

The Eyrie

St John's Catholic Parish Heidelberg



Maureen Stella Message from the Principal



It is with pleasure that I accept the kind invitation to write as Principal, for St John's Parish magazine 'The Eyrie'. St John's Parish Primary School prides itself on being such a welcoming, learning community where every face has a place and a name. This has been most apparent to me over recent weeks as I have transitioned into St John's, with the warm welcome extended to me by Fr Mario, staff, students, parents and the parish community.

Positive relationships are at the core of building an effective learning community and as I begin to develop relationships with the St John's community and get to know you all, I would like to share with you some of my background.

I am married with three adult children and I live in Eltham. I grew

up in Echuca, in country Victoria and I came to Melbourne to study at university, where I undertook my initial teacher training.

My teaching career began as a graduate teacher at St Clare's in Box Hill North, then after maternity leave, I taught at Sacred Heart in Kew, St Martin's Rosanna, Holy Trinity, Eltham North where I was Deputy Principal, then St Richard's Kilsyth/Montrose as Principal and now here at St John's as Principal.

I am an avid and on-going learner and was most fortunate in being selected by Catholic Education Melbourne last year, to participate in a three week theology study program in Leuven, Belgium on "Enhancing Catholic School Identity". This study broadened my perspective on what it means to be a Catholic school in today's world and how we need to be "in dialogue" with others and open to God's word in a variety of settings and in our relationships with each other.

I am most fortunate to be leading and working with such a dedicated and professional Leadership team and staff, who have the students' best interests at the heart of all they do. It is a united team approach and our upcoming School Review will enable us to review the past four

years at St John's and to set new intended outcomes and targets for our next School Improvement Plan.

Parents are first and foremost the prime educators of their children and I thank our parent community for entrusting myself and the staff with their most precious children, as we work in partnership together, to prepare the students, for not just today, but most importantly for the future.

When I reflect on my years in education, it is the students who inspire me and bring such joy into my life. It is most apparent from my "Principal Learning Walks" in the classrooms that the students are engaged and excited about learning and these visits remind me that teaching really is a vocation and such a privileged profession.

A friend asked me the other day how I was enjoying my new school and my immediate answer was "I am loving it!" I feel so blessed to be in Catholic education and to have the chance to work collaboratively with staff, parents and the Parish in providing the best possible learning environment and optimal academic, spiritual, physical, social and emotional opportunities for the students at St John's.

Editorial

Michelle Penson

We are pleased to introduce our new parish magazine

'The Echo' has been a part of our St Johns Parish since the first edition in October 1991. Parishioners dedicated their time and talents into presenting the quarterly publication. Articles and stories have formed a vital part of sharing the many events, celebrations and milestones that have been part of our parish journey from 1991 to 2016.

It is important to recognise our past and sincerely thank past priests and committees who contributed so much. While many parishioners assisted, Leonie Symes, Brigid Keele, and Elizabeth Williamson were the backbone of 'The Echo' for many years and contributed many hours to produce each issue.

We also recognise Marilyn McCann, past parish secretary, who played a vital role in storing and maintaining a copy of each issue. These files show the life of our parish and record our history in print and pictures for future generations.

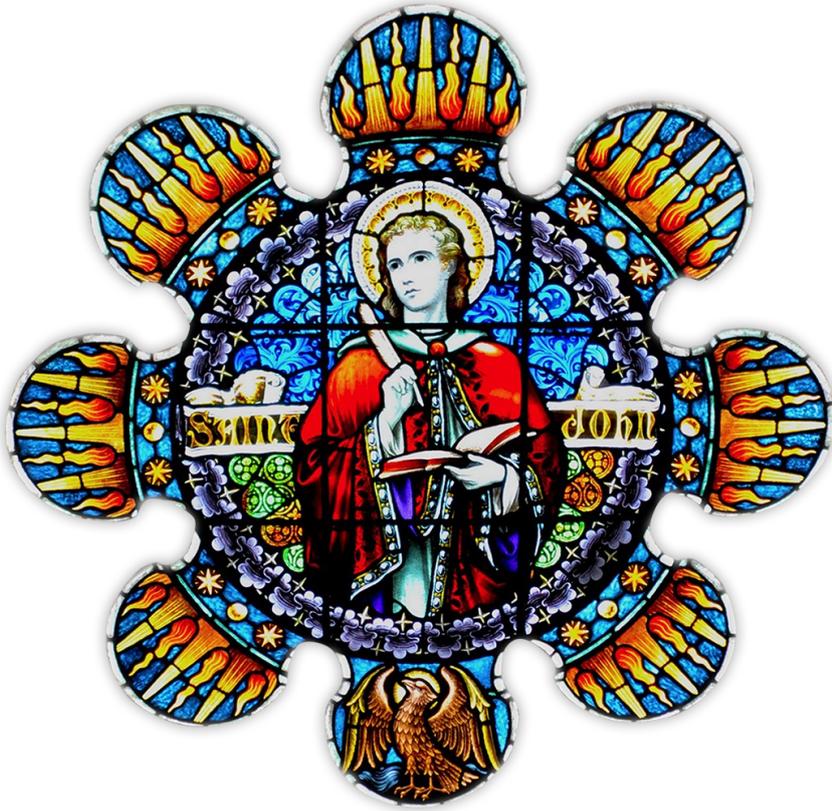
I take this opportunity to welcome Emma Daly, Margherita Bechelli and Margaret Ferma, who have come on board full of enthusiasm to invigorate the publication, give it a new look and feel and bring it forward on our journey. I am pleased to introduce 'The Eyrie'. You can expect our new parish magazine to reflect the life and times of our St John's Parish and School. There will be regular articles such as 'Who's in the Pew?', School News, Stories of Service and Fr Mario's 'Final Word'.

