



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](http://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

## 6TH / 7TH DECEMBER, YEAR A -SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### 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*



### PREPARE YE!

Today's readings are like Chaucer's Canterbury Tales. The biblical authors sketch profiles of individuals after whom we can model our lives as we embark on our pilgrimage to eschatological fulfilment. Isaiah depicts the righteous messianic king; Paul provides us with a glimpse of Jesus, the one who ministers to all; and Matthew describes John the Baptist, the prophet who prepared for the Advent of Christ. The gifts Isaiah attributes to the messianic king are the same gifts that we receive with the anointing of the Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord. The image of the messianic king may have been fulfilled in Jesus, but it is also offered to us as a model after which we can pattern our lives.

Paul declares that Christ came for all. Just as the Canterbury tales describe pilgrims of all backgrounds and characters, so our companions on the pilgrimage come from diverse circumstances. Since the invitation was extended to all, we are expected to welcome all. Some of Chaucer's characters were quite unpleasant, but they were part of the group. Many of the people to whom Jesus ministered were quite unpleasant, but this did not deter him. His example is set before us today.

John the Baptist lived a life of radical self-denial, but he did not require this of others. He preached repentance or change of heart, not a rejection of the circumstances of life. He called for a return to righteousness, to relationships rooted in honesty and respect. He condemned presumption and arrogant reliance on one's religious origin, complacency and the shirking of responsibility, disinterest in the welfare of others.

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### SACRAMENT APPLICATIONS FOR 2026

Applications for Sacrament Classes at St John's open on Tuesday December 2<sup>nd</sup>. 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
- Confirmation Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup> 2026
- First Reconciliation (Confession) Friday August 7<sup>th</sup> 2026
- RCIC (Rite of Christian Initiation for Children) September 30th 2026

### 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: PREPARE YE, THE WAY OF THE LORD**

Prepare ye, the way of the Lord

Prepare ye, the way of the Lord (Thrice)

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

O people of Sion, behold,  
the Lord will come to save the nations,  
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard  
in the joy of your heart.

**FIRST READING** *Isaiah 11:1-10*

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked.

Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea. That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

The word of the Lord.

**All reply:** Thanks be to God.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** *Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17.*

**Response:** Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

O God, give your judgement to the king,  
to a king's son your justice,  
that he may judge your people in justice  
and your poor in right judgement.

R./

In his days justice shall flourish  
and peace till the moon fails.  
He shall rule from sea to sea,  
from the Great River to the earth's bounds.

R./

For he shall save the poor when they cry  
and the needy who are helpless.  
He will have pity on the weak  
and save the lives of the poor.

R./

May his name be blessed for ever  
and endure like the sun.

Every tribe shall be blessed in him,  
all nations bless his name.

R./

**SECOND READING**

*Romans 15:4-9*

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

The word of the Lord.

**All reply:** Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:  
all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

*Matthew 3:1-12*

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these

stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

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

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall  
yield its increase.

#### COMMUNION: O COME DIVINE MESSIAH

O come, divine Messiah!  
The world in silence waits the day  
When hope shall sing its triumph  
And sadness flee away.

#### Refrain:

Dear Savior, haste! Come, come to earth  
And show your face; Dispel the night  
and bid us hail the dawn of grace.  
O come, divine Messiah!  
The world in silence waits the day  
When hope shall sing its triumph  
And sadness flee away

O come, desired of nations,  
Whom priest and prophet long foretold,  
Come break the captive fetters,  
Redeem the long lost fold.

Ref:

O come in peace and meekness,  
And lowly will your cradle be;  
All clothed in human weakness  
Shall we your Godhead see.

Ref:

#### RECESSIONAL: ON EAGLE'S WING

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,  
who abide in His shadow for life,  
say to the Lord: "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"

#### Refrain

And He will raise you up on eagles' wings,  
bear you on the breath of dawn,  
make you to shine like the sun,  
and hold you in the palm of His hand.

The snare of the fowler will never capture you,  
and famine will bring you no fear:  
under His wings your refuge, His faithfulness your  
shield.

Ref:

| 6/7 DEC    | SAT 6PM              | SUN 8:30AM          | SUN 10:30AM      | SUN 5PM          |
|------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Reader 1   | Sheila Serrao        | Peter Penson        | Jacqueline Lewis | Leela Cherubim   |
| Reader 2   | Cassie Abeynaike     | Wendy Hernandez     | Kate Mathai      | -                |
| Communion  | Lorraine Mascarenhas | Leo Hernandez       | Vin Sier         | Sally Tramontana |
|            |                      |                     | Liz Sier         |                  |
| Collectors | Paul & Zen Zebrowski | Colin & Mary Ingram | Leo & Charito    | TBA              |
| 13/14 DEC  | SAT 6PM              | SUN 8:30AM          | SUN 10:30AM      | SUN 5PM          |
| Reader 1   | Peter Penson         | Ophelia Le          | Michelle Burns   | Mary Kotefski    |
| Reader 2   | Pamela Smith         | Peter Le            | Peter Greenham   | -                |
| Communion  | Domenica Ashworth    | Bobbie Bartkus      | Leo Cosio        | TBA              |
|            |                      |                     | Charito Cosio    |                  |

MORNING TEA 7/12/2025: Barbara & Tina

### COLLECTIONS FOR WEEK ENDED 23RD NOVEMBER 2025

| First Collection <i>(It is taken up after Homily)</i>  |                  |             | Second Collection <i>(taken up after Prayers of Faithful)</i> |                  |             |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| 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 |
| \$252.15                                               | \$1111.00        | \$465.00    | \$380.05                                                      | \$671.80         | \$731.00    |

**SOLEMNITY—OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION:** Monday 8th December, Mass 11.15am. Hour of Grace 12.00 noon to 1.00pm.

**MORNING TEA & SAUSAGE SIZZLE:** This Sunday 7th December following the 10.30am Mass, will be available in the Parish Hall. All are welcome.

**WORKING BEE:** Saturday December 13th at 10.30am – 12.30pm. If you have an hour or two to help prepare the church and grounds in preparation for Christmas, we would be most grateful. Equipment needed - gardening tools, brooms, buckets, leaf blowers, dusters, secateurs and anything else that you think may be useful. Please add your name to sheet in the porch.

**CHILDREN LED CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS:** The next Children Led Mass will be on Christmas Eve 24th December at 6pm. If your child/ren are available to take on a ministry at this mass (reader, collector, taking up the Offertory gifts, welcomer, server), please contact Elizabeth 0447195553 as soon as possible. All children attending whether involved in a ministry or not are invited to come dressed as Mary, Joseph, a king, shepherd or an angel.

### CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME

**MASS & ANOINTING OF THE SICK AND ELDERLY**  
*Tuesday 9th December 9.15am*

**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 VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS CARDS:** \$5 for a pack of 5 cards. These beautiful cards give us an opportunity to spread the real meaning of Christmas to our family and friends.

**EXHIBITION OF ASPECTS & ARTIFACTS OF THE LIFE OF KEVIN ANDREWS:** On Sunday 14th December (1st anniversary of Kevin's death), 9am-4pm in St John's hall. All are welcome to morning tea after the 10.30am Mass. Enquiries Margaret 0403 730 323.

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

**THE SICK:** Gabriel Aloise, Gianna Yee, Frank Gysberts, Sergio Furlan, Elvira Dessmann, 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:** Lina Bozelle, Caterina Chincarini.

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