

## St John's Playgroup

The group meets every Monday morning from 9.15 to 11am. This year our average attendance has been around 6 to 8 parents weekly, some with 2 children which can make for quite a busy morning! Some of the parents have other children attending the school, others are parishioners, & one or two are not affiliated at all with St John's but have heard of our friendly group & come to check it out... & have never left!!!

Towards the end of last year, Fr Ted & the committee generously offered us the use of the north facing courtyard & cubby house to use during our sessions. Through a small grant from the Banyule Council, which Cr. Jenny Mullholand organised we were able to repair & refurbish the cubby and make the outdoor courtyard area safe.

The courtyard opened up a new aspect for the Playgroup. The children couldn't wait for us to throw open the doors to the sunny area. They relished in bouncing on the mini trampoline, sliding down the toddler slide head first & creating concoctions in the cubby house of weeds & grass, which had gathered in the corners of the courtyard. In wet weather it is terrific to have the hall and the kids love running up and down the shiny floorboards.

We're a very resourceful bunch at St John's Playgroup some of the indoor activities the children have enjoyed participating in this year have included: decorating biscuits, dried pasta necklaces, poppy wreath for Remembrance Day from paper plates & egg cartons and fruit loop art, making our own paint from shaving cream (yes, I agree that one was a bit of a fizzer!!!),

We try to make use of recycled household items when coming up with our crafty ideas.

Anyone interested in joining the group can come along to the hall any Monday morning during term or call the Playgroup coordinator's number below.



**St John's playgroup hard at work creating**

We are looking for a new person to help coordinate the running of the group next year. It is a role which doesn't require much more than a couple of hours on a Monday morning.

I have found it to be a great opportunity and made many good friends. Anybody interested in contributing to the parish community in such a way is welcome to contact me Nicole Pellizzaro.

(0407 047 878)

{A big thank you to Nicole from all the parents and children that really enjoy meeting and having fun.}

## LONG TIME ST JOHN'S PARISHIONERS RETIRE

Paul and Joan Parsons have retired from active service to the parish of St John's and the Heidelberg community after forty years of involvement. Many would not know the unassuming and quiet couple who first came to Heidelberg from New Zealand with their five children in 1969. Their two youngest began school at St John's and it was from there that the parish connection began.

In her early days in the parish, Joan together with Molly Boundy, was involved with the preparation of the weekly parish newsletter produced on a typewriter and gestetner machine. (google gestetner to understand the process).

Joan's literacy skills came very much to the fore in the preparation of the Echo magazine and later the Deanery newsletter. Joan's contribution to the magazine and newsletter always made interesting thought provoking and challenging reading. Joan together with Sr Joy Hanrahan, our parish pastoral worker at the time, were St John's representatives on the Deanery. Joan was never afraid to present her views which may not have always coincided with those of more conservative persuasions. Despite sometimes presenting what might have been regarded by some as radical views, she has been stoic in her faith. Joan's community work has revolved around Heidelcare where she was one of the original co-ordinators of this ecumenically based support organisation when it commenced twenty-five years ago. Heidelcare was the brainchild of the then St John's parish priest, Fr Bob Coghlan and is an interdenominational group and is still very active today. Joan was very much at home in that environment.

Paul commenced his involvement with parish life when requested by the then parish priest, Barry Whelan, to join Patrick Gill, Ray Shepherdson, Paul de Stefanis, Pat Jones, Gerry Lonergan and Peter Farley on the parish finance committee.

Those who remember these names will understand Paul was joining a highly thought of group of parishioners, such was the parish priest's regard of Paul. He only recently retired from that committee.

Paul managed the general running of the parish hall, including the letting and carrying out of many maintenance matters with his friend, Jim Kann for many years. Paul was in the presbytery nearly every Monday morning to attend to finance matters assisted by Alec Mason, Carl McCarthy in the past, and in more recent times by John Griffiths. Paul joined Joan on the committee of Heidelcare where he generously served the community until recently.

The contributions to parish and community life cannot adequately be conveyed in words as it was in actions that those who know, will remember them.

