From the Principal

Dear parents,

Lenten Reflection

Loving God, your rich and abundant love is always there for us if we but look. Help us to open our minds and hearts so that your love may flow through us like a river. May this love help us to show love and compassion to all we meet. We ask this through Jesus, your Son. Amen

'FETE' ACCOMPLI

The 2016 Fete was certainly one that our whole community can clearly be proud. The many, many months of planning and hard work came to a wonderful fruition last Saturday. The day was filled with much laughter and joy, great fun and amazing community spirit.

Obviously, the fund raising element is an integral part of the Fete but the community building and social element of the fete was also tremendously important. It clearly brought parents and students together and created a beautiful sense of pride and belonging. If nothing else, the sheer joy of our children and the pride they expressed about their school and the Fete was worth the effort. It was a memorable event that clearly celebrated and showcased our incredible school.

I visited each classroom on Monday to personally thank the children for taking part so joyously and asked them to pass on my thanks to each of you. I also reassured them that my suit and I had recovered well from what seemed like an inordinate number of people who tried their hand at dunking me, which I have since been advised, was a record number of times!
When I conduct the school tours for prospective families I always highlight the sense of unity and community we are so proud of here at St John's. This year I've also encouraged and invited these parents to attend the school fete so that they can actually experience firsthand, the school's strong community spirit at an event such as the fete.

I know that thanks have also been expressed in this Newsletter but I also wish to highlight the many parents who went far and beyond what was expected.

The success of this year's fete is credited to many; however, it was our fete Leader, Fiona Aspromonte who was fundamentally behind its success. She has worked tirelessly from the moment the Fete first idea first formed some 18 months ago Thank you Fiona – the school community is indebted to you.

Even though the list of helpers and supporters is extensive I do wish to highlight the outstanding efforts of the following people for their tireless work over a long period of time.

Virginia & Peter Bourke, Angela De Cesars, Sarah Riitano, Maureen Hegarty, Raff & Robert Riccioni, Alex Barritt, Kelly Hall, Mel Meldrum, Hayley Laing , Janine Cincotta, Steve Devenish, Nicole Pellizzaro & Kylie and Michael Gazzola.

A huge thankyou also to ALL the other parents who contributed to the success of the Fete. Thank you to the many parents who coordinated their stalls, to those that volunteered their time on the day to help run stalls and worked hard to ensure things ran smoothly. Not only did the Fete Committee and PIC play an integral part in pulling this off, each and every one of you helped by your donations, buying wristbands, selling and buying raffle tickets (I had no luck) and by coming on the day to enjoy the entertainment and support the stalls, you supported the fete and helped us achieve, what I am certain, will be a fantastic result for the school and ultimately our children. Well done everyone!

The 'accountants' are still tallying the figures ensuring that everything is accounted for, but it is looking like it was a very successful fundraising event that will contribute funds towards improving the school environment and enhancing learning facilities and resources. I hope to provide the final figure in next week's newsletter.

Thank you all for your wonderful support. Parents, teachers, students and the broader local community all came together last Saturday.

FETE PHOTOGRAPHS WANTED
If you have Fete photographs that we could use for our school archives we will very grateful if you can email them to school at your earliest convenience on: office@sjheidelberg.catholic.edu.au

ENROLMENTS FOR SIBLINGS NOW OPEN
Enrolments for siblings who are starting school in 2017 are now open. Enrolment forms are available from the office. Please indicate to the Office staff that you require a sibling Enrolment Form when collecting your form.

It is imperative that Sibling Enrolment Forms be completed as soon as possible so that planning and determination of school structure for 2017 can take place.

A reminder that within the state of Victoria, your child must be five years of age by 30 April of the year they start school.
SCHOOL CLOSED – LABOUR DAY – 14th MARCH
A reminder that school is closed on Monday, 14th March for Labour Day, a public holiday.

SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY - MONDAY, 11th APRIL
The school will be closed on Monday, 11th April as we are setting the day aside to focus on a number of pressing Curriculum issues that we need to address. Please note therefore, that the first day of Term Two will be Tuesday, 12th April.

Yours sincerely

Nick Marinelli
Principal

FROM FETE LEADER - FIONA ASPOMONTE ...

I’d like to take this opportunity to say a massive thank you to everyone who came along to the Fete on Saturday and supported our school. It was a fantastic day and the success is entirely due to the commitment of our St John’s Community.

The support over the last 18 months has been humbling and the generosity of parents and the community overwhelming.

This has been the most amazing journey and one which I would happily do again. We had a lot of fun along the way and I can’t thank the dedicated fete committee enough, who worked tirelessly, turned up to every meeting and put in 100%. Everyone went well and truly beyond to make sure we made this fete the success for the children and St John’s; I can’t thank everyone enough.

