



ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PARISH
& PRIMARY SCHOOL

ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PARISH

52 Yarra Street
HEIDELBERG



We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which our parish stands, the Wurundjeri-Balluk clan of the Woi wurrung people in the Kulin Nation.
Central to the mission of St John's Parish is an unequivocal commitment to fostering the dignity and integrity of children and young people and providing them with a safe and supportive environment in which to flourish.

PARISH PRIEST Fr Vinh Nguyen
ASSISTANT PRIEST: Fr Tinku George
Punnakkattussery Lawrence (Fr Geo)

ST JOHN'S PARISH OFFICE:

52 Yarra Street Heidelberg 3084
Phone: 94571066 & 70643906
Email: heidelberg@cam.org.au
Website: www.melbcatholic.org/heidelberg

Facebook.com/stjohnheidelberg

PARISH SECRETARY: Mary Peeris

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE:

Elizabeth Williamson (0447195553)

SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE CHAIR:

Michelle Penson (0499 891 101)

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday to Friday
9:30am to 2:30pm

MASS TIMES:

Weekdays: Tuesday to Saturday:
9:15am

Weekend: Saturday Vigil 6pm
Sunday 8:30am, 10:30am & 5pm

ADORATION: After Friday morning
Mass with Benediction.

EXPOSITION

Wednesday 7.30pm

RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION):

Friday 9.45am -10.15am (during
Adoration)

Sat 9:45 am & 5:30pm.—5.50p.m.

WEDDING, BAPTISM, FIRST

RECONCILIATION,

FIRST COMMUNION, CONFIRMATION:

Parish Secretary (9457 1066)

ST JOHN'S HALL HIRE:

Contact parish office.

LEGION OF MARY: Meet every
Wednesdays at 10.30am at parish
house in the Francis Xavier Room.
All Welcome. Fatima Statue
Enquires, Contact Sue 0449260206

ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY

Ms Alison Dean Principal
55 Cape St Heidelberg 3084
Phone: 9459 2963

20TH / 21ST DECEMBER, FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT -YEAR A

JUBILEE PRAYER — PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Father in heaven, May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen



Dear Parishioners,

As we reach the final Sunday of Advent, we stand with Mary and Joseph in quiet hope, preparing our hearts to welcome the birth of Christ. These last days invite us to pause, to trust, and to make room for Emmanuel—God with us—who comes in humility and love.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you sincerely for your faith, generosity, and commitment to our parish throughout the year. Through your prayer, service, and support, you have helped our parish remain a place of worship, welcome, and care for one another. Every contribution, seen and unseen, has truly mattered.

As Christmas draws near, may this time of waiting deepen our faith and renew our joy. May the peace of Christ fill your hearts, your homes, and your families, especially those who carry heavy burdens or face this season with difficulty.

Thank you for being a vital part of our parish community. May the Lord bless you abundantly, and may the coming celebration of Christmas bring you hope, peace, and joy.

With gratitude and prayerful best wishes,

Fr Vinh Nguyen

Parish Priest

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME

ADVENT 2ND RITE OF RECONCILIATION : Tuesday 16th December 7.00 pm

CHRISTMAS EVE: Wednesday 24th December

Masses at 6:00pm, 9.00pm

Carols 5.30pm & 8:30pm

CHRISTMAS DAY: Thursday 25th December

Masses at 8:30am, 10:30am

NEW YEAR'S DAY: Thursday 1st January

Mass 10.00a.m.

Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God



ST JOHN'S PARISH MISSION

"Like St John, we are called to Evangelize and Serve, as a community of faith, hope and love journeying with Christ in this life and into eternal life."

CHILD SAFETY: St John's Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all our children, young people and vulnerable adults. Children are to be supervised by a parent/guardian at all times in the church and when leaving the church for any reason.

ENTRANCE: HOLY VIRGIN, BY GOD'S DECREE

Holy Virgin, By God's Decree,
You Were Called Eternally;
That He Could Give His Son To Our Race.
Mary, We Praise You, Hail, Full Of Grace.
Ave, Ave, Ave, Maria.

By Your Faith And Loving Accord,
As The Handmaid Of The Lord,
You Undertook God's Plan To Embrace.
Mary We Thank You, Hail, Full Of Grace.
Ave, Ave, Ave, Maria.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

CONFITEOR

I confess to almighty God and to you,
my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,
(*And, striking their breast, they say:*)

through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;

(*Then they continue:*)

therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints, and you,
my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 7:10-14

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said: 'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The word of the Lord.

All reply: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 23:1-6.

Response: Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.

It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm.

R./

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?

The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things.

R./

He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob.

R./

SECOND READING

Romans 1:1-7

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.

All reply: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;
his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-24

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All reply: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

*(At the words that follow, up to and including and
became man, all bow.)*

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin
Mary, and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and
glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come.
Amen

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Save us, Saviour of the world for by your Cross and
Resurrection you have set us free.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.

COMMUNION: MY HEART IS A STABLE

My heart is a stable, all lowly with animals.
My heart is a manger, all bedded with hay.
My heart is a wrapping, a mantle of swaddling bands.
My heart is a cradle where my Lord Jesus lay.

