



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 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 OFFICE HOURS:

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

PARISH SECRETARY: Mary Peeris

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE:

Elizabeth Williamson (0447195553)

SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE CHAIR:

Michelle Penson (0499 891 101)

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

14TH/15TH MARCH, FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR A

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.*

SYNOD CORNER



1. What is a Synod?

A Synod is a moment when the Church deliberately pauses to listen, pray, and discern together. It is not simply a meeting or a conference, but a spiritual process rooted in faith that the Holy Spirit continues to guide the Church today. In a Synod, we ask not only "What do we think?" but more importantly, "What is God asking of us at this moment in our mission?"

2. Where does the word "Synod" come from?

The word Synod comes from the Greek syn-hodos, meaning "walking together on the road." This reminds us that the Christian life is never meant to be lived alone. Faith is a shared journey, where we support one another, listen to one another, and discern together how best to follow Christ.

3. Synodality is not new

Synodality is not a modern invention. From the earliest days of the Church, Christians gathered to pray, listen, and discern together. In the Acts of the Apostles, the Church faced difficult questions and resolved them not through power struggles, but through prayer, dialogue, and trust in the Holy Spirit.

4. A Synod is not a parliament

The Church is not a democracy where truth is decided by majority vote. A Synod is not about winning arguments or pushing agendas. Instead, it is a spiritual process of listening deeply—to God, to Scripture, to tradition, and to one another—so that decisions are shaped by faith and mission, not ideology.

5. Why listening matters in the Church

Listening is not a sign of weakness. In the Christian tradition, listening is an act of humility and faith. We believe that God can speak through the experiences, joys, and struggles of His people. Synodality reminds us that listening is a form of love and a path to wisdom.

To be contd....

*Preparations for a Synod to be held in the Archdiocese of Melbourne in 2026 are now underway. In a letter to the faithful of Melbourne, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli invited the community to join the journey. **Please take of a copy of Archbishop's letter from our church Foyer, thank you.***

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: PRAISE THE LORD, MY SOUL

Praise the lord, my soul,
Let fire and rain give praise to Him,
Give praise to Him who is merciful, slow to judge;
Bless the lord, O my soul!

Bless the Lord, my soul,
Let all I am give praise to Him,
And not forget he is kind, He forgives our sins;
Bless the Lord, O my soul!

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

FIRST READING *1 Samuel 16:1. 6-7. 10-13*

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

The word of the Lord.

All reply: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 22.

Response: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit.

R./

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.

You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort.

R./

You have prepared a banquet for me
In the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.

R./

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever.

R./

SECOND READING

Ephesians 5:8-14

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said: Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

The word of the Lord.

All reply: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

John 9:1. 6-9. 13-17. 34-38

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

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

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we
proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed,
I saw and I believed in God.

COMMUNION: BREAD BROKEN, WINE SHARED

Refrain:

Bread broken, wine shared; Jesus, here,
Taking our lives, opening our hearts,
making us whole, setting our loving free.

Take all our dreams, all that we are, all we could
ever be. Lord of all life, we want to be Yours,
we take bread and eat.

Ref.

Open our minds, open our hearts, let love set us
free within. Lord of all life, we want to be Yours,
we pour wine and drink.

Ref.

Make us alive, filled with Your hope, living what's
really true. Lord of all life, we want to be Yours,
we know this is You.

Ref.

GIVE THANKS

Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ,
His Son
Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ,
His Son
And now let the weak say, "I am strong"
Let the poor say, "I am rich"
Because of what the Lord has done for us"
And now let the weak say, "I am strong"
Let the poor say, "I am rich"
Because of what the Lord has done for us"
Give thanks!

RECESSIONAL: AMAZING GRACE

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

T'was grace that taught my heart to fear.
And grace, my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Please use the link given below or the QR code to subscribe if you want to receive our weekly Newsletter through email. The weekly Newsletter is also available in our website.
<https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/subscription?id=0012w00000LOj5RAAT&req=subscribe>



14/15 MARCH	SAT 6PM	SUN 8:30AM	SUN 10:30AM	SUN 5PM
Reader 1	Peter Penson	Mark Aiello	<i>Children Led</i>	Mary Kotefski
Reader 2	Sheila Serrao	Robyn Laurie		-
Communion	Michelle Penson	Chris Ratnayake	Brian McIntosh	Olivia Musitano
			Mary Furlan	
Collectors	Paul & Zen Zebrowski	Colin & Mary Ingram	Leo & Charito Cosio	TBA
21/22 MARCH	SAT 6PM	SUN 8:30AM	SUN 10:30AM	SUN 5PM
Reader 1	Adrian Daly	Ophelia Le	Kate Mathai	Emily Andrews
Reader 2	Wendy Hernandez	Peter Le	Peter Greenham	-
Communion	Leo Hernandez	Marni Mant	Leo Cosio	Sally Tramontana
			Charito Cosio	

MORNING TEA 15/03/2026: Beba & Margaret

COLLECTIONS FOR WEEK ENDED 8TH MARCH 2026

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
\$256.85	\$891.85	\$427.00	\$345.75	\$493.10	\$1,746.00

MORNING PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: at 9.00am, Tuesdays to Saturdays.

MORNING TEA : This Sunday 15th March following the 10.30am Mass, will be available in the Parish Hall. All are welcome.

THE GOSPEL OF ST. JOHN: A UNIQUE VISION OF FAITH AND DISCIPLESHIP BY ASS PROF JOEL HODGE: The 3rd Session will be on Wednesday the 18th of March at 7pm in the church, All are welcome.

WORKING BEE SATURDAY 28TH MARCH FROM 11.00AM: If you have some time to help prepare the church and grounds for Easter, we would be most grateful. Please add your name to sheet in the porch.

EASTER ROSTER: SIGN- UP SHEETS FOR THE EASTER LITURGIES ARE IN THE MAIN FOYER OF THE CHURCH! PLEASE SIGN UP FOR ROLES IF YOU ARE HERE FOR EASTER !!

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: The next Parish Pastoral Council Meeting will be held on Thursday March 19th.

ST PATRICK'S DAY MASS AND PATRICK ORATION ON TUESDAY 17 MARCH : At St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne. The event will be a significant event in the life of the local Church of Melbourne, with the Oration introducing Light into the City, the Archbishop's vision for the renewal of the Cathedral and its surrounds – a once-in-a-generation opportunity to restore and reimagine this sacred precinct for future generations.

6.00pm: Mass for the Solemnity of St Patrick, **7.15pm:** Patrick Oration delivered by the Archbishop. All are warmly welcome.

 **PROJECT COMPASSION** Life was hard for Manaini and her children living in rural Fiji. With the support from Caritas Australia's partner, FRIEND, she learnt food processing and gardening skills, improving nutrition and creating new income opportunities to support her children's education. You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code Or online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate Or by calling: 1800 024 413. Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent*.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

THE SICK: Fr Michael Angel, Michael Foley, Anne Fusca, Tony Romanella, Glory Packianathan, Gabriel Aloise, Gianna Yee, Sergio Furlan, Max, Gomez, Daisy Coote, James Bourke, Cherie Corke, Charmaine Hawke, Margaret Sinclair, Wendy Wales, Betty Matthews, Gail Pearson, Liza Sutherland, Chris Barnett, Wendy Hankin, Carmel Finley, Romy Deveza, Matthew John, Ross Pace, Emma Williamson.

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