

ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PARISH  
& PRIMARY SCHOOL

# ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PARISH

52 Yarra Street

HEIDELBERG

## 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.*

### PARISH OFFICE:

52 Yarra Street Heidelberg 3084

t: 9457 1066

e: heidelberg@cam.org.au

w: cam.org.au/heidelberg

facebook/stjohnheidelberg

**PARISH PRIEST:** Fr Mario Zammit

### SACRAMENT COORDINATOR:

Sr Loreto Lynch RSM

**PARISH SECRETARY:** Mary Peeris

### CHILD SAFETY OFFICER:

Michelle Robertson t:0409 533 100

**OFFICE:** 9:30am-2:30pm, Mo, Tu, Th, Fr

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:** Maureen Hegarty

### PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOL:

55 Cape St Heidelberg 3084

t: 9459 2963;

e: office@sjheidelberg.catholic.edu.au

**PRINCIPAL:** Maureen Stella

**HALL HIRE:** Fran mob: 0417972317

10:00am-5:00pm (Mon-Fri only)

### WEEKEND MASS TIMES:

Saturday: 6:00pm

Sunday: 8:30am, 10:30am, 5:00pm

### AUSTIN HOSPITAL MASS:

3rd Sunday of the Month at 9:30am.

**WEEKDAY MASS:** 9:15am

**ROSARY:** Monday to Saturday after Mass.

**LECTIO DIVINA:** Every second and fourth Monday of the month at 7:30pm, in the parish house.

**LEGION OF MARY:** Tuesday night at 7:30pm in the parish house. Info: Sue 9459 8604

### EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:

Wednesday: 7:30pm - 9:00pm;

Thursday: 9:40am - 11:00am,

Friday: 8:00am - 9:00am

### RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION):

Saturday at 9:45am & 5:30pm  
or by appointment

**BAPTISMS:** On Sundays at 11:45am, by appointment.

### BAPTISM INFORMATION EVENING:

Last Thursday of each month at 7:30pm in the parish house, except Dec and Jan.

**WEDDINGS:** By appointment (9457 1066).

**PARISH PILGRIM STATUE OF MARY:** In order to have the statue of Mary in your home for one week please contact Marj McBroom on 0414 289 304.

*26th /27th August 2017 - 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Yr A*

## *Creating a Child Safe environment*

Dear parishioners, visitors and friends,

Over the past few months as parish we have been working to create an environment that is safe for our children and vulnerable adults. The Victorian government has issued a set of seven standards that are meant to guide us in this process.

1. The creation of strategies to embed an organisational culture of child safety, including through effective leadership arrangements.
2. The formulation of a child safe policy or statement of commitment to child safety.
3. The formulation of a code of conduct that establishes clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children.
4. The screening, supervision, training and other human resources practices that reduce the risk of child abuse by new and existing personnel.
5. Setting up of processes for responding to and reporting suspected child abuse.
6. Formulating strategies to identify and reduce or remove risks of child abuse.
7. Creating strategies to promote the participation and empowerment of children.

At the parish meeting on 17th of August, the parish policy and code of conduct (standards 2 and 3) were officially launched. Copies of the policy are in the church porch. In the coming weeks all parish volunteers will be asked to sign a copy of the parish code of conduct. The members of our Child Safety Committee have also undergone training and will soon be holding a number of seminars to help us all—volunteers and parishioners—better understand how to create this child safe environment.

Fr Mario

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

**RECENTLY MARRIED:** Jade Johnson with Daniel Borin.

**THE SICK:** Aileen Powell, Marie Hankin, Rees Mc Carthy, Ruth Mc Guire, Franca Valmorbida.

**ANNIVERSARY:** Francis Wood, Armando & Imperia Rocchi, Veronica Joyce, Carmel Whiting, Edwin Whiting, Herman Langan, Barray Plant, William Lewis.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Marlene Mercieca, John Kerrison, James Jokim Pathmanathan.

