



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

**ST JOHN'S PARISH OFFICE:**

52 Yarra Street Heidelberg 3084  
Phone: 94571066 & 70643906  
Email: heidelberg@cam.org.au  
Website: pol.org.au/heidelberg  
Facebook.com/stjohnheidelberg

**PARISH SECRETARY:** Mary Peeris

**PASTORAL ASSOCIATE:**

Elizabeth Williamson (0447195553)

**SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE CHAIR:**

Michelle Penson (0499 891 101)

**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—10.15am (during  
Adoration)

Sat 9:45 am & 5:30pm.—5.50p.m.

**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**

Ms Alison Dean Principal  
55 Cape St Heidelberg 3084  
t: 9459 2963;  
office@sjheidelberg.catholic.edu.au

*16TH / 17TH MARCH, 5TH SUNDAY IN LENT, 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.*

**FRANCIS' FOCUS**

'Today's Gospel invites us to turn our gaze to the crucifix,' Pope Francis once said, adding that it 'is not an ornamental object or clothing accessory.' Rather, it is something more: 'a religious symbol to contemplate and understand.'

This is a theme to which the Pope has repeatedly turned. On another occasion he reminded his listeners that the image of the crucified Jesus is something newcomers first encounter: 'In churches, in the homes of Christians, even worn on their persons,' a cross is meant to symbolise the faith of those who display it.

That being the case, it is beholden on us as individuals and communities to show what being a follower of Jesus really means. Jesus responded to Philip and Andrew by speaking of the grain that dies to yield a good harvest and of the follower who serves. As Jesus' words suggest, real understanding comes from the witness of service and self-sacrifice.

Whenever people encounter a crucifix or cross, therefore, they should also see signs of servant discipleship. Whether in our churches, homes or daily lives, we are all called to be authentic bearers of the cross. We should strive to offer the world what the Pope characterises as 'the witness of a life that is given in service, a life that takes upon itself the style of God – closeness, compassion and tenderness.'

'The important thing is that the sign be consistent with the Gospel,' says Pope Francis. Whenever or wherever people display a cross, they should also themselves be living signs of 'love, service, unreserved self-giving.'

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**175<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

We are looking for some volunteers who would like to help plan our 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations for 2026. We need to start working and planning now to have a big successful year in 2026. We hope to put a commemorative book together, have social functions and celebrations throughout 2026 and in the lead up to 2026. It would require a few meetings throughout the year to plan and put the book together and others to organise and assist with social functions and celebrations. We need you and your talents! Please ring Michelle on 0499891101 or email the parish office [heidelberg@cam.org.au](mailto:heidelberg@cam.org.au) for further information.

**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: I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE**

I am the bread of life.  
You who comes to me shall not hunger;  
You who believes in me shall not thirst.  
No one can come to me  
unless the Father beckons.

**Refrain**

And I will raise you up,  
And I will raise you up  
And I will raise you up on the last day.

The bread that I will give  
is my flesh for the life of the world,  
and you who eat of this bread,  
You shall live for ever,  
you shall live for ever.

Ref.

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

Give me justice, O God,  
and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.  
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,  
for you, O God, are my strength.

**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.

**FIRST READING**

*Jeremiah 31:31-34*

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, ‘Learn to know the Lord!’ No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks

– since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

The word of the Lord.

*All reply: Thanks be to God.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

*Psalm 50:3-4. 12-15.*

**Response: Create a clean heart in me, O God.**

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.  
In your compassion blot out my offence.  
O wash me more and more from my guilt.  
and cleanse me from my sin.

R./

A pure heart create for me, O God,  
put a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

R./

Give me again the joy of your help;  
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,  
that I may teach transgressors your ways  
and sinners may return to you.

R./

**SECOND READING**

*Hebrews 5:7-9*

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

The word of the Lord.

*All reply: Thanks be to God.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!  
If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord;  
and where I am, my servant will also be.  
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

**GOSPEL**

*John 12:20-33*

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, ‘Sir, we should like to see Jesus.’ Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus.

Jesus replied to them: ‘Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there

too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him.  
Now my soul is troubled.

What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour?  
But it was for this very reason that I have come to  
this hour. Father, glorify your name!

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I  
will glorify it again.'

People standing by, who heard this, said it was a  
clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel  
speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my  
sake that this voice came, but for yours. 'Now  
sentence is being passed on this world; now the  
prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I  
am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to  
myself.'

By these words he indicated the kind of death he  
would die.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

#### APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

*At the words that follow, up to and including the  
Virgin Mary, all bow.*

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father  
almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the  
living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting.  
Amen.

#### MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

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

#### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Amen, Amen I say to you: Unless a grain of wheat  
falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single grain.  
But if it dies, it bears much fruit.

#### COMMUNION: WILL YOU LOVE ME

Will you give me your life forever?  
Will you carry my cross every day?  
Will you walk in the light of my presence?  
Will you follow the truth of my ways?

