

# The Eyrie

St John's Catholic Parish Heidelberg



## WORLD YOUTH DAY—LISBON, PORTUGAL 1st-6th AUGUST 2023

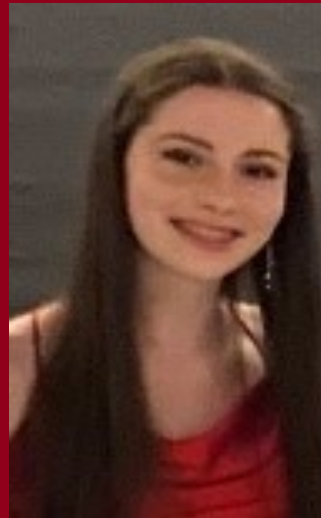
World Youth Day (WYD) is a worldwide encounter with the Pope celebrated about every three years in a different country. WYD is open to all young people who want to take part in a festive encounter centered on Jesus Christ together with their peers. This event is an opportunity to personally experience the universality of the Catholic Church, and to share with the whole world the hope of many young people who are committing their lives to Christ and His Church.



Bella



Hannah



Mikaela



Madeline

Our pilgrims share their excitement with us here and over on page 3:

**Bella Mathai** - I am so excited and blessed to be going to World Youth Day 2023 held in Lisbon this year. Not only am I visiting Lisbon for seven days, but also the Holy Land for ten days beforehand and Fatima for three days as a post-WYD retreat. At the start of the year it felt completely surreal, but as we get closer and closer to the departure date, passing the 100-day mark and the 50-day mark, my anticipation builds higher! I've been preparing for this pilgrimage by attending meetings with the Emmanuel community, learning how to strengthen my relationship with God and becoming close friends with my fellow pilgrims, so I can get the very most out of this once-in-a-lifetime journey.

I am especially looking forward to experiencing the fifth Gospel and sharing in the joy of millions of young Catholics from every nation around the world. Thank you to everyone who has supported me with your donations and prayers! I will be praying especially for you, Fr. Vinh & Fr. Kishore and all of our parishioners at the Christian pilgrimage sites in the Holy Land and at Fatima.

**Looking back.....In 2008** St. John's Parish took up a great opportunity and hosted 41 World Youth Day Pilgrims from Germany on their way to Sydney for WYD. Our parish families responded joyously to this wonderful opportunity. Billets were found for all 41 and some families in our parish even hosted 3 or 4 young people. Our parish put on social functions to make the pilgrims welcome. At one BBQ willing cooks BBQ'd 120 sausages and there were only 6 left! Outings to Healesville Sanctuary, Puffing Billy and the MCG were really enjoyed. The Holy Spirit could be felt in all the happenings and events and the smiles seen on faces.



*The cooks and BBQ at Tennis Club*



*Outing to Healesville*

## Pilgrim Prayer

Our Lady of the Visitation,  
you who left in haste towards the mountain to meet Elizabeth,  
lead us also to meet all those who await us  
to deliver them the living Gospel:  
Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord!  
We will go in a hurry, with no distraction or delay,  
but with readiness and joy.  
We will go peacefully, because those who take Christ take peace,  
and wellbeing is the best wellbeing.  
Our Lady of the Visitation,  
with your inspiration, this World Youth Day  
will be the mutual celebration of the Christ we take, as You once did.  
Make it a time of testimony and sharing,  
fraternization, and giving thanks,  
each of us looking for the others who always wait.  
With you, we will continue on this path of gathering,  
so that our world will gather as well,  
in fraternity, justice and peace.  
Help us,  
Our Lady of the Visitation,  
to bring Christ to everyone, obeying the Father, in the love of the Spirit!



*German Pilgrims here in 2008*



***"By the love you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples".  
(John 13-35).***

**We respectfully acknowledge the Wurundjeri People and their Elders past and present, the traditional custodians of this land on which our church and school stand. The St John's Community joins together in solidarity with our Indigenous brothers and sisters, working for justice and reconciliation.**



## Continued from page 1—our Pilgrims

### Hannah Thorley

It seems crazy to say that I will be flying to Portugal in just over a month to attend WYD 2023. It still doesn't feel real, it feels like yesterday that I was registering for the trip. I've never left Australia or flown over 2 hours so I'm sure the over 15 hour flight will be interesting. During World Youth Day I'm really excited to be in a different country and see such a large gathering of young Catholics, I think this will be really surreal and beautiful. I know this will be an unforgettable and transformative trip for not only myself and the group but hopefully the world!