*Names on the sick list remain for six weeks, unless otherwise advised.*

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

<b>26 Aug/27 Aug</b>	<b>Sat 6:00pm</b>	<b>Sun 8:30am</b>	<b>Sun 10:30am</b>	<b>Sun 5:00pm</b>
1st Reader	Zen Zebrowski	Leela Cherubim	Anita Metcalf	Kamilla Zwolak
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader	Adrian Daly	Ronnie Maloney	Harsha Dilip	Bernie Zwolak
Communion	Margaret Urquhart	Fiona Curry	Beena Dilip	Leo Cosio
	Lorraine Mascarenhas	Val Wallis	Leo Hernandez	Charito Cosio
	Noel Micallef	Elizabeth Williamson	Yannick Jonas	Catie Nesbitt
	Maria Basilone	Pauline Griffiths	Doris Schembri	Philip Johnson
<b>2 Sept/3 Sept</b>	<b>Sat 6:00pm</b>	<b>Sun 8:30am</b>	<b>Sun 10:30am</b>	<b>Sun 5:00pm</b>
1st Reader	Adrian Daly	Mary Harty	Michelle Robertson	Candida Rowlands
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader	Moira Di Cesare	Claire Newsome	Robyn Laurie	Mathew Sanders
Communion	Marco Di Cesare	Christopher Ratnayake	Tim Boyle	Leo Cosio
	Domenica Ashworth	Margaret Bradley	Doris Schembri	Charito Cosio
	Maria Basilone	Fiona Curry	Leonore Giliberto	Tony Rowlands
	Emma Chang	Stanly Devasia	Leo Hernandez	Margaret Hansen
Counters	<b>27 Aug:</b> Mark Mc Carthy, Peter Symes, Paul De Stefanis & <b>3 Sept:</b> Graeme Foote, Michael Tilley, James Watson.			
<b>Collection Weekly Average for July</b>				<b>Heidelcare Co-Ordinator</b>
Parish		Presbytery		September 2017: Cath 9459 9420
Stewardship	\$2998.13	Stewardship	\$543.63	October 2017: Marilyn 9459 1950
Loose	\$707.48	Loose	\$340.00	Morning Tea: 3rd Sept: Kate & Marguerite
<b>Thank you</b> for supporting St John’s financially. Please advise if your credit card is lost/stolen or the expiry date has changed.				

**GOLD COIN COLLECTION:** this weekend at all Masses.

**MORNING TEA:** available in the parish hall after 10:30am Mass next Sunday 3rd September. Please join us!

**FATHER'S DAY:** Next weekend we remember and pray for fathers in our community. We also remember those who would have loved to father children. Before all Masses we will have the opportunity to light a candle in memory of absent fathers.

**THE PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FOUNDATION APPEAL:** next weekend 2/3 September. Contributions of \$2.00 or more are tax deductible; receipts will only be forwarded for donations of \$5.00 or more. Please be generous in helping care for the retired priests in our archdiocese.

**2017 PARISH SEMINAR:** Thursdays 19 and 26 October and 2 November. Rev Dr Elio Capra, a Salesian priest, speaks about Amoris Laetitia—the Joy of Love, by Pope Francis. Topics: The structure and the content of Amoris Laetitia: The Joy of Love. Why has Amoris Laetitia: The Joy of Love caused so much controversy? What are the implications for the individual, the family, the parish and the church? 7:30pm to 9:00pm at the Francis Xavier meeting rooms (St John's parish house). Entrance through the meeting room doors at the back of the parish house. All Welcome. RSVP [heidelberg@cam.org.au](mailto:heidelberg@cam.org.au) / 94571066.

**CATHOLICS AND LUTHERANS:** are jointly commemorating the 5th centenary of the Reformation with an afternoon tea on Sunday 10th September at 2:00pm, hosted by the St Francis Xavier Catholic Parish in Box Hill. This will be an opportunity for Lutherans and Catholics to meet one another and have a conversation around two short presentations. And a formal liturgical event at St John's Lutheran Church Southbank on Saturday 28th October at 7:00pm.

**SERVE THE SERVERS GATHERING:** This weekend we thank our young servers who offer ministry as altar servers and readers in our liturgy. Please take time to thank our young ones. Thank you.

**LIFE DINNER SILENT AUCTION THANK YOU:** Margaret Hansen would like to thank the people who donated items. If anyone has goods for next year's dinner, it will be very much appreciated. Kindly leave them with Sr Loreto.

**KIMBERLEY CATHOLIC VOLUNTEER SERVICE:** Volunteer workers needed. Broome Diocese, WA, requires volunteers to assist with the work of the local Church in the Kimberley. Placements preferred for a period of 6 months. Currently seeking volunteers for the Balgo, Bidadanga and Warmun for the wet season. Accommodation and food provided. Contact: Anneliese Rohr 08 9192 1060 / [volunteers@broome-diocese.org](mailto:volunteers@broome-diocese.org) Web: [www.broomediocese.org](http://www.broomediocese.org)

**THANKSGIVING / STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES:** the next instalment (September—December) is available in the church porch. A tax receipt for the 2016/17 financial year has been included. Parishioners who contribute by credit card or direct debit and require a tax receipt, please contact the parish office (94571066 / [heidelberg@cam.org.au](mailto:heidelberg@cam.org.au)). Thank you.

