

The Eyrie

St John's Catholic Parish Heidelberg



St. John's Netball Club—Adrian Daly

Most people in our Parish of St John's will be aware that we are fortunate enough to have a tennis club. With its carpark right next to the presbytery, countless parish and school families have enjoyed the three courts for generations. But did you know that there is also a netball club?

I have been a parishioner at St John's Parish since 2007, but I only became aware that there was a netball club seven years later. Alexandra, our eldest child, got the chance to join a new team of Year 2 Students. The exact origins of the St John's Heidelberg Netball Club is not documented, but it goes back to at least the 1980's as some mothers of current players recall playing themselves.

It has become a sport and club that our whole family have become involved with over time. Alexandra continues to play and has just completed her first season in the Under 18s section, I have been a coach for the club since 2016, and my wife Emma is club secretary and Juliet I our youngest is now in her second year of playing. Even our son Liam filled in once when a team was short of players! There are many families that could tell a similar story.

The club has changed somewhat during these last few years. It was run by one president with informal support from coaches and other parents. The need to address transparency and to abide by Child Safety Standards meant this changed in 2017.

Sharing the same name, former principal and Parish Priest, Nick Marinelli and Fr Mario Zammit supported



the re-organisation of the netball club to create a constitution and committee with the club being under the auspices of the parish.

The change, while difficult initially, has allowed the club to successfully gain grants and sponsorship to be able to update equipment and uniforms as well as host our own clinics and NetSetGo programs. Despite the setbacks with COVID, we have five teams playing in Macleod each Saturday throughout the year ranging from Under 9s through to Under 18s with a sixth team likely to begin in July. I was proud to be coach of two of these teams to finals recently.

We have current and past students of St John's ranging from Year 2 up to Year 10 currently with some of those older players now coaching the younger teams. If you would or someone you know would like to become involved in this wonderful, inclusive netball club, please contact us via email: sjnetball@gmail.com.

After 10.30 Mass on Sunday 26th June many parishioners came together at a special farewell morning tea and 'Thank You' for Fr Joel. Kevin Andrews gave the vote of thanks on behalf of the parish. He spoke of the past parish priests and our great need for Parish Priests, the services they provide to us being Christ giving to us through the Sacraments and challenging us in our thinking. Elizabeth Williamson presented Fr Joel with a cash gift from parishioners of the parish and he was given a framed picture of St. John's Window with a blessing for his onward life's journey. Fr Joel thanked all for making his time at St. John's enjoyable and said he will take many happy memories with him as he moves forward to his new ministry at St. Catherine of Siena Parish Caroline Springs.

Thank you to all who bought scrumptious plates of goodies to share which made this morning special and Barbara Dabal who worked tirelessly in the kitchen. (See pictures on page 10.) Michelle Penson

Groups of our Parish - Netball



Club
Teams
and
Alexandra
Juliet &
Adrian
Daly



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.

Men Made for Greatness—Peter Nathan

Looking back over the past year, I am glad that I started coming to the “Men Made for Greatness” evenings. I am in my mid 50’s, busy with a young family and fulltime employment. Then came 2020-21 with its unhealthy doses of COVID lockdowns closing our church, social groups and other various mandates and guidelines hindering employment. I found myself becoming isolated and cut off from my known spiritual and friendship networks. My faith input was eroded away despite my efforts to read, watch Mass & YouTube spiritual talks online; it became too comfortable and easy not to go out. However over time, I realised that I missed the company of people. I began to search for in-person connections again as the COVID restrictions were slowly released. I had also become “Zoom intolerant”.

A friend told me of the “Made for Greatness” evenings at St John’s and that I was welcome to come



along and experience what the group was about. The focus of the evening is prayer and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. There is either a short talk given by a priest or a reflection from one of the attendees. The Sacrament of Confession is available and there is always a social gathering afterwards. I was enthused after the first meeting in 2021 and have not missed a meeting since they have been able to run again. It has become a real part of my renewed spiritual and social life.

The talks given by the priests in the church are always great and

the social gathering afterwards very hospitable and generous. We chat about faith and life, and I am starting to build some new friendships. I had forgotten how much I had missed this part of church life - that of being present among other faith-minded people is best in person.

God is gentle in tough times, and this was my initial experience of the men’s gatherings. After the rough times of the past two years, it was a welcomed experience to be back in God’s good care among good people.