### Mikela McGowan

I am in year 12. I am so grateful this year because I have the opportunity to go to World Youth Day in Portugal this August with my friends! I am especially looking forward to enriching my faith together with youth from all over the world. I hope to come back from World Youth Day with a greater sense of charity and what it means to be a Catholic. Not only do I get to go to travel to Europe but also get to visit Fatima where Mary has appeared before! I started raising money for this trip in October of last year, and nearly am at my target goal with a special thanks to the parish of St Johns parishioners and parish priests Fr Vinh and Fr Kishore for supporting our fundraisers. I am sure I will remember this experience for the rest of my life!

### Madeleine Kos

I am looking forward to attending the 13th World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal in August this year. I will join with 2 million young Catholics led by Pope Francis and take part in exciting, fun and faith-filled activities such as a 12km walk, overnight vigil and Papal masses. My faith is very important to me and in joining together with Catholic youth from all over the world I will be able to further enrich my knowledge and passion for my faith through visiting holy sites such as Fatima and making new friends with the same love for our faith.

In 2017 I did a pilgrimage to Rome, Assisi and Medjugorje which taught me so much about the many miracles and wonders of the Catholic faith. World Youth Day will continue my faith journey and create memorable friendships that will last a lifetime.

## Planning a funeral?

We understand your needs

The Lonergan & Erbacher families have a long association with St. John's Catholic Parish

**LONERGAN &  
RAVEN**  
EST. 1849  
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

contact Robert Erbacher:  
**0408 179 553**  
or our Clifton Hill office:  
**03 9489 8711**  
for an obligation-free quote

[www.ravensfunerals.com.au](http://www.ravensfunerals.com.au)

**Hear With Me**  
AUDIOLOGY CARE

Adults Hearing | Kids Hearing | Ear Wax Removal  
Hearing Rehabilitation | Tinnitus Management

**Ready to Hear With Me? Book in today.**

**03 9002 4237 | [hearwithme.com.au](http://hearwithme.com.au)**  
**Suite 6.3, 10 Martin St, Heidelberg**

Warm, Personalised, Comprehensive & Honest  
Audiology Care For You & Your Loved Ones.

## CELEBRATING OPPORTUNITIES

## WEEKDAY MASS

One of the great opportunities given to us as parishioners of St. John's is the opportunity to attend mass be that daily, weekly or somewhere in between. We are blessed that our congregations are coming back after the past hard years of COVID.

Those that attend weekday mass find it uplifting. One person saying how fortunate we are to have Fr Vinh and Fr Kishore both who bring different perspectives to the readings in the daily gospels. One brings a spiritual side and gives us much to think about theologically and grows our thinking while the other gives us stories and practical examples of how we can put the gospels into practice.

## HOW MANY ATTEND WEEKDAY MASS?????

Usually there are between **20 and 50** on a normal weekday mass at St. John's —so our parish is alive and well. There is a bond when we come together to pray and celebrate. Some find weekday mass is a time to reflect, thank God for all we have been given, share our worries and joys with him as well as pray for our parish and the world.

Many are working and unable to get to weekday mass, some are very frail and cannot attend, some come with little children or grandchildren they are minding, for some it is a wonderful daily routine, others make the effort and come when they can. One thing for sure is that when you do attend that extra mass during the week that day in particular seems to be the day that everything goes well!

*See you in church.*

\*\*\*\*\*

CONGRATULATIONS to all at St. Martin of Tours Macleod Rosanna Parish  
on Sunday June 18th they celebrated the  
**50th Anniversary** of the Blessing and Official Opening of the church.

**Jacqueline M. Lewis**  
**Solicitors**

M: 0402 635 873 T: 03 9670 0487

E: [jacqueline@jmlewis.com.au](mailto:jacqueline@jmlewis.com.au)

[admin@jmlewis.com.au](mailto:admin@jmlewis.com.au)

Focusing on -Wills, Estates, Probate, Family and  
Criminal Law, Investigations and Contracts.

*Providing clients with practical legal advice.*



Prestigious consulting suites with full admin support, ready to go and within walking distance of Heidelberg Medical Precinct. Ideal for medical, surgical or allied health practitioners. Viewing and bookings can be made by calling us or by email. You can start immediately and nothing to bring with you. Prices negotiable.