To Mr Marinelli and Mrs Armiento, their support and dedication has been exceptional. Their genuine appreciation for what we are doing humbling. The amount of hours Mr Marinelli has put in to the set up, on the day and the pack up was well and truly beyond what is expected of any Principal. To Teresa and Mel in the front office, thank you so much for your understanding and support. To all the teachers who got dunked in our tank and helped out on stalls thank you.

To our amazing stall holders who gave 100% to making sure their stalls were amazing and gave up the opportunity to be a part of the Fete day, thank you so much. This day could not go ahead without your time, dedication and support.

To all the parents who came in and set up and packed up in that 37 degree heat, what a truly extraordinary effort!

To the kind families who donated food, money, alcohol, equipment, to help keep our expenses to a minimum, thank you.

I know there are a lot of parents who truly would have loved to have helped out, but due to family commitments, young siblings or sport clashes were unable.

There were so many times when children came up to me with pride in their voices as they talked to me about the stalls that their parents were working on and how it would be the best! Their enthusiasm was heart-warming. The excitement, when they saw their parents helping out, wrapping, sorting, preparing, cleaning, setting up, packing up, was beautiful.

The people you meet, the journey you go on and the pride your children have is unlike to any other experience you will get in life.

Thank you once again to all the families for showing your support and making the past 18 months such an amazing experience and such a wonderful fundraiser for our school and our children.
A Special Thank You

After much anticipation, the day of our 2016 Fete finally arrived on Saturday, March 5th and oh what a day and night it was! The weather was picture perfect with slight cloud coverage, sunny skies and a gentle breeze in the afternoon. I think will all agree that the St John’s school & community spirit is well and truly back to stay!

On behalf of the PIC Committee there are a number of acknowledgements of thanks I would like to make to some very special school parents (and one special aunty) who contributed so much.

Firstly, to our dedicated Fete leader, Fiona Aspromonte. Fiona has spearheaded this massive project for well over a year and has put in countless hours while running her own local business. Fiona, your cool headed manner, positive attitude and diplomatic demeanour helped shape this fete to become a reality. You did this all with a sense of humour and the ability to always have a laugh at the end of the day. A magnificent effort Fee, I hope you are now spending time with your family.

To Nick, our amazing Principal who supported our idea for a fete from day one. Nothing was ever too much trouble, even when he had 5 people asking him 10 things at once. Nick spent many early mornings, and late evenings helping to get our school in tip top shape for our fete, all the while running our school during a very busy Term One. Nick, it is very clear to see how much you care for our children. Their best interests are always top of your mind!

The following key people did the bulk of the groundwork for the our fete and put in 100’s of hours of work over many many months. So a massive thanks goes to Angela DeCesaris, Sarah Rittano (who left St Johns at the end of 2015), Kelly Hall, Steve Devenish, Maureen Hegarty, Janine Cincotta, Rob and Raff Riccioni, Peter Bourke, Hayley Laing, Mel Meldrum and our wonderful MC, Alex Barratt.

To our corporate sponsors who provided much needed financial support. Thank you to Snap Printing Heidelberg, Finalytics Financial, Miles Real Estate, Cannon Toyota, Dorevitch Pathology and Bendigo Bank. I urge you to support these local businesses.

To our St John’s families who have local businesses and generously donated food and drink for our fete. Thank you so much as this assisted with keeping our costs down. These items included meat, paella, wine, kegs of beer, chocolate goodies, small goods and fresh produce. I’m sorry if I have missed anyone.

To our local businesses who provided so many donation items for our monster raffle, barrow of cheer, silent auction, spinning wheel and lucky straws and balloons. I think you will agree there were some fabulous items which were won on the day. Please support these businesses in the future.

To those who helped in the days leading up to fete and for those who helped on Sunday and Monday to pack up. These were very hot and stressful days but the school spirit was there in spades, incredible job. I wish I could name you all by name but I would be here for days.

To our hard working stall coordinators, assistants and money collectors. What a fabulous job you did on the day! So many of you didn’t even get a lunch break or get to wander around a beautiful fete. I do hope you were able to enjoy yourselves with a refreshing drink or two in the evening!

Lastly, thanks to our gorgeous St John’s students and their dedicated teachers. The fete was for you, for your school and for our school community. No matter how much we have raised, the looks on the students’ faces throughout the day was simply priceless. Stay tuned for a tally to be announced soon!

Virginia Bourke
PIC President
**Palm Sunday Procession**

On Sunday Week, March 20th we celebrate Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week. The holiest week in the church's calendar.

