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth  
and justice look down from heaven.

R./

The Lord will make us prosper  
and our earth shall yield its fruit.

Justice shall march before him  
and peace shall follow his steps

R./

**SECOND READING**

*2 Peter 3:8-14*

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, ‘a day’ can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up. Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

The word of the Lord.

*All reply: Thanks be to God.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:  
all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

*Mark 1:1-8*

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the

Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

*All reply: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

#### 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

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we  
proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

#### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,  
and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

#### COMMUNION: COME O LONG EXPECTED JESUS

Come, O long expected Jesus  
Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us,  
Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,  
Born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all sufficient merit,  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.  
By Thine all sufficient merit,  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

#### RECESSIONAL: PRAISE THE LORD, YOU HEAVENS

Praise the Lord, you heav'ns adore him;  
Praise him angels, in the height;  
Sun and moon, rejoice before him;  
Praise him, all you stars and light.  
Praise the Lord for he has spoken;  
Worlds his mighty voice obeyed;  
Laws which never shall be broken  
For their guidance he has made.

Praise the Lord! for he is glorious;  
Never shall his promise fail;  
God has made his saints victorious;  
Sin and death shall not prevail.  
Praise the God of our salvation!  
Hosts on high his pow'r proclaim;  
Heav'n, and earth, and all creation,  
Praise and glorify his name.



9/10 DEC	SAT 6:00PM	SUN 8:30AM	SUN 10:30AM	SUN 5PM
Reader	Margherita Bechelli	Marguerite Ryan	Margaret Andrews	Leela Cherubim
Communion	Marnie Mant	Bobbie Barktus	Brian McIntosh	Elizabeth Williamson
16/17 DEC	SAT 6:00PM	SUN 8:30AM	SUN 10:30AM	SUN 5PM
Reader	Peter Penson	John McGrath	Peter Greenham	Annaliza
Communion	Michelle Penson	Pietro Sciotto	Mary Furlan	TBA

**MORNING TEA**, 17th December: Barbara

**COLLECTIONS FOR WEEK ENDED 3RD DECEMBER 2023**

**First Collection** is for the support of our Parish Priest, the Archbishop, the sick & retired priests, priests in less fortunate areas around Archdiocese of Melbourne

*(It is taken up after Homily)*

ST JOHN'S PRESBYTERY CHEQUE- BSB 083-347 A/c 659225267

**Second Collection** is for the support of our Church, its operating expenses, staff wages, church & ground maintenance etc.

*(It is taken up after Prayers of Faithful)*

ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH - BSB 083-347 A/c 658806318

Envelopes	Loose Collection	Bank Direct	Envelopes	Loose Collection	Bank Direct
\$1,246.50	\$1,183.50	N/A	\$3,093.80	\$633.50	N/A

**MORNING TEA:** Next Sunday 17th December following the 10.30am Mass will be available in the Parish Hall. All are welcome.

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

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION) BEFORE CHRISTMAS:** the Second Rite of Reconciliation will be celebrated at our parish on Tuesday 19th December at 7:00pm. We gather to pray and prepare ourselves as a community and then have time for individual reconciliation.

**THE EYRIE :** Copies of the parish magazine, *The Eyrie*, are available in the church porch including articles on the GEMS and an overview of the Parish Census.

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE:** St John's parish office will be closed from Wednesday 20th December to Thursday 4th January 2024. For any urgent requests, please email: heidelberg@cam.org.au or leave a message on the parish answering machine (9457 1066—press 3 to leave a message). Thank You.

**PRAYER CARDS:** FOR peace in the Middle East are available in the church foyer.

**CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME**

**Second Rite of Reconciliation:**  
7.00p.m Tuesday 19th December

**4th Sunday of Advent**  
Saturday 23rd December: Vigil Mass  
6pm

Sunday 24th December :  
Masses 8.30am, 10.30am

**Christmas Eve**  
Masses at 6:00pm, 9.00pm  
Carols 8:30pm

**Christmas Day: Monday 25th December -**  
Masses at: 8:30am, 10:30am

**New Year's Day - Solemnity of Mary,**  
**The Holy Mother of God Mass 10.00a.m.**



**ARCHBISHOP'S ADVENT APPEAL FOR UKRAINE:** In response to the continued conflict in Ukraine, Archbishop Comensoli has launched a special Advent appeal, the proceeds of which will go towards providing aid and practical assistance to those who have been displaced and are without basic supplies, especially as winter approaches. You will find cards and envelopes for this appeal on the bench at the back of the church.

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

**THE SICK:** Kevin Andrews, Agnes Fernandez, Margaret Sinclair, Joan O'Donoghue, Samantha Byran, Frank Dempsey, David Morck, Caterina Chincarini, Domenica Ashworth, Sean O'Leary, Val Wallis.

**ANNIVERSARY:** Rita Foote, George O'Callaghan, Ron Berry, Mary Sullivan, Joy and Fred Meacham

**RECENTLY DECEASED:**

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