Email: [admin@austinconsultingsuites.com.au](mailto:admin@austinconsultingsuites.com.au)

Phone: 0401 100775 or 03 9498 6000

## **BIG MORNING TEA-raising funds for Cancer Research**



Thanks to Elizabeth Williamson and her band of happy volunteers the St. John's Annual Biggest Morning Tea was a success raising over \$1,000 for Cancer Research.

Take a close look at the photos and you will see many long term parishioners who really enjoyed the opportunity of getting together to support this worthy cause. Cakes, slices a cuppa and lots and lots of raffle prizes, lively conversation and reminiscing made it a fun morning.

**WELL DONE!**



## St. Johns Acting Principal—Ms Elizabeth Whiting

### Term 2

As a school of faith we continue to work in partnership with Fr Vinh and Fr Kishore as they support student faith formation with students attending midweek parish Masses. This is an opportunity for our students and families to come together in community and prayer.

We also embrace opportunities to engage parents in student faith formation through their involvement at Family Faith Nights. This was most evident as Fr Vinh, Fr Kishore, Elizabeth Williamson (St John's Parish Catechist), Adam Salemme (Faith In Education Leader), Simone Porthouse, Connie Bandiera and myself lead our Year 4 students, St John's parishioners attending schools other than St. John's School and families at our St John's Eucharist Family Faith Night. The evening commenced with prayer, followed by the gospel Jesus the Bread of Life; John 6:51. First Eucharist candidates discussed the scripture with their family and responded to questions. Students then watched a visual presentation of The Last Supper - Luke 22:17-20 and then explored artworks depicting this.

Fr Vinh spoke about parts of the Mass highlighting aspects of our Catholic Tradition in sharing Eucharist. This evening was well attended, showing the commitment of our families to leading sacramental lives.

***Importantly we need to look for opportunities to teach our St John's students ways to enact sacramental lives.***

Most recently we commemorated Reconciliation Week with the theme "Be a Voice for Generations". As a school we came together for a Whole School Assembly led by our Fire Carrier Leader, Maddie, our Fire Carrier Student Action Team, our Cultural Diversity Team and SRC (Student Representative Council) students led by Brooke Davis as our Fire Carrier Lead Teacher. This assembly was an opportunity for our students to learn about the wrongs of the past and how saying sorry and looking to reconcile is living a sacramental life, through living the sacrament of Reconciliation.

Faith formation is an ongoing process and as a school we continue to provide opportunities for faith formation for all mem-

bers of our community including our staff.

On Friday 16 June St John's staff came together for faith formation under the guidance of Fr Elio Capra. Our faith formation day provided our teachers and leaders with an opportunity for time in prayer and contemplation, deepening their relationship with God, with a focus on Aboriginal perspectives, Psalms and the significance of these as part of our Catholic Tradition. The day was both challenging as we explored the impact of white settlement on Aboriginal families and hopeful as we learnt about ways of healing this history through artist expression.

As Term Two comes to a close we thank our students, staff and families for their engagement in ongoing opportunities to work in partnership with the parish community in the faith formation of our wonderful students, and look forward to the second half of 2023 with hope and positivity together as a community of faith.

## St. John's Religious Education Leader - Mr Adam Salamme

The gift of life presents us with opportunities for personal growth, fulfilment, and success. At St John's we look to enhance opportunities for students through learning, wellbeing and faith.

As our students learn at St John's we look to offer opportunities to expand knowledge, acquire new skills, and develop intellectually and spiritually. This is evident through the teaching of Inquiry learning. In Semester One we posed questions including; In Year 1 & 2: How can we use our creativity to enhance our world? In Year 3 & 4: How do we show our creativity? And in Year 5 & 6: How can we promote and maintain health and wellbeing in our communities? Through teaching these Inquiry Units, we enhance students' understanding of the world, broaden their perspectives, and develop further curiosity about our world.

At St John's we present opportunities for personal development and self improvement, enhancing individual and collective wellbeing. We engage in activities such as practising mindfulness, developing new interests, cultivating healthy relationships, and pursuing personal goals. These opportunities allow our students to enhance self-awareness, emotional intelligence, and overall wellbeing.

Central to wellbeing is building and nurturing relationships offering opportunities for welcome, support, and belonging. These meaningful relationships provide emotional support.