We would love to hear your feedback on this first edition. St John's Heidelberg has a proud history and a lively present! Please let us know of Parish or School events that we could feature in future magazine editions. The onward journey shows great promise and it is ours for the making as we live, work, celebrate, pray and come together as one parish family.

We hope you enjoy reading the first edition of *The Eyrie* and you become part of the onward journey.



Send us your feedback at heidelberg.eyrie@cam.org.au



The Eyrie

St John was the author of the fourth gospel. He was revered for his lofty writings that were recognized to 'soar' and take us to new places of understanding. The eagle has long been an image representing St John and the power of his work as an Evangelist.

This imagery encourages us to look up and allow ourselves to rise to occasion and move forward. The eyrie, the nest of an eagle which is set in high places, like clefts and in high trees. Our

St John's Church, perched on the top of the hill, is a great representation of this. The community is the nest. Our new St John's magazine is a place to share and celebrate community. This has been the inspiration for our new parish magazine, *The Eyrie*. We hope you enjoy it.

We would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of this Land, the Wurundjeri people and of Elders past and present, on which our church and school stand. The St John's community joins together in solidarity with our Indigenous brother and sisters, working for justice and reconciliation.

Altar Serving

Alexandra Daly

Up on the altar, looking out on the congregation, we are the only ones who know the real truth of what happens when Mass is being celebrated.

In view of all, we stand and we sit, making mistakes without anybody realising what has happened. We are the Altar Servers, the young people that assist Father during mass.

I love being able to serve at St John's. By being an Altar Server I feel I have grown in faith and understand how I can serve our community.

As a Year 5 student at St John's, I am happy to have already had the opportunity to serve at St Patrick's Cathedral in the city for the 2016 Confirmation Mass and the Christmas Family Mass at St John's last year.

I have many friends who serve up on the altar as well as some I'm not quite as familiar with yet. No matter your age, Altar Serving delivers a few giggles and crooked laughs. When I first started, I had no clue what happened up on the altar, but very quickly I got to know what the jobs were. Sign language, hushed tones and whispers while mass is being celebrated help us overcome the obstacles that happen along the way. Sometimes we are unsure what is happening next but make sure everything goes smoothly without anyone even knowing! With help from the elder servers, who are mostly in high school, I got to see the challenges faced by both younger and older.



Grace, Erin, Edric, Alexandra, Ryan, Adele and Sierra.

So now you know that Serving on the altar comes with many twists and turns throughout the mass. To acknowledge our efforts, we have regular social events like the recent pizza and movie night.

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Bernadette & Tatenda

Bernadette and Tatenda attend mass at St John's on a Sunday evening, calling the suburb of Heidelberg home since 2008. Bernadette is an accountant and active member of the St John's Finance Committee. Tatenda is a medical doctor currently working as a Urology Research Fellow at the Austin and is keen to pursue a lifelong surgical career in the field of Urology. Although they were both born in Zimbabwe, they found each other in Melbourne, Australia.



Bernadette

"I was born in Harare, Zimbabwe. My family and I went to the Catholic Church in our local suburb, one similar to Heidelberg. Our community was vibrant and made up of people from the neighbouring homes as well as church.

My first visit to Australia was in December 2002. I visited Sydney with my mother after the birth of my niece. It was my first overseas trip and I was ever so excited to meet her! I saw a little of what life was like in Australia and it made me realise that even with the many cultures that exist in the world, human beings are so similar.