#### Refrain

Will you love me as I have loved you?  
Will you live with me the darkness as I die?  
For the moon and the stars will be gone like the night,  
And the sun will be shining on you.

Like the purest of gold in the furnace,  
Is your love strong enough to endure?  
Does your faith carry on through the shadows?  
Does it shine in the night for the world? **Ref.**

Can you walk in the footprints of silence?  
Through the wilderness sands in the sun,  
From the desert of doubt and temptation.  
To the glorious mountain of fire? **Ref.**

#### RECESSIONAL : PRAISE THE LORD, MY SOUL

Praise the lord, my soul,  
Let fire and rain give praise to Him,  
Give praise to Him who is merciful, slow to judge;  
Bless the lord, O my soul!

Bless the Lord, my soul,  
Let all I am give praise to Him,  
And not forget he is kind, He forgives our sins;  
Bless the Lord, O my soul!

#### A Prayer to Saint Joseph

*Glorious Saint Joseph, whose power  
makes the impossible possible, come to  
my aid in these times of anguish and  
difficulty.*

*Take under your protection the serious  
and troubling situations that I commend to you, that they  
may have a happy outcome.*

*My beloved father, all my trust is in you. Let it not be said  
that I invoked you in vain and since you can do everything  
with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as  
great as your power. Amen.*



16 / 17 MARCH	SAT 6:00PM	SUN 8:30AM	SUN 10:30AM	SUN 5PM
Reader	Margherita Bechelli	Michelle LeMaster	Peter Greenham	Annaliza
Communion	Lorraine Mascarenhas	Chris Ratnayake	Margaret Bradley	Sally Tramontana
			Mary Furlan	
23 / 24 MARCH	SAT 6:00PM	SUN 8:30AM	SUN 10:30AM	SUN 5PM
Reader 1	Vernon Curtis	Marguerite Ryan	Christine Soosairaj	Mark Kotefski
Reader 2	Peter Penson	Marnie Keenan	Laurette Kairouz	Leela Cherubim
Reader 3	Pamela Smith	Pietro Sciotto	Peter Greenham	Annaliza
Communion	Michelle Penson	Bobbie Bartkus	Olivia Musitano	Sally Tramontana
			Mary Furlan	

MORNING TEA 17TH MARCH: Kate & Marnie

### COLLECTIONS FOR WEEK ENDED 10TH MARCH 2024

**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
\$343.55	\$1,029.05	\$822.50	\$729.00	\$571.20	\$1,292.50

**MORNING TEA:** This Sunday 17th March following the 10.30am Mass will be available in the Parish Hall. All are welcome to celebrate St Patrick's day.

**MERCY MELBOURNE TUESDAY MARCH 19<sup>TH</sup>:** Mercy Melbourne is an initiative that invites parishes in the Archdiocese of Melbourne to open their doors in welcome for a special evening of prayer and Confessions. It is an opportunity for all Catholics to experience the grace of the Sacrament of Reconciliation as we prepare for the passion, death and resurrection of Our Lord.

Our programme here at St John's on 19th March is as follows:

6.00pm – 7.00pm. : Adoration & Confession

7.00pm : Mass & Holy Anointing of the sick

8.00pm - 9.00pm : Adoration & Confession

**(Note: No 9.15am Mass on 19th March)**

**CHRISM MASS: (MASS OF THE HOLY OILS):** There will be **No 9.15am Mass on Wednesday, 20th March** as priests will attend the Chrism Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral at 10.30am. Parishioners are warmly invited to attend this Chrism Mass.



### HOLY WEEK AND EASTER CELEBRATIONS

#### LENTEN RECONCILIATION:

Tuesday 19 March 6pm to 9pm

**PALM SUNDAY:** Saturday Vigil 23rd March at 6:00pm, Sunday 24 March Masses at 8:30am, 10:30am, 5:00pm

**HOLY THURSDAY:** 28th March at 7.30pm

Mass of the Lord's Supper

**GOOD FRIDAY:** 29 March Stations of the Cross 10:30am Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at 3.00pm

**HOLY SATURDAY:** 30th March, Easter Vigil 7.30pm.

**EASTER SUNDAY** 31st March, Masses at 8:30am & 10:30am

*(Please note- No Evening Mass on Easter Sunday)*

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** Each Friday during Lent, at 7.00pm in the church.

#### ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOL - PREP 2025 SCHOOL TOURS:

Monday, 25 March at 9.15am

Wednesday, 27 March at 5:00pm

*Please call 9459 2963 to make a booking.*

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

**THE SICK:** Jacques Coomans, Frank Viola, Bill Barnes, Kevin Andrews, Margaret Sinclair, Joan O'Donoghue, Samantha Byran, Frank Dempsey, Davis Morck, Caterina Chincarni, Domenica Ashworth, Sean O'Leary, Val Wallis.

**ANNIVERSARY:** Melina Pignataro, Maxwell Ingram.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Joe Tucci.

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