On Friday week, March 18th the students will take part in a Palm Sunday Procession.

The procession will commence on the lower playground, continue up to the top playground through the tennis club car park onto Yarra Street.

*Each student will need a piece of palm/greenery for the procession. All welcome.*

**Class Masses Term 1**

When attending your child's class mass we ask that you sit beside your child within the class group. The class will be seated in the first two or three seats on both sides of the church. Ideally it would be best if you met the class at 9.00am outside the church prior to mass. All masses are at 9.15am.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thursday March 10th</th>
<th>Years 2N and 2T</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday March 15th</td>
<td>Years 1L and 1P</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday March 22nd</td>
<td>Prep C and Prep P</td>
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**St John's Parish Family Offertory Gift Roster (Preps)**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>6.00p.m</th>
<th>8.30a.m.</th>
<th>10.30a.m.</th>
<th>5.00p.m</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday March 12th/</td>
<td><strong>Fealy family</strong></td>
<td><strong>Devasia family</strong></td>
<td><strong>Hill family</strong></td>
<td><strong>O'Neil family</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday March 13th</td>
<td>(Harvey)</td>
<td>(Clare)</td>
<td>(Max)</td>
<td>(Eve)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday March 19th/</td>
<td><strong>Gorcynski family</strong></td>
<td><strong>Kairouz family</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday March 20th</td>
<td>(Katie)</td>
<td>(Isabel)</td>
<td></td>
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**Stations of the Cross  Good Friday March 25th 11.00a.m.**

I am seeking 13 families who would be willing to carry the cross from one station to the next at the parish Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. The Stations will take place in the parish and school grounds.

If your family would like to take an active part please complete the tear off slip below.

**PARISH STATIONS OF THE CROSS - GOOD FRIDAY, Friday March 25th 11.00am.**

The ___________________________ family would like to carry the cross from one station to another on Good Friday, March 25th.

Signed: ___________________________ Date: ___________

Eldest child's name and grade: ___________________________ Year ___________
Next Thursday (March 17th) sees the feast of St Patrick’s Day. Many Australians remember the Irish settlement and culture on St Patrick’s Day. The Irish were among the first Europeans to settle in Australia. They comprised a portion of the convict settlement population in the late 1700s. More than 300,000 other Irish settlers (not convicts) migrated to Australia between 1840 and 1914. Many Irish immigrants came to Australia to escape famine in their homeland. About 30 percent of Australians are believed to have some Irish ancestry today.

One way of preserving Irish traditions and customs in Australia is celebrating St Patrick’s Day each year. St Patrick is one of Ireland’s patron saints. He died on March 17th in or around the year 493. He worked as a missionary in Ireland.

Legend credits St. Patrick with teaching the Irish about the doctrine of the Holy Trinity by showing people the shamrock, a three-leaved plant, using it to illustrate the Christian teaching of three persons in one God. For this reason, shamrocks are a central symbol for St Patrick’s Day.

The children are invited to wear something green on their uniform next Thursday, March 17th to celebrate St Patrick’s Day.

Sport News - Steph Doutre, Sport & Physical Education

Inter school Sport
We are now up to round 6 of summer inter school sport! The term is flying by. Well done to all teams for showing such great improvements since the start of term. It was been wonderful to watch. This week we have an away game against St Anthony’s with Volleyball and bat tennis played at the school and cricket and both softball teams playing at Fairlea East and West Park. Good luck everyone!

Swimming
Last week, Daniel C, 4D and Alicia N, 5/6W competed in individual events at the Division swimming Championships held at Northcote. Both Alicia and Daniel finished in the top three and will compete this week at the Regional Swimming Championships! Good Luck Alicia and Daniel!

We also had our 11 year old girls, Emma B 5/6W, Lily B 5/6C, Polly M 5/6B and Alicia N 5/6W compete in the freestyle relay where the girls finished 4th in the division. They did a wonderful job but just missed out on making it through to the next round. A great effort by all. Well done to the St John’s swimming team.

As the weather continues to get hotter and hotter please don’t forget to bring a full drink bottle to physical education classes.

National Young Leaders Day - Connie Bandiera

What a thrill it was to be able to share an inspirational day with our 4 school captains at the National Young leaders day!

This event, proudly sponsored by the Halogen Foundation, is designed to equip, support and encourage our young leaders in developing authentic and purposeful leadership identities.