My perception of life now is very different to that of when I was a child. I never imaged that I would live in another country. I always thought I would visit other places, and live my life in Zimbabwe. I miss the place where I grew up but the economy is no longer good enough for me to live a regular life there. In Australia there is opportunity to choose one's career and have access to public services like health care and education. I can also plan for the future with a little more certainty.

People always ask why my hair changes so often. This is normal in Zimbabwe, it's almost like a new piece of clothing. If I was in Zimbabwe, my hair would change even more often! It's not cultural – just fashionable!"

Tatenda

"I was born in Harare, Zimbabwe. I grew up in a town called Chitungwiza which is about 30km from Harare CBD. It is high density area where everyone knew everyone. Walking outside you were guaranteed to see kids playing in the street.

My family and I moved to Australia in 2005, to be with our relatives. The decision to move across the world to a different continent was a partly due to the economic hardships my family were experiencing back home. Growing up in Zimbabwe, I experienced death from a very young age. I lost classmates, friends and family members due to a HIV/AIDS pandemic. This made me revise my childhood expectations of life.

I have been practising medicine for four years and I hope to be remembered for breaking boundaries in my profession."



School Captains 2017

Grace



Callum



Hello, my name is Grace. I am one of St John's School captains for 2017.

Some of my responsibilities are to be a role model to the other students and help them through times of need, help Mrs Stella with jobs around the school, lead the school and give a student's point of view on how we think our school is going.

I am so looking forward to working with Callum, Mrs Stella and all of the other leaders in different aspects of the school, parish and community. I think that as a team, we can make such a huge impact. I hope I can make a difference for the school, to give back for all of the wonderful things it has done for me.

Hi, my name is Callum and I am the School Captain of St John's 2017.

I am interested in sport, art and writing. Some of my duties are to make sure the school is safe, happy and welcoming.

Along with Grace, I will try to be a good leader by making sure everybody is enjoying themselves and to give feedback to everyone. I will work with Grace, the other school leaders and Mrs Stella, our Principal, regularly around different features of St John's, the parish and the community. I hope that as a School Captain, the other leaders and I can make a big difference around St John's. I am looking forward to seeing out my final year at St John's.

Prep Reflections

First Day of School

"I was extremely happy to come to school because I like the jobs we get to do, especially the dustpan"

"I was super excited to start school because I was excited about learning to read"

"I was a bit nervous because everything was new"

"I loved getting a name tag, drawing and singing with the ukulele"

"I was excited to start school"

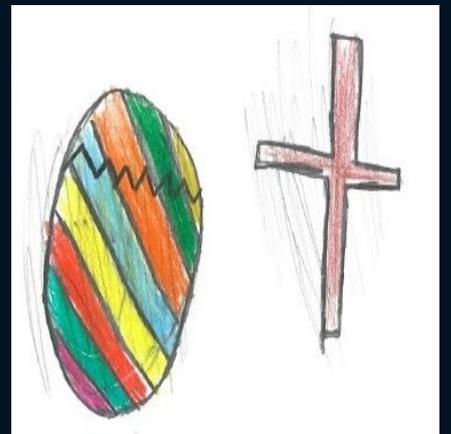




“Easter marks the end of lent. It is a time of forgiveness where we celebrate Jesus coming back to life.”



“Easter is all about when Jesus dies on the cross and celebrating when he comes back to life afterward.”



“I Think Easter is a time of celebration where the family gets together to celebrate Jesus coming back to life.”



“Easter is a time of being grateful that Jesus sacrificed himself for us. Chocolate eggs are a sign of new life.”

Tennis Club

Social Activities

- Monday night Social Members Tennis
- Friday morning Seniors Social Tennis
- Sunday morning Vietnamese Community Tennis
- Club Singles Championships
- Club Doubles Championships
- Bacchus Marsh Social Lawn Tennis Day
- Club Presentations and Events

Competitions

- Tuesday night Men's Open and Men's Veterans (40+ years)
- Wednesday night Ladies
- Thursday afternoon Metro Masters

To find out more, please contact:
 Paul Marcon - SJCTC President
 M: 0413 671 971

Founded in 1937 and located at 54 Yarra Street, St John's Catholic Tennis Club in Heidelberg is a non-profit community club providing the opportunity for parishioners and the local community to enjoy tennis with their friends and families at reasonable cost.

The Club is an enthusiastic participant in competition tennis at both senior and junior levels and through its coaching programs has enabled many adults and children to play and be involved in tennis.

To operate successfully the club is largely dependent on memberships, volunteer support and fund-raising activities.