Joan and Paul have been wonderfully loyal and valued contributors to parish life at St John's.

A sincere "Thanks" from all at St John's.

*(Des O'Brien)*

### **Finance Committee**

A small group of dedicated parishioners meet regularly to assist the Parish Priest in financial and other matters of importance.

A yearly budget is set to ensure that the parish can meet its financial commitments. We thank this group for their continued good counsel.

***Thank also to members of all the other groups in our parish who make St Johns the loving, caring, giving parish it is.***

## **St John's Tennis Club**

In his report, the retiring President, Des O'Brien referred to the enormous contribution made by the retiring Secretary, Christine George during her 10 years with the Club. The Club had risen from being one of the smaller clubs in the Junior Association to now one of the larger ones with 80 juniors playing competition tennis on Saturday mornings. The Club is still seeking a replacement for Chris. In addition, the club has nearly 80 adults in competitions. Social tennis continues to attract many to the courts on Fridays and Sundays. Membership is strong and interest in tennis continues to grow at St John's.

Financial statements prepared by Treasurer Paul Rizza revealed the Club in a healthy financial position, with a bank balance at 30 June 2013 of \$38,000 and \$50,000 owing to the Parish on a loan for the refurbishment of the courts, down from the original loan of \$80,000. Since 30 June as a result of subscription income, the debt to the Parish has been reduced to \$40,000 and the bank balance is now \$53,000.

The President noted the support the Club receives from the Parish with the Club being unable to borrow, the Parish acts as banker. The Club continues to honour its obligations to the Parish making loan repayments as per the terms of the agreement.

Much discussion centered on the potential liability for injuries suffered playing on the courts. The tennis club is covered under the Parish's insurance policy. Every effort is made to minimize risk to those using the courts.

The Club has and continues to receive the support of the Parish Priests. A well attended Annual General Meeting indicated great support from its members.

Des O'Brien  
President

## **Hospital visitation**

This important ministry sees a very dedicated band of parishioners visit the Austin three times a week to bring the Eucharist to patients and pray with them.

They go about the task with humility, kindness and generosity of spirit and time week in week out.

Thanks to all.

## **Opportunity - Editor vacancy:**

We have a wonderful opportunity for a person who would like to be editor of the Echo for 2014. Whether it be two editions per year or four you can help decide.

If you feel you have some time to put towards putting St John's Echo magazine together we would love to hear from you. Guidance offered as required.

Use those talents you have been hiding - we need you! Phone Fr Mario 94571066.

## **Old photos wanted:**

Last edition of the Echo we asked for anyone who had old photos of past / or more recent parish events. We have plans for a book in the coming years and ask that you share these precious items for our history collection. We will take good care of them, copy them and return them to you. Please put them in an envelope with your name, address and phone number and leave them at the parish house. Preservation of our history is important for future generations.

## What Christmas means to me from Children at St John's Primary School:

### Prep

At Christmas, it is a special day because Jesus was born on that day. I celebrate Christmas. I love Christmas. (Sarah Bult)

Christmas is a special day because it is when it is Jesus birthday and you get to have a fun time because Santa comes to your house when you're asleep. ( Lucas Cahill)

Christmas is the day when we celebrate Jesus' birthday and that means that we put up decorations for him. (Maia Tarau)

Christmas is a time when we celebrate Jesus' birth and when we get presents from Santa. It is a time that you go to Mass and a time to remember God, Jesus and Mary. (Isabel Gee)



Gr 1/2 -

Christmas means celebrating Jesus' birthday and we have heaps of fun opening the presents. (Nicolas Franzi)

Christmas means gathering with everyone and having a joyful and happy time. (Lily Bartholomeusz)

Christmas means to me a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus and New Year. It's a time to celebrate with family and friends. We receive gifts from each other like Jesus received from the three wise men. MERRY CHRISTMAS! (Grace)

### Gr3/4

Christmas means to me sharing with others the joy of Christmas. It is also about waking upon Christmas Day and knowing that the day ahead will be full of sharing, giving and loving one another. (Polly)