The overall message of the day was to ‘Master the Little’ in life, home, school and community. We met and listened to a number of inspiring young people who shared their stories and journeys and answered many thoughtful questions from the 4000+ audience.
Some of the quotes of the day for me…

“Life should be enjoyed not endured”
‘Significant difference is made by mastering the little things over time’
‘Setting goals gives you direction - something to focus on’
  Nathan ‘Dubsy’ Want

‘Do something that you really love’
‘Be proud of yourself and you can do anything’
  Dylan Parker

Believe in yourself and recognise the little things you’ve already done to help you achieve the bigger ones’
  Harry Baker

‘Dreams do not always come from a perfect place’
‘Ensure your dream is yours’
Surround yourself with people who can tell you - you CAN do it!’
  Kate Austin

‘Leaders need to follow as well as lead’
‘Effective leaders think and empathise with those they lead’
‘Finding a passion leads to a purpose’
View challenges as vehicles for moving forward’
Find a way to get around the ‘no’ and ask ‘’why’
  Panel - Paul McIntosh, Alan Duffy, Anita Lougran & Elliot Costello

As always, our 4 captains did themselves, their families and school proud with the way they interacted with each other, other students and presenters.
Thanks to Jett for this wonderful writing piece which so beautifully sums up the spirit of inclusion and belonging promoted through all of our KidsMatter initiatives….

A Day in the Life of a Crow by Jett

Dear Diary,

I was at St John’s School and it was Better Buddies Day.

It was lunch time, with the whole school having lunch together. All the kids were playing upstairs and downstairs. They were playing downball and the Sixes were playing with the Preps. The teachers were upstairs and downstairs, helping Preps find new friends.

When lunchtime was over, I was looking in windows and I saw kids playing games and mixed up grades.

In the afternoon, I was peeking through the back door of the hall and I saw every kid in the school dancing to the ‘Happy’ song and no-one was left out.

Dear Diary,
It was a magnificent day!

Blogging at St John’s

Our school blogs are up and running again this term. The blogs showcase many examples of the wonderful learning experiences the children have been involved in. A visit to the blog with your child can open dialogue about the learning they have been doing – it can provide a virtual window into the classroom!

*Parents may also access their child’s level term overview on the blog. This overview contains the intended learning focus for the term in the different subject areas.

The blogs can be accessed via the school website (under ‘News and Events’) or by copying the following URLs:

Year 1&2:  http://1and2sj.global2.vic.edu.au/
Year 3&4:  http://3and4sj.global2.vic.edu.au/
Year 5&6:  http://5and6sj.global2.vic.edu.au/
ICT:  http://ictstjohns.weebly.com/

A few reminders:

- When commenting on the blogs parents are asked to use their first name only so as not to identify their child.
- If your child has moved into a new level this year please use the “subscribe by email” box to subscribe to your child’s new level blog (you will receive an email every time there is a new post) You may wish to unsubscribe from your child’s 2015 level blog.
Blogging Information

What is a Blog?
Blogs are websites which are often referred to as online journals. New articles or ‘posts’ show up at the top of the page, so it’s easy to read what’s new.

Why Blog?
Our blogs are used to share the learning happening at St John’s and to connect with parents, other classrooms and the wider community. As blogging connects students with a wide audience, our blogs will provide an authentic purpose for writing. Blogging also provides the opportunity for students to use technology and learn about appropriate online behaviour in a supervised setting.

Blogging Guidelines:
Internet safety is of upmost important to us. The following guidelines have been established to ensure the safety of our students when blogging:
- Posts written by students are checked by a teacher before they are published on the blog.
- Students will only use their first name when posting or commenting on the blog.
- Posts will not include personal details about students such as addresses or family information.
- Students must have parental permission before their photo is published on the blog.
- All comments are to be positive and encouraging.
- Parents who leave comments are asked to use their first name only so as not to identify their child.
All comments are moderated (by a teacher) before being made public.

What’s on the blog?
Each level blog will differ in presentation; however all will have a home page with posts displayed in reverse chronological order. Pages (usually located at the top of the blog home page) contain extra information – e.g. blogging guidelines, homework, websites for children. Term overviews are also displayed here.

Comments
One of the most exciting elements of blogging is the interactivity provided by reader comments. We welcome and encourage parents and other family members to comment on the blogs. Parents are asked to avoid using their surname and may wish to identify themselves as, for example, “Jane – Sally’s mum”. Students, with parent consent, are able to comment from home on the level blogs using the proper commenting skills they have learnt in class. All comments are sent to the teachers via email for approval prior to appearing on the blog.

How to comment
Click on the title of the post you want to leave a comment on. Scroll down until you find the “Leave a Reply” box. Enter your name, anti-spam word, comment and press “Submit Comment”.