My heart kneels before him, my Jesus in a manger.
My heart pleads forgiveness for so mean a bed.
My heart offers incense and gold to this kingly child.
My heart lays these gifts at his feet and his head.

My heart is a stable he takes for his mansion.
My heart is a manger he takes for his throne.
My heart is a wrapping of thanks for his loveliness.
My heart is that cradle he takes for his home.

RECESSIONAL: HAIL MARY

Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women
and blest is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners now
and at the hour of death.
Amen.

Refrain

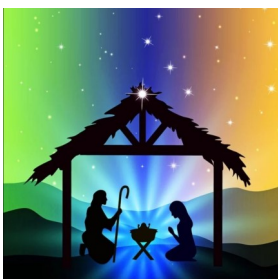
Gentle woman, quiet light,
morning star, so strong and bright,
gentle Mother, peaceful dove,
teach us wisdom; teach us love.

You were chosen by the Father;
you were chosen for the Son.
You were chosen from all women
and for woman, shining one.

Ref.

Blessed are you among women,
blest in turn all women, too.
Blessed they with peaceful spirits.
Blessed they with gentle hearts.

Ref.



*Wishing you and your family a Very Holy and Happy Christmas
and
New Year 2026*

Fr Vinh Nguyen - Parish Priest
Fr Geo - Assistant Priest

20/21 DEC	SAT 6PM	SUN 8:30AM	SUN 10:30AM	SUN 5PM
Reader 1	Adrian Daly	Mark Aiello	Margaret Andrews	Annaliza
Reader 2	Ammar Kazi	Wendy Hernandez	Kate Mathai	
Communion	Donna Richardson	Leo Hernandez	Brian McIntosh	Marni Mant
			Elizabeth Williamson	
Collectors	Paul & Zen Zebrowski	Colin & Mary Ingram	TBA	TBA
27/28 DEC	SAT 6PM	SUN 8:30AM	SUN 10:30AM	SUN 5PM
Reader 1	Sheila Serrao	Margherite Ryan	Peter Greenham	Leela Cherubim
Reader 2	Cassie Abeynaike	Robyn Laurie	Michelle Burns	-
Communion	Lorraine Mascarenhas	Chris Ratnayake	Leo Cosio	Sally Tramontana
			Charito Cosio	

MORNING TEA 21/12/2025: Kate & Marnie

COLLECTIONS FOR WEEK ENDED 14TH DECEMBER 2025

First Collection (It is taken up after Homily)			Second Collection (taken up after Prayers of Faithful)		
ST JOHN'S PRESBYTERY CHEQUE- BSB 083-347 A/c 659225267			ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH - BSB 083-347 A/c 658806318		
Envelopes	Loose Collection	Bank Direct	Envelopes	Loose Collection	Bank Direct
\$493.10	\$1,208.45	\$447.00	\$654.00	\$914.90	\$860.00

CHILDREN LED CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS: All children attending whether involved in a ministry or not, are invited to come dressed as Mary, Joseph, a king, shepherd or an angel for the family Mass.

All children actively involved in the ministry at the Christmas Eve Family Mass are requested to attend a practice in the church on Tuesday 23rd December at 10.30am and Wednesday 24th at 10.30am.

MORNING TEA: This Sunday 21st December following the 10.30am Mass, will be available in the Parish Hall. All are welcome.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL: THANK YOU for your generous donations to the Christmas appeal which totalled \$1800/-. We were able to visit 175 individuals and families with Christmas vouchers.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE: St John's Parish office will be closed to Monday, 12th January. For any urgent requests, please email: heidelberg@cam.org.au

THANK YOU: Parishioners for attending morning tea and the exhibition of some of the highlights of my husband, Kevin's life on the first anniversary last Sunday of his death. -Margaret Andrews

SACRAMENT APPLICATIONS FOR 2026

Applications for Sacrament Classes at St John's open on Tuesday December 2nd. The Sacrament Programme is for children residing in and worshipping at St John's but not attending the parish primary school. Children are required to be in Year 3 (or older) for First Reconciliation, Year 4 (or older) for First Eucharist and Year 6 (or older) for Confirmation If you would like to register your child, please contact the parish office 94571066.

Closing dates for enrolling your child in the programmes are as follows:

- **First Eucharist Friday, January 23rd 2026 . (Classes commence on February 1st)**
- **Confirmation Friday, April 24th 2026**
- **First Reconciliation (Confession) Friday August 7th 2026**
- **RCIC (Rite of Christian Initiation for Children) Wednesday, September 30th 2026**

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

THE SICK: Anne Fusca, Gabriel Aloise, Gianna Yee, Frank Gysberts, Sergio Furlan, Max, Gomez, Daisy Coote and Edward Reyes, James Bourke, Cherie Corke, Charmaine Hawke, Margaret Sinclair, Wendy Wales, Betty Matthews, Gail Pearson, Tony Dilabio, Liza Sutherland, Chris Barnett, Wendy Hankin, Carmel Finley, Romy Deveza, Matthew John, Ross Pace, Emma Williamson, Bill Barnes.

ANNIVERSARY: Antonio (Nino) Licciardello, Nera Knight.

Recently Deceased: Donald Murphy.

Please submit intentions for sick, recently deceased and anniversaries for the newsletter by Thursday morning latest. Thank you