At St John's we teach our students about the place of faith and prayer in their lives. Living a prayerful life gives students opportunities to foster spiritual growth. Prayer provides the means of communication with God and seeking presence, guidance, and grace. Following the example of Jesus and serving others can be a powerful opportunity to grow spiritually. Engaging in acts of kindness, compassion, and service to those in need cultivates humility, empathy, and love.

Each day we have opportunities to live out the teachings of Jesus and make a positive impact in our community of St John's. Examples of this include Student Led lunchtime clubs. This term students have engaged in a wide range of activities including Chess Club, choir, Lego Club, Kahootz Club and lunchtime sport.

Ultimately, true engagement in learning and the school community presents opportunities for student personal and spiritual fulfilment and happiness.

### A WALK IN THE PARK

There is a lot to be said for the daily walk. Medical and fitness experts say walking 45 minutes a day can help our heart, mind and body. It is also a great opportunity at the start of the day.

I find the morning walk is a time for contemplation, a time for giving thanks for all I have been given in life and where better, in these days and times, than the green treed- parklands. Every morning is different and even winter chilly mornings with the sun trying to shine or a misty morning with the mist gradually rising and the sun's beams lighting up the damp trees so they can glisten with glory.

Then there are the birds, so many – galahs, cockatoos, kookaburras, magpies, currawongs, crows, peewees, honeyeaters, rosellas, starlings, pigeons and even ducks sitting up in the trees squawking that they own the big tree with the biggest hole in it. The wonders of God's creation are everywhere. Leave the phone and headphones at home or in your pocket and just walk or run and listen to the cacophony of calls that the birds are making- so many different sounds and songs all with great purpose I am sure. Say hello to fellow walkers and give them a smile, dogs do it so we should too.

I hope you ,too ,can enjoy a morning or evening walk and all the pleasures it brings.

**Thank you Lord for all your creations that colour my life. Thank you Lord for my legs that walk, my hearing and sight, the place I live and the people and pets with whom I share my life journey.**


**berloni appliances**  
specialists in kitchen & laundry appliances





89 BURGUNDY ST HEIDELBERG VIC 3084 | PH: (03) 9455 2888 | [www.berloniappliances.com.au](http://www.berloniappliances.com.au) | proudly family owned & operated


#### Chris Ratnayake

Human Resource Officer,

A2Z Childcare and Kindergarten



 (03) 907 85885

 [a2zchildcareandkindergarten.com.au](http://a2zchildcareandkindergarten.com.au)

 [chris.j.ratnayake@a2zchildcareandkindergarten.com.au](mailto:chris.j.ratnayake@a2zchildcareandkindergarten.com.au)

 **45 Waiora Road, Heidelberg Heights VIC 3081**

#### KUMON IVANHOE Education Centre

 19A Seddon Street, Ivanhoe 3079  
 iva, AUSTRALIA



#### Nora Amirthalingam

Kumon Instructor since June, 2003

 +61 419 553 697

“ My Kumon dream is to nurture all children so that they grow up confident, committed, independent and happy people ”



## *OPPORTUNITY OF NEW LIFE GIVEN TO US ALL AT EASTER*



It was standing room only for Holy Week and Easter – so pleasing to see.

The rain held off on Good Friday for us to be able to have the Stations of the Cross outside in the presbytery and church grounds..

At the Easter Vigil our three RCIA candidates, Kylie, Chris and Harshini were fully initiated into the Catholic Church. The choir played a significant role in the Holy Week and Easter ceremonies. We thank them sincerely for their time and talent over the triduum and in particular, Sr Loreto (what would we do without her), Raph, Maria and Trish. Thank you to Fathers Vinh and Kishore and all who helped make the ceremonies so prayerful and meaningful for us.



## St. John's Netball Club

St John's Heidelberg Netball Club (SJHNC) is committed to providing a safe, fun and inclusive sporting environment. Our goal is to nurture an interest in sport, a healthy body and mind, as well as build self-esteem and resilience. These Parish based sporting clubs provide families with further opportunities to develop connections within the greater catholic community. SJHNC was established over 40 years ago and is still going strong which is quite an achievement!

The Parish Club currently has 6 teams competing in Under 9s all the way to Under 17s, as well as an under 8s NetSetGO team that teaches Preps and Grade 1s ball skills.