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Biggest Morning Tea

Raising Money for Cancer Research

Tuesday 31st May saw a gathering of over 70 people in the Parish Hall to spend a morning with friends and raise money to this worthy cause. The tables were all set up in yellow and blue giving the hall a cosy homely feel. A double bass and a guitar played by Andrew and Yolanda also added to the relaxed vibe.

A group of GEMS led by Elizabeth Williamson & Claire Newsome organised this great get together. Many stalwarts of the parish were there (some parishioners for over 50 years) and some newcomers as well. Many bought along trays of sandwiches, slices, biscuits, cakes which looked and tasted super but as it was a chilly day it was the hot savoury items that vanished very quickly.

Bobby and Rosemary sold tickets in the hamper-raftles that were made up of many donations

from generous parishioners. There was a quiz with the winning table taking home a box of tea each! There was a guessing competition and colourful tea towel competition. The colourful tea towel competition was won by Bobby. Michelle auctioned Margaret's sponge and Mary's Carrot cake both were sold off to high bids. Louise and Ida helped out in the kitchen and Michelina worked diligently putting all the cups and saucers through the dishwasher and away.

An enjoyable morning was had by all and the very tidy sum of \$1,600 was raised.

Well done to all involved and thanks for your generosity to this very worthy cause.

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Ms Elizabeth Whiting—Acting Principal St. John's School

St John's School Vision is *"An inclusive Catholic community fostering a commitment to faith and nurturing a love of learning."* Throughout Term 1 and 2 it has been with much joy that we have been able to come together as a community to celebrate our Catholic Identity.

In March, Catholic schools in Melbourne celebrated Catholic Education Week 2022 with the theme *The Way of the Gospel*. During this celebration our school captains Georgie and Zac represented St John's at the mass for schools at St Patrick's Cathedral. I thank our Acting Deputy Principal Connie Bandiera for accompanying Georgie and Zac to this special celebration.

In the last week of Term 1 and the first week of Term 2 students and staff celebrated Holy Week commencing with Palm Sunday, then Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Saturday and Easter Sunday. As we prayed during these liturgies we experienced the renewal that the Easter season brings.

Our school community commemorated ANZAC day liturgy in a most moving and respectful celebration, with our students and staff. This liturgy enabled us to pause and reflect as a school, on the service and sacrifice of those who have served in defence of our nation and those who continue to serve today. The display of the symbols, the wreath, flags, slouch hat and bible as well as sprigs of rosemary from our school garden, gave our students a focus, as they listened to the Ode of Remembrance and prayed during this liturgy.

After two years of waiting our staff came together for our Spirituality Day, *The Sacramental Vision of Hope, Joy and Reality*, facilitated by Fr Elio Capra.



This day provided time for contemplation, prayer and learning over three sessions. Staff found this day one of enrichment, deepening their faith in relationship with God. Fr Elio was a most engaging presenter who provided our staff with an opportunity to explore our Catholic Tradition and beliefs through artwork. I thank all staff members for sharing their gifts and for the respect, reverence and reflection that they entered into on this special day.

Sacrament of Eucharist—May 2022



Friends Igniting Reconciliation through Education

St John's held the FIRE Carrier Induction Ceremony, blessing and inducting our 2022 FIRE Carriers and introducing Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week. "FIRE Carriers," an acronym for "Friends Igniting Reconciliation through Education," is an initiative through the Catholic Aboriginal Ministry of Victoria. We congratulate our students Eve, Callum, Lucy, Vonnice and Charlotte as they committed to their role as FIRE Carriers at St John's building respect, understanding and knowledge of Australia's shared story that started in this rich land 40,000 years ago and continues today.

Our FIRE Carrier student leaders read pledges, received a blessing and their badges. We wish them well as they continue this important work



in our school community.

Thank you to our students, staff and families for their ongoing support as we work in partnership with the parish community in the best interests of our wonderful students.

Sacrament of Eucharist —May 2022— Student Reflections

The Grade 4 students of St John's Catholic Parish Primary School received the Sacrament of First Eucharist. It was a very special time for the students', families, school and parish community to support them in their sacramental journey.

