



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

13TH / 14TH DECEMBER, THIRD 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



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



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION) BEFORE CHRISTMAS: the Second Rite of Reconciliation will be celebrated at our parish on Tuesday 16th December at 7:00pm. We gather to pray and prepare ourselves as a community and then have time for individual reconciliation.

WELCOME: Next Sunday the 21st of December at the 10.30am Mass, we welcome Jack Taylor into the Catholic Church through the Sacraments of Initiation.

175TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST JOHN'S PARISH HEIDELBERG GOSPEL WRITING PROJECT:

Thank you to those who have agreed to participate in this project. The gospel verse/s, lined paper and pen are now available to be collected from the parish office during office hours (Tues – Fri 9.30am – 2.30pm)

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE: St John's parish office will be closed from Friday, 19th December to Monday, 12th January. For any urgent requests, please email: heidelberg@cam.org.au

CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES: are available in the pews. Money contributed to the Christmas Offering supports our parish priest, sick and retired priests, priests in poorer parishes and the ministry of the archbishop. Thank you for your generosity. These envelopes can be placed in the weekly collection baskets.

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: COME O LONG EXPECTED JESUS

Come, O long expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the
wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth
flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the
splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the
glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling
knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not
be afraid.

'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.'
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears
of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a
deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for
those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting
joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

The word of the Lord.

All reply: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 145:6-10.

Response: Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free

R./

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan

R./

It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age.

R./

SECOND READING

James 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think
of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious
fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains
and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do
not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be
soon. Do not make complaints against one another,
brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement
yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at
the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting
with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the
name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

All reply: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing
and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one
who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone
else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what
you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame
walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the
dead are raised to life and the Good News is
proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who
does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk
to the people about John: 'What did you go out into
the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze?
No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing
fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are
to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for?
To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than
a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

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

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

COMMUNION: YOU ARE NEAR

Refrain

My God, I know you are near,
standing always at my side.
You guard me from the foe,
and you lead me in ways ever-lasting

Lord, you have searched my heart,
and you know when I sit and when I stand.
Your hand is upon me protecting me from death,
keeping me from harm. **Ref.**

Where can I run from your love?
If I climb to the heavens you are there;
if I fly to the sunrise or sail beyond the sea,
still I'd find you there. **Ref.**

You know my heart and its ways,
you who formed me before I was born
in the secret of darkness before I saw the sun
in my mother's womb. **Ref.**

Marvelous to me are your works;
how profound are your thoughts, my Lord.
Even if I could count them, they number as the stars,
you would still be there. **Ref.**

RECESSIONAL: NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD

Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices;
Who wondrous things hath done!
In whom his world rejoices.
Who from our mothers' arms,
Hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

O may this gracious God
through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us,
Preserve us in his grace,
And guide us in distress,
And free us from all sin,
Till heaven we possess.

13/14 DEC	SAT 6PM	SUN 8:30AM	SUN 10:30AM	SUN 5PM
Reader 1	Peter Penson	Ophelia Le	Michelle Burns	Leela Cherubim
Reader 2	Pamela Smith	Peter Le	Peter Greenham	-
Communion	Domenica Ashworth	Bobbie Bartkus	Leo Cosio	TBA
			Charito Cosio	
Collectors	Paul & Zen Zebrowski	Colin & Mary Ingram	TBA	TBA
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	

MORNING TEA 21/12/2025: Kate & Marnie

COLLECTIONS FOR WEEK ENDED 7TH DECEMBER 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
\$420.05	\$1007.95	\$508.00	\$824.05	\$489.65	\$2,017.00

THANK YOU: We thank our kind parishioners who were generous with their time and contribution in putting up the Crib in the Church and with the Working Bee. Your efforts are much appreciated.

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

EXHIBITION OF THE LIFE OF KEVIN ANDREWS: This Sunday 14th December (1st anniversary of Kevin's death), 9am-4pm in St John's hall. All are welcome. Enquiries Margaret 0403 730 323.

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.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS CARDS: \$5 for a pack of 5 cards.

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
- 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: Kevin Andrews, Keith Ashworth, Reynolds Fernandez and Agnes Fernandez, Rita Foote.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Audrey Lofts.

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