Training is primarily carried out at St John's Catholic primary school on the lower courts. The Club competes in the Banyule & district netball association (BDNA) at NETs stadium in Macleod.



Our Head Coach Mr. Adrian Daly is a St. John's primary school, Our Lady Mercy College (OLMC) and Parade college parent and he presently works as a PE teacher at Genazzano College. Our other coaches include committed OLMC students and a Loyola college netball coach Ms. Chloe Knight. It's a wonderful supportive community.

The club follows child safeguarding guidelines as directed by the parish, school and/or other affiliated netball institutions.

The photos are of our two under 13's teams who came runners up in this seasons finals - Bluebirds and Wildcats.

Thank you to Fr. Vinh who joined us at our committee meeting last month.

For further information please contact [info@sjhnetball.net.au](mailto:info@sjhnetball.net.au)



# Fr Vinh Nguyen

## Parish Priest, St John's Heidelberg

I am writing the Final Word for this Eyrie while we are in the middle of the year in June 2023 and we are in the cold weather of the winter here in Melbourne. As I just got back from one week of the Annual Melbourne Clergy Conference 2023, let me share with you a bit of this important ongoing formation and fraternal gathering.

It is generally an opportunity for all clergy of a diocese to catch up, to meet, to share and learn experiences from each other especially the priestly experience of different generations among the clergy.

Before the Conference, Our Archbishop Peter Commensoli reminded the clergy that 'events such as the Clergy Conference are designed to be enriching experiences to spiritually strengthen and fortify us as Clergy so we can effectively minister to our communities.'

During this Conference we were helped to explore liturgy and worship. One of the key speakers of the Conference, Abbot Paul Gunter OSB a monk of Douai Abbey, UK, shared his insights on the 'art of celebrating' the Mass—and, more specifically, on Pope Francis' 2022 apostolic letter on the liturgy, *Desiderio Desideravi*. 'A clergy conference is always a fraternal occasion,' he said. 'It's an opportunity for priests to be drawn together to consider the subjects that matter to their lives and ministry.'

At first glance, the 'art of celebrating' might seem to be only about how priests say Mass, but 'it's about so much more than that,' he said. 'It's about how priests draw life from the mysteries they celebrate, and communicate their hope to the holy people of God, who are nourished by the Church's liturgical life and sacraments.'

This is an opportunity for us to gain a deeper understanding to have 'a truly fraternal dialogue on the issues we face, so that we are able to consider Christ's way of working as *communion*; so that we're able to consider "What is liturgy?"; ..... recognise the liturgy as God's work, in which we participate and in which we cooperate.'

As well as considering the style of our celebrations, on how we might 'foster an encounter with Christ through the celebration of the liturgy ... so that we can really ... put a strobe light, if you like, on what is the most important thing we do.'

The Conference program also included opportunities to participate in a series of workshops and panel discussions focusing on other aspects of liturgy and liturgical preparation.

So, through this conference we are reminded that our concern isn't just how priests say Mass but about how we [priests] present a liturgical formation of the people of God, starting with ourselves.

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Very often we say, "May I take this opportunity to say, to do this, etc..." Yes, there have been, are and will be opportunities in the life of each and all of us.

Fr Vinh



# The Eyrie

## OUR TEAM

Design & Layout • Content

Michelle Penson

Copy Reader

Elizabeth Williamson

Printer • Peter Burke

The views, thoughts and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the individual authors and should not be interpreted as theology or moral and ethical teaching.

*Your articles and input most welcome*

*Please contact the parish secretary 0394571066*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Tuesday 8th August**

**Feast day of**

**Saint Mary of the Cross  
MacKillop**

\*\*\*

## CONFIRMATION

**Sunday 13th August**

**St Patrick's Cathedral  
Melbourne**

\*\*\*

**Tuesday 15th August**

**Feast day of**

**Assumption of Our Lady**

(Holy Day of Obligation)

\*\*\*

**Sunday 3rd September**

**Fathers Day**

\*\*\*

## Morning Tea

Join us on the first and third Sundays of the month for Morning Tea following the 10.30am mass. A wonderful opportunity to enjoy the company of other parishioners

\*\*\*

## Communion at home

If you or someone you know is unable to get to mass any longer and would like to receive communion at home please ring the office 94572351 and we will arrange a date and time that suits you to bring Jesus to you.

\*\*\*