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Jameelah's Lamb Kafta

Ingredients

- 500g minced lamb
- 1 small bunch/1 cup parsley, stems removed
- 1 medium brown onion, roughly chopped
- 1/2 small or 1/4 large red capsicum, roughly chopped
- 1 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 tsp Lebanese mixed spices or allspice
- 1/4 tsp freshly ground black pepper

Method

1. In a food processor, chop the parsley, onion and capsicum.
2. In a bowl, combine the lamb, parsley, onion, capsicum, salt and spices.
3. Shape the mixture onto pre-soaked skewers, or into patties. Great on the BBQ, in a pan, or in the oven.



Enjoy!

Danielle 2N, Emma Prep C

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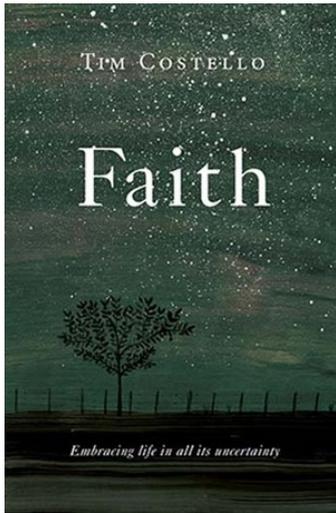
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Faith

Tim Costello

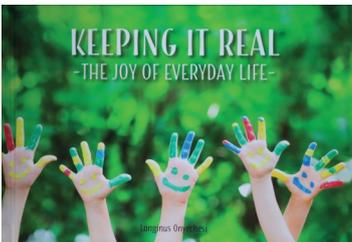
Tim Costello; reverend, advocate, for every sibling whose been there - brother of former treasurer Peter Costello and until late last year the CEO of World Vision. In his most recent book 'Faith' (2016), Costello presents a collection of short essays on the realities of the world around us. Issues originating from far away lands and over the back fence, Faith explores how more than ever, in a world rocked by uncertainty, without faith, the world can seem too shaky to even stand up.

The short essays are easy to read but not always so pleasant to digest and it is easy to imagine that as CEO of World Vision, Costello has had exposure to situations and realities that may seem dislocated from the majority of society. His writing is passionate and manner familiar, engaging yet appealing to readers with rational thought. Refugees, homelessness, climate change and inequality among other topics are all on the table for consideration. Indeed, these are worthy topics of discussion, and much needed from the wider Church in mainstream media. Costello asks the question of how we can show compassion to our fellow man, both worldwide and on a daily basis in our own lives.

I enjoy hearing from Tim, whether at presentations or in writing because of his considered approach to communication. He is not necessarily a loud voice but instead focuses on the personal aspects of social issues. Perhaps the book could have benefited from a slightly more detailed look into each issue to allow deeper insight for the reader.

Recommended for all audiences

This review has been kindly contributed by Jeanne Cheong, Andrew's Bookshop, Ivanhoe.



Keeping It Real

Fr Longinus Onyechesi

Experience shows that there is more to the journey of life than we can imagine. *Keeping it Real* is a collection of thoughts and experiences expressed in quotes to accompany us on this journey.

It relates with our experiences, challenges our perceptions, inspires our thoughts and motivates our actions to the understanding that despite ideas, predictions and plans, there still remains the unexpected in life.

We keep it real when we acknowledge the past, accommodate the present and open up to the future.

Copies available from the Parish House and the Central Catholic Bookshop, 322 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne.



The Final Word

“... as a priest I have the extraordinary privilege to occupy a very delicate and special place in your lives”

Dear friends,

Greetings! Sometimes people have asked me: ‘are you happy here in Heidelberg?’ A very interesting question! What makes me happy? I am happy when I can share my life with people around me and journey with them in different aspects of their life.

Over the past three years I have had various opportunities to be with people and many have invited me into their lives, their homes and their families. Someone recently reflected that it is funny how we are ready to walk into a doctor’s surgery and expose oneself in front of a total stranger to be examined, and how we walk into a priest’s office and share our deepest thoughts, some we barely risk telling ourselves! Yes, as a priest I have the extraordinary privilege to occupy a very delicate and special place in your lives. Often I feel apprehensive as I walk into the sacredness of your lives as I become aware of the great responsibility you entrust me with. I also feel very grateful when I am trusted and welcomed into those sacred spaces. Thank you.