**EUTHANASIA BILL IN THE VICTORIAN PARLIAMENT:** The draft bill will now come before Legislative Assembly (lower house) on 5th September with debate expected to begin two weeks later. This gives us another three weeks to write letters to our elected representatives. At the parish office we have some guidelines that can be used to help write these letters, please contact the office by phone or by email to be given a copy of these guidelines.

**THOMAS BERRY REFLECTIVE SEMINARY:** Sunday 10th September, 2:00 to 5:00pm at St Kevin's Catholic Church Gathering Space, 26 Herlihy Road, Lower Templestowe. Please see notice board for details.





22 August 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We Catholics in Australia love our nation.

Indeed, so much of what is cherished as good in our society is, in fact, the fruit of Christian culture.

So, we want our 'story' to continue to be heard in all the great debates about the foundations of our society. Our voice is not the only voice but it is an important one.

One such debate currently concerning us all is the issue of same-sex marriage.

We have always sought to contribute to our society as good citizens. We strive to act and speak out for the common good especially for the poorest and suffering among us.

We seek to cherish the dignity of the human person and support all in need: especially families, our indigenous brothers and sisters, migrants, refugees and all who need the compassion and mercy of Christ.

We pledge ourselves to continue to do everything we can to contribute to the common good of all Australians. As Catholics, we want to build up and strengthen our great diverse multicultural community here in Australia.

Our point in relation to the current debate about same-sex marriage is simple. We make it in good faith according to the demands of our consciences.

The Catholic Church, along with other faith traditions, teaches that marriage is a natural institution established by God to be a permanent union between one man and one woman, intended towards the formation of a family in which children are born and nurtured.

Any legislation that changes this definition of marriage recognised by all the major cultures of the world demands careful consideration by all Australians.

It is vital that we Catholics vote, so that our viewpoint can be heard on this vital public issue.

Its outcome will affect our society and families profoundly in the future.

We understand that ours is not the only viewpoint in our diverse society. Many do not agree with it. Many people see this as an issue about ensuring equality for every and all relationships.

Yes, human rights are important. But so are human responsibilities. We are responsible for the impact of our decisions on future generations.

Therefore, we ask all to consider the profound implications of possible legislation that will embed this desire for equality of relationships in our laws.

This debate on same-sex marriage raises profound questions about who we are. Fundamental issues are at stake.

Why do humans exist as male and female? Is that distinction simply marginal? Is it simply a social construct?

Do our children also have rights? We are all children of a male and a female. Should not this be a central consideration in our decisions about the way children should be ideally nurtured and educated in our society.

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We understand that these are complex issues. But certainly, no legislation should be enacted without a deep public conversation in which we all engage about such issues that goes beyond slogans and soundbites.

In a pluralist community, we maintain that respect for *difference* should be as important as a demand for *equality*. Things can be equal in all respects without having to be uniformly the same.

We sincerely believe that there is a core and fundamental wisdom and truth in the traditional definition and understanding of marriage that should not be ignored and is worth keeping for the health and future of our society.

As Pope Francis has pointed out: 'The family is threatened by growing efforts on the part of some to redefine the very institution of marriage, by relativism, by the culture of the ephemeral, by a lack of openness to life.'<sup>1</sup>

Some will naturally be disappointed in our stance. Some even question our right to speak and follow our consciences.

It is entirely possible future legislation about same-sex marriage could infringe fundamental human rights of freedom of religion and conscience. It could result in restrictions on the right of ministers of religion and religious bodies and organisations having the freedom to teach, preach and speak about marriage between persons of the same sex being contrary to their religious or conscientious beliefs.

We as a church affirm the dignity of all those who identify as having a same sex orientation. Like all human beings they are created in the image and likeness of God. They have a right to expect to be loved and welcomed and not subject to unjust discrimination.

So where do we go from here?

In all our conversations and encounters, let us imitate Pope Francis, who asks us to be humble and never judgemental.

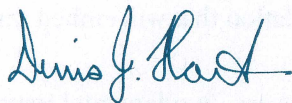
In that spirit, the Catholic Church will continue to teach and preach the truth that marriage is a union of one man and one woman and encourage all people of good will to embrace the fullness of that truth.

We will also work to promote and strengthen marriage and families.

We will strive to uphold the dignity of every human person, including persons who experience same-sex attraction, welcoming them as our brothers and sisters.

As Catholics concerned for the common good may we join all our fellow citizens of Australia in an active and respectful engagement in this critical public conversation.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

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ARCHBISHOP OF MELBOURNE

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<sup>1</sup> Address of Pope Francis to Meeting of Families, Pasay City, Manila, Philippines, Jan. 16. 2015