Christmas means for me going to Nonna's house and seeing my relatives from Italy who I hardly see. Walking downstairs and saying "Happy Christmas"! And giving to others who are not as wealthy as we are here in Australia. (James)

Christmas is a time when families gather together to celebrate the life and birth of Jesus. We give each other gifts to represent the gifts that Jesus gave to us, for example the gift of life. Christmas is a time to be happy. (Millie)

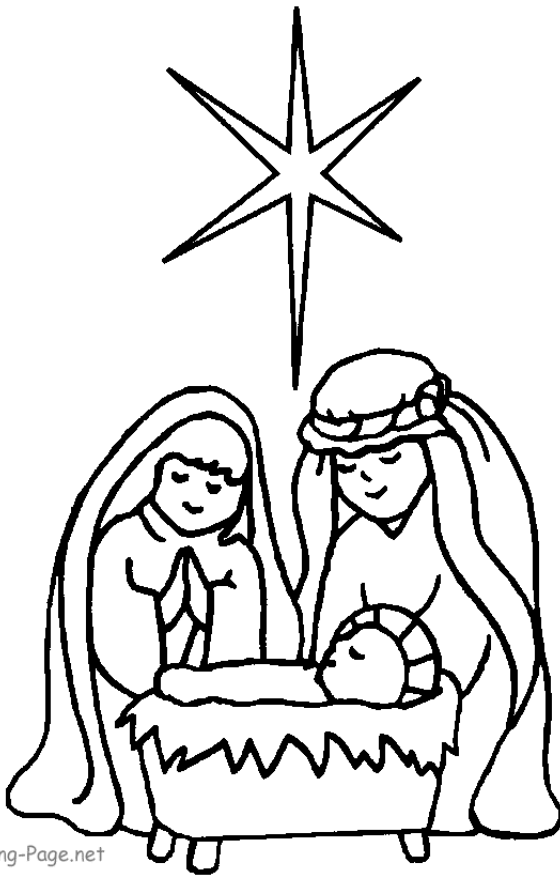
Christmas means giving. It feels like something is waiting for you. It makes you feel happy and excited because you give things to others and it makes them feel happy. That's what Christmas is all about. (Jessie)

### Gr 5/6

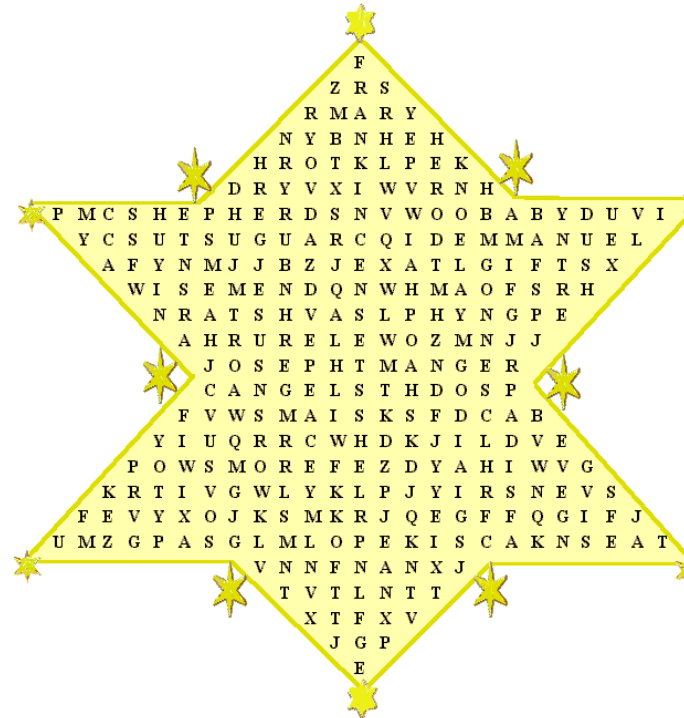
To me, Christmas means spending time with my family and the ones I love. To remind each other that we love each other and we are always there. It is also a time to reflect on the year to remember the good, the bad and things I want to improve on. I also find it a time to be with Jesus a full day to remember he is always there and that he loves us.