"When making my Eucharist, I felt excited, nervous, happy and proud. It felt good to be a part of the Catholic society and I hope my family was proud." Max

"I felt happy and excited because I was receiving Jesus' body for the first time. All my family were there to support me." Isla

"When I received the sacrament of Holy Eucharist I was a bit nervous but after I ate the bread I didn't feel scared anymore. The thing I remember most about the day was the moment I walked down with my family". Seb

"The morning of Communion, I had butterflies in my stomach. When I was lining up outside the church I felt scared. I was happy to receive the bread. The day was a mixture of excitement and nervousness." Emma

"When I received Holy Communion, I felt great because I have fully accepted Christ into my body. Now I will sit at the grown up table". Zara

Importance of symbols



Palm Sunday marked the beginning of Holy Week and our altar was beautifully decked out (by Elizabeth Williamson) in red cloth and palms depicting the journey of the Lord in the coming week. Each year on Palm Sunday the altar is dressed with palms but this year was particularly simple and beautiful and full of meaning. We are so fortunate that we have helpers who go out of their way to add colour and meaning to our ceremonies. Gathering palms also for the blessing of palms and those who volunteered for getting their feet washed. All these symbols add to the colour of our ceremonies along with those that add their music and voices in the form of proclaiming the word or singing.



Fr Joel Blessing of Palms on Palm Sunday and washing of feet on Holy Thursday



Making our ceremonies special



On Sunday 8th May at all Masses we remembered our mothers, those with us and those who are at rest with the Lord. As we went into mass we were offered a candle which we then took up to the front of the altar lit the candle and placed this symbol of love and light in the dish provided.

Simple gestures make for powerful meaning and remind us that our own mother gave us life and love. In return we thank the Lord and our heavenly mother Mary for the joys that motherhood can bring and for her help to those who may be struggling with the daily demands of motherhood. .



Our Easter Ceremonies at the Easter Vigil Mass when we enter the dark church and it comes to light with the symbol of our pascal candle and lighting our own candle from this, showing us that the Lord' is risen and is the light of the world. Light symbolised by candles is a powerful symbol and banners and flowers add to the ceremonies and celebration.

Thank You & Blessings - Fr. Joel



26th
June
2022



Fr Joel Peart

Parish Priest, St John's Heidelberg

I had a bit of an experience the other week. A bit of shuffling of my schedule and some of God's good grace, I managed to get away towards the end of last month, heading up north to the Sunshine Coast of Queensland for a few days. The weather was very kind, so we got plenty of time both on the golf course and down at the beach. It was a great fun.

Things didn't start off too well though. I arrived at the airport ready for the 9am flight, only to be told at the check in desk that there was less seating available now due to a change in aircraft. I was one of the last people to check in (no surprise), so was inconveniently bumped to the next scheduled flight a few hours later. I killed a bit of time with a coffee and bacon and egg roll (which set me back a ridiculous \$19), as well as saying a few prayers from the daily office.

When I eventually boarded the flight, I found myself sitting next to Australian singer Daryl Braithwaite! Now that might not mean much to you, but growing up I was a huge fan and still am. His 1988 album *Edge* was in our house when I was a kid and my first real favourite song 'One Summer' is off that. It still gets a good run on my Spotify account along with a few of Daryl's other classics. We had a bit of a chat on the flight as well as afterwards in the terminal and I'm pleased to say that he's a lovely bloke. He was more than happy to head outside to let me grab a photo with him too, before we wished each other well and parted ways.

You might be wondering where this shameless name-drop story is going. Well, given the timing it was a nice reminder of what our faith tells us and what is one of life's best lessons. What was a real inconvenience and source of frustration turned out to be the chance for something that for me was very exciting and quite memorable. The lyrics in Braithwaite's *As the Days Go By* say, "Some things I wish, they would last just a little bit longer..." I could certainly say that about my time here at St John's. I was excited and looking forward to building up the life and love of God in the parish here over the coming years, but alas, the good Lord has other rather inconvenient and frustrating plans! I've accepted the move with as much humility and grace as I could though, trusting and knowing that there is going to be great and wonderful things ahead for me at Caroline Springs as well as for all of you in the parish here in Heidelberg.

You have every blessing of mine as I leave this beautiful and blessed place,

as well as my love and prayers.

God speed,

Fr Joel.

The Eyrie

OUR TEAM

Design & Layout • Content

Michelle Penson

Copy Reader

Elizabeth Williamson

Printer • Peter Burke

YOUR FEEDBACK and ARTICLES
MOST WELCOME

heidelberg@cam.org.au

52 Yarra Street, Heidelberg 3084

The views, thoughts and opinions
expressed in this publication are
those of the individual authors
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teaching.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Welcome

Fr Vinh Nguyen

Sunday 3rd July

Morning Tea

(after 10.30 Mass)

Confirmation

OLMC Centre

7pm Friday 12th August
