

ECHO



The magazine of ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PARISH HEIDELBERG

OCTOBER 2016

Dear Parishioners, Visitors and Friends

My time away with in Malta, with my step-mother, sisters and all the family, together with sea, sun and food, was a very nice time indeed. I thank Fr Raj, Fr Ted, Mary, Carlene and all those who in many ways helped keep the wheels going in my absence.

Before I left for my holiday someone asked me where was home for me—without any hesitation I answered that this is home, and after a month away, I look forward to return to this Church community to continue on our pilgrimage of faith.

After three years in the planning, this year we have undertaken the job of renovating part of our parish house. Plans for this renovation, as had been shared with the community at the 2014 Community Meeting (AGM), include a meeting place for the various groups that operate in our parish, a smaller counseling room, more office space, and two small units where priests and visitors can live and have some privacy. As part of this project we were also obliged to deal with the electrical supply that provides electricity to the church, the parish house and the tennis club, and changed the structure of the front fence to make it easier to access the parish house yard. The main part of these works is being carried out in the part of the building constructed in 1965, and which had never been touched since then.

It is very unfortunate that each time we dream and plan new things, we also have to think of how to finance each project. As we all know it is much easier to build a new house, than to renovate an existing building, much more so when the building is an old one. These are a great part of the issues we had to consider as we planned these renovations. I thank Frank Viola, the architect, who has been very thorough in his work, and very patient in trying to take into consideration all the needs of the parish. Thank you also to the parish council and the finance committee for their support in this project.

It is hoped that this project be finished late December or early January. May I please ask you to continue to be generous in your financial contributions to the parish as we invest in the future needs of our parish community.

Thank you

Fr Mario

FAREWELL TO FR RAJ

Fr Raj joined our parish community last December with the aim of looking after the ministry in our hospitals. The Archbishop has now asked Fr Raj to join the parish of Box Hill and Box Hill North, with their work at the Epworth hospital. We thank Fr Raj for his ministry in our community and wish him well as he journeys with the people in this new parish.

POPE FRANCIS— THE CHURCH OF MERCY



“Situations can change; people can change. Be the first to seek to bring good. Do not grow accustomed to evil, but defeat it with good.”

“I think this is truly the most wonderful experience we can have: to belong to a people walking, journeying through history together with our Lord, who walks among us! We are not alone; we do not walk alone. We are part of the one flock of Christ that walks together.”

“St Paul says that “the love of Christ compels us, but this *compels us* can also be translated as *possess us*. And so it is: love attracts us and sends us; it draws us in and gives us to others.”

“Always know in your heart that God is by your side; he never abandons you! Let us never lose hope! Let us never allow it to



Parish family delight in Eileens visit to St Johns

ST JOHN'S PARISH 165TH CELEBRATIONS

Guest of honour Eileen Vaughan, who herself is over 100yrs old, came to help us celebrate the parish's 165th anniversary. Eileen is the author of the little green book "St John's on the Hill" our parish history published in 1982. Eileen spent countless dedicated hours in the early 80's writing the parish history from 1851—1982.

It is our duty to ensure that the more recent history from 1982 onwards to the present day is recorded for future generations and in recognition of our rich history.

Sunday 17th April 2016
Celebration Mass 10:30am
Followed by
Parish Picnic, BBQ 11:30am



Above—Eileen Vaughan cuts the 165th celebration cake.
 Below presented with flowers from the parish, by Maureen Hegarty



Eileen with her son and daughter



165TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS—2016



Long time Parishioners ... whose families have been in St John's Parish for generations!



Thank you to our two great cooks Rodney and Fabio



Eileen shares stories with younger generations— Sarah listens carefully

SOME BACKGROUND TO ... ST JOHN'S PARISH PRAYER

In 2010 the parish was involved in a Stewardship Program to thank parishioners for contributing to the life of the parish, financially and in other ways, and to encourage them to keep on contributing, or to consider contributing, as the case may be. We had asked Catholic Fundraising to assist us in our programme. Steve Kavanagh was the person appointed to assist us.

Steve asked me: "do you have a parish prayer?" I said that we did not. He asked if I would compose one. The parish prayer would be prayed at the beginning of each meeting we had as part of the Stewardship Program.

In the prayer I wanted to acknowledge the long history of the parish and the generosity of so many people in establishing the buildings we enjoy today. I also wanted to mention children, for we receive from children as well as give to them. Children contribute in their own way to the life of the parish. A relic of St Maria Goretti, who was only 12 when she died, is in the altar stone of our church. I wanted to suggest that we, the present generation at St John's, are responsible for respecting and caring for all the tangible gifts we have received by way of bricks and mortar, and the intangible gifts, such as faith and good example. I wanted to mention that St John, our parish and school patron saint, as an old man had one simple message which he repeated time and again: "Love one another." In that Spirit we strive to be welcoming to all who come to us in need.

Now we pray the Parish Prayer before each Mass at St John's.

Fr Ted Teal

We thank Fr Ted for writing our Parish Prayer which can be found at the top of the last page of this newsletter. The Parish Prayer is a wonderful prelude to the celebration of the Mass. It assists us in focusing as a parish family, to be thankful for all we have, and to drive us forward in our love of others and our community.

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

Please note in your diary:

2016 PARISH SEMINAR

Thursday 20th October, Thursday 27th October and Thursday 3rd November

Dr Joel Hodge (Senior Lecturer at the Australian Catholic University) speaks about

"What does it mean to believe in Jesus?"

The Incarnation, Death and Resurrection of Jesus

At the School Library from 7:30pm to 9:00pm Entrance Free!

**FAREWELL CELEBRATIONS FOR NICK MARINELLI—ST JOHN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
2003-2016**

Friday 18th November from 5:00pm onwards at the Parish Hall. All Welcome!

PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING –

THURSDAY 5 MAY 2016

PRESENTERS: Fr Mario Zammit, Maureen Hegarty (Parish Council Chairperson), Des O'Brien (Finance Committee Chairperson) and Frank Viola (Architect). Bernadette Nzenza (Meeting Minutes Recording)

Approximately thirty parishioners attended the meeting. Minutes of the meeting can be obtained from the parish secretary. (94571066 / heidelberg@cam.org.au)

The meeting focused on pastoral, financial, stewardship, building and maintenance.

Following are a few notes about what was shared.

PASTORAL

1) More Communion Ministers are needed. 2) The Year 5 scripture program in the primary school is going well. 3) The upcoming seminar in November/December led by Dr Joel Hodge. 4) A report about the Austin Hospital visits and Mass on the third Sunday of each month

PARISH HOUSE RENOVATION PROJECT –

FRANK VIOLA (ARCHITECT)

A builder has been appointed and has commenced the building project with the aim of adding a more modern meeting space and revamping of the back of the parish house to accommodate some meeting rooms for the different groups in the parish to meet in a warm and friendly setting..

The project is expected to be completed by end of December. (see picture below)



CHURCH RENOVATION PROJECTS –

FRANK VIOLA (ARCHITECT)

A walk around the church and inspection was completed. The last refurbishment being in 1992 (some 24 years ago).

There is much that we need to do to preserve our heritage (and yes it is not a cheap fix.)

To be able to pass our wonderful church onto future generations as good or better than we inherited it, in the next few years we need to address the following:

- The timber ceiling is drying out and requires varnish to maintain the health of the timber. Walls also need painting;
- There are cracks in the walls at the rear of church, and these could damage the rose window facing Cape Street;
- Fluoro tubes, fans and cross need to be updated to be aesthetically pleasing;
- The pews are very scratched and the joints are coming apart due to wear and tear;
- The kneelers and their covering is lifting where padding and underlay are worn out;
- Floor carpet panel joints are also beginning to show;
- The gutters are deteriorating;
- The handrails of the disabled ramp do not comply with current regulations and are difficult for disabled persons;
- Sandstone deteriorating – western wall is mostly affected, there are holes and patches gone missing. It still has life in it but needs urgent maintenance.
- The sandstone has painted in some parts; sandstone should not be painted as chemicals further deteriorate the stone. This will need to be fixed.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED AND TO ALL WHO PRESENTED AT THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING.



Parish Family shares a meal together



PARISH LUNCHEON JUNE 2016

It may be chilly in June but there was plenty of warmth, friendship and food shared together at the parish luncheon. Familiar faces and friends over many years as well as new friends that form our parish family joined together to have a very pleasant Sunday lunch in the parish hall. The roast was hot and tasty as were the salads.

The kids were served their meal first and then enjoyed a movie and fun in St Monica hall. Maria Bechelli was excited at winning the Tram Car restaurant voucher which was first prize. A total of \$3,375.00 was raised from the raffle and the luncheon for our missionary charities.



ST JOHN'S PARISH DIRECTORY

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.

Parish Office:

Ph: 9457 1066 Fax: 9459 7874

Email: heidelberg@cam.org.au

Web: www.cam.org.au/heidelberg

Parish Priest: - Fr Mario Zammit

Sacrament Coordinator: - Sr Loreto Lynch RSM

Parish Secretary: Mary Peeris

(Parish Office is open Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri from 9:30am to 2:30pm)

Parish Primary School

55 Cape St, Heidelberg 3084

School Principal: - Mr Nick Marinelli

Ph: 9459 2963 Fax: 9459 0133

School Secretaries:

Teresa Mattei / Melanie Sharples

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Sat: 6:00pm,

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

Mass at the Austin Hospital at 9:30am on the third Sunday of the month.

(On Christmas Day in December.)

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Mon to Sat: 9:15am

RECONCILIATION

Saturdays: 9:45am & 5:30pm.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.

Wednesday: 7:30pm – 9:00pm

Thursday: 9:45am – 11:00am

Friday: 8:00am – 9:00am

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

Baptism Information Evening:

Last Thursday of each month at 7:30pm in the parish house, except the months of December and January.

WEDDINGS

By appointment

Articles for the next Echo most welcome. Please email to the parish secretary or hand in at the parish office.

Altar Servers – Fr Mario – 9457 1066

Altar Society – Pauline Griffiths – 94597093

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 – 9457 2351

Finance Committee – Des O'Brien (Chair) – 9457 1066

Hall Hire – Fran Gasior 0417 972 317

Heidelcare (Ecumenical) –

Rosemary Vecchies – 9459 0729

Legion of Mary – Tues 7.30 pm. New members welcome.

Liturgy Committee – Ronnie Maloney – 9459 1798

OSH Club – Deanna Bellen – 0401 333 932

Parish After School Religion classes –

Sr Loreto 9457 1066

Parish Council - Maureen Hegarty -

kumonheidelberg@hotmail.com

Playgroup – Vanessa Javier & Bernadette Inman –

sjcplaygroup@gmail.com

Readers' Roster – Mary Peeris – 9457 1066

St John's Youth - stjohneyouth@hotmail.com

St Vincent de Paul – Sally Tramontana – 0419004405

School Education Board –

Adrian Daly & Kim Vespa 9459 2963

School Maintenance Committee –

Nick Marinelli – 9459 2963

Stewardship Committee – Xavier Csar – 9455 1706

Sunday Counters – Des O'Brien – 9499 9056

Sunday Morning Coffee – Barbara Dabal – 9459 3990

Tennis Club – Des O'Brien – 9499 9056