I love the warm feeling inside of me the whole day just to know people care. (Chelsea Edgar)

# His Birth



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- |              |        |           |         |
|--------------|--------|-----------|---------|
| Angels       | Gold   | Nativity  | Taxes   |
| Augustus     | Herod  | Noel      | Virgin  |
| Baby         | Inn    | Peace     | Wisemen |
| Bethlehem    | Jesus  | Promise   |         |
| Elisabeth    | Joseph | Savior    |         |
| Emmanuel     | Manger | Shepherds |         |
| Frankincense | Mary   | Star      |         |
| Gifts        | Myrrh  | Swaddling |         |

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## Quiz:

1. What Christmas carol is a favourite of parents?
2. What happened when Santa got a parking ticket on his sleigh?
3. Why does Santa have three gardens?
4. What do you get when you eat Christmas decorations?
5. What nationality is Santa Claus?

## Answers:

1. Silent night
2. He got Mistle-towed!
3. So he can go Hoe Hoe Hoe
4. Tinsilitis
5. North Polish



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## ST JOHN'S PARISH DIRECTORY

### **PRESBYTERY:**

**Ph: 9457.1066 Fax: 9459.7874**

**Email: Heidelberg@cam.org.au**

**Web: www.stjohnsheidelberg.catholicau.com**

**Parish Priest:** - Fr. Mario Zammit

**Pastoral Associate:** - Sr. Loreto Lynch

**Parish Secretaries:** - Lyn Ardley/Marilyn McCann

*(Parish Office is open Tues-Fri between 9am & 2.00pm)*

### **Parish, Primary School**

55 Cape St, Heidelberg. 3084

**School Principal:** Mr. Nick Marinelli

Ph: 9459.2963 Fax: 9459.0133

### **School Secretaries:**

Anne Marie Smith / Melanie Sharples

### **WEEKEND MASS TIMES**

Sat.: 6.00pm,

Sun.: 8.30am, 10.30am, 5.00pm

### **WEEKDAY MASS TIMES**

Mon. – Sat.: 9.15am.

### **RECONCILIATION**

Saturdays 9.40am & 5.30pm.

### **EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.**

Wednesday: 7.30pm – 9.00pm

Thursday: 9.40am – 11.00am

Friday: 8.00am – 9.00am

### **BAPTISMS**

Sundays at 11.30am. (Not the first Sunday)

By arrangement with the Parish Office. *Baptism preparation is in the Presbytery on the last Thursday of each month at 7.30pm.*

### **WEDDINGS**

By arrangement with the Parish Office

### **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**

**After Care** - Stacey - 9457.6573

**Altar Servers** - Fr Mario

**Altar Society** - Pauline Griffiths – 9459.7093

**Children's Liturgy of the Word** Sr Loreto 9457.1066

**Choir & Music** – Sr Loreto – 9457.1066

**Cycling Group** - Peter Symes – 9458.2332

**Echo Magazine** - Michelle Penson - 94572351

**Finance** – Des O'Brien

**Hall Hire** - Fran Gasior 0417 972 317

### **Heidelcare (Ecumenical)**

Rosemary Vecchies – 9459.0729

**Legion of Mary** -Tues. 7.30pm. New members welcome.

**Liturgy Committee** - Pat Heywood – 9459.1798

### **Parish After School Religion classes**

Sr Loreto 9457.1066

**Parish Council** – Michelle Penson (Chair) 94572351

**Partners in Community** - Sarah Riitano – 9457 3685

**Playgroup** - Javier -

**Readers' Roster** -Rosemary Vecchies – 9459.0729

**St Vincent de Paul** - John Griffiths – 9459.7093

### **School Education Board**

Michelle Robertson – 9457 3214

**School Maintenance Committee** Nick Marinelli – 9459.2963

**Sunday Counters** - John Griffiths – 9459.7093

**Sunday Morning Coffee** - Barbara Dabal – 9459.3990

**Tennis Club** - Des O'Brien – 9499.9056

**Thanksgiving Committee** - Xavier Csar – 9455.1706