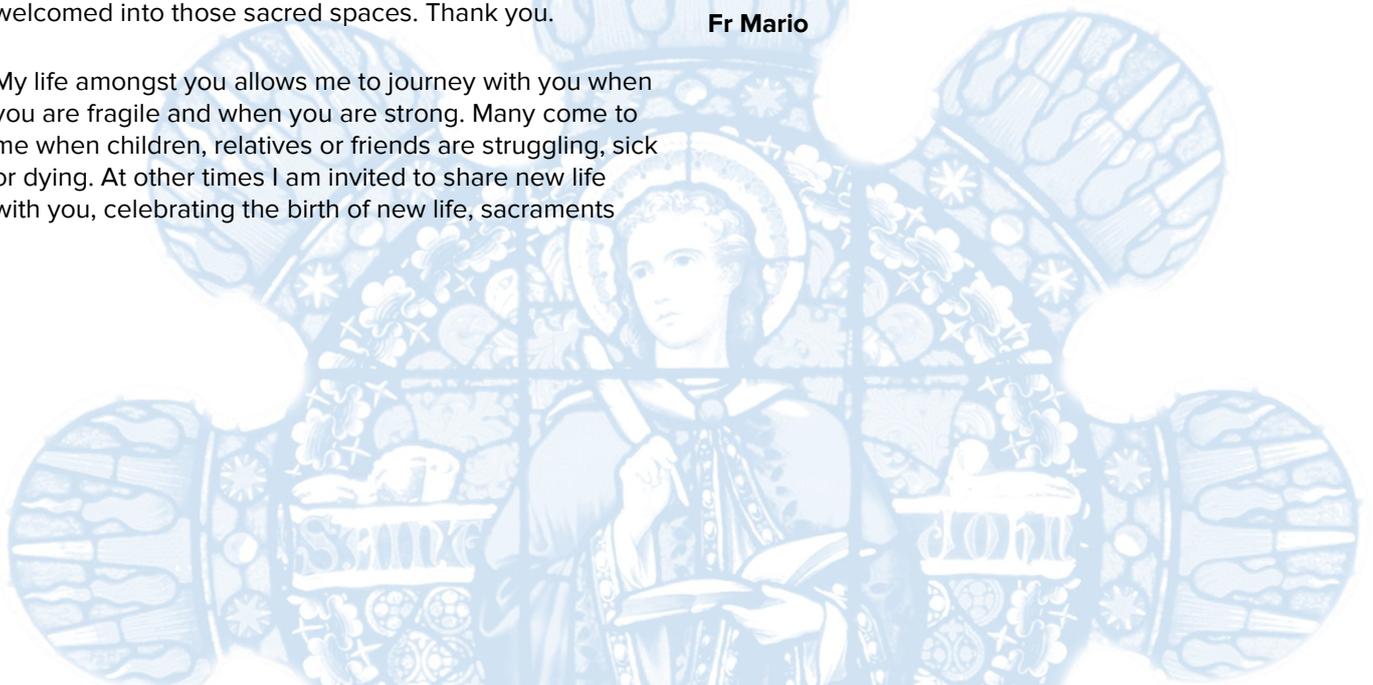
My life amongst you allows me to journey with you when you are fragile and when you are strong. Many come to me when children, relatives or friends are struggling, sick or dying. At other times I am invited to share new life with you, celebrating the birth of new life, sacraments

and anniversaries. I have shared meals, board games, cards and computer games with different families. Around a table, over a cup of tea or a meal, it is easier to listen to people’s stories and journey with those around the table.

I also feel extremely hurt and angry as I try to fathom how many of us have abused this deep trust people place on us priests and have caused very deep wounds, especially to the young and vulnerable. As a priest I have to carry some of this terrible burden and at times this burden seems unbearable and I feel like running away from this disastrous situation. It is a very grave crime that we priests, as leaders of the community, are responsible for, and for this I am truly ashamed and deeply sorry.

My hope for us all, at this time in the history of our Church, is that we find a way to move forward together, carrying our sins and our deep pains, praying and hoping that one day they will be healed in Christ.

Fr Mario





UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 13th May

Archbishop Hart will preside at the celebrations of the 90th anniversary of our Vinnies Conference at the 6:00pm Mass followed by the opening and blessing of the parish house meeting rooms. All welcome.

Sunday 18th June

Annual parish lunch in support for our charities. All welcome.

Sunday 2nd July

Fr Mario's 25th anniversary of priesthood at 10:30am, followed by morning tea. All welcome.

Sunday 6th August

Fr Ted's 50th anniversary of priesthood at 10:30am, followed by morning tea. All welcome.

The Eyrie

OUR TEAM

Editorial • Michelle Penson
Design & Layout • Margherita Bechelli
Content • Emma Daly
Content • Margaret Ferma
Printer • Peter Burke

YOUR FEEDBACK WELCOME

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