Subscribe
Subscribing to one of our level blogs enables you to be alerted whenever there is anything new posted on that blog. To subscribe, simply enter your email address in the “subscribe by email” box located on the side of the blog. An email will be sent each time something new is posted on that blog. Click on the link in your email to visit the blog and leave a comment.

If you require any further information please speak to your child’s classroom teacher or email cw Walsh@sjheidelberg.catholic.edu.au or tjames@sjheidelberg.catholic.edu.au
Year 5 & 6 Camp Fees Update..............
Total Camp Levy for 2016 is $275.00 due by 15 April, 2016
Payment options: Mastercard, Visa, Cash, Cheque (payable to St John’s School) or Direct Banking (see below);
BSB: 083 347
Account Number: 657597374
Account Name: St John’s General Account
Please provide family surname as a reference if you choose to pay through Direct Banking.

We NEED you. Can you HELP?

Parent representative required for 5/6W.
Please contact the school office if you are able to help.

STUDENT AWARDS
Sibella M 1P, Jaidyn M 1P, Noah H 2N, Anny L 2N, Nari F 3F, Sarah B 3F,
Charlotte P 3V, Angus G 3V, Daniel C 4D, Dante C 4S, Natalia C 4S,
Chelsea C 5/6C, Alec I 5/6C, Claudia C 5/6W, Alexander C 5/6W, Yasmin V 5/6W

BIRTHDAYS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 10</td>
<td>Ben F</td>
<td>2T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 12</td>
<td>Luca A</td>
<td>5/6C</td>
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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>March 14</td>
<td>Labour Day School Closed</td>
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Father Mario’s Sermon

06 March 2016 (4th Sunday of Lent, Year C)
All I have is yours!

The parable proclaimed in today’s gospel speaks of the loving mercy of the father (God) towards his two sons, both of whom are in some way alienated from him. Luke tells us that this parable (together with the parable of the lost sheep and the lost coin) is addressed to Pharisees and scribes who saw themselves as the holy ones, condemning tax collectors and sinners. May I suggest that in our journey of faith, we are often both the younger and the older sons, and we both need to accept the Father’s mercy towards

The narrative detail of the first part of the parable makes for a very profound reflection. The younger son claims his share of his father’s property and deserts home to live off this newly acquired wealth. As if going against the fourth commandment and disrespecting his father was not bad enough, the son hires himself on a pig farm and would have loved to share the food the pigs were eating! Within a Jewish context this is the worst level one can debase himself to: Jews are prohibited to consume pork as it is considered to be an unclean animal.

When the younger son finally comes to his senses and decides to return to his father, we learn that the father had been anxiously waiting for his son’s return; recognising him from a distance. The returned son is not only welcomed home but is fully reinstated, given a new robe, a ring and sandals; he is once again recognised as a son with full rights. The obligatory banquet celebration is held (as in the case of the lost sheep and lost coin) to indicate the level of rejoicing in heaven at the return of one single sinner. At this banquet the prized calf, which had been specially fattened for such a special occasion, is also killed, demonstrating the extent to which the father is prepared to go to express his merciful love towards the son.

Even though the return of the younger son is the cause of great cause of celebration, yet the climax of the gospel story is actually the next part: the relationship of the older son towards his father. The older son has never left home and has always been obedient to his father, yet one wonders what the relationship with his father was like. He feels that he had been like a slave to his father – not a son or even a paid servant; he harboured anger towards his younger brother, who he now disowns as being ‘this son of yours;’ and he cannot allow himself to participate in his father’s joy. Still, the father leaves the celebration and comes out to plead with his older son to join in the celebration. We do not know the outcome of this meeting as we are invited to work it out for ourselves.

It is easy for us to see ourselves as the younger son, seeking the Father’s forgiveness in the sacrament of Reconciliation and accepting his merciful love, but more often we may actually be like the older son. We try hard to behave like good sons and daughters, but what is actually the basis of our relationship with this merciful father? Is my faithful obedience based on a fear of what might happen if I disobey or is it based on a loving faith filled response to God’s invitation to journey with him?

Pope Francis has often reminded us that he would prefer to see a Church that is battered because it has been struggling to grow in its relationship with God, than a Church that is all clean and tidy because it is ruled by fear. What is my image of God? Is it that of a policeman, hiding behind the bushes, ready to catch me out each time I transgress? Or is it that of a loving merciful God waiting for me to come to my senses and return to his loving embrace? Perhaps, more importantly, am I prepared to share in the Father’s rejoicing each time one of my sisters and brothers returns to the fold, or do I feel jealous because I am afraid that they will take from what I feel is rightfully mine?

Pope Francis invites us to be merciful like the Father. The invitation during this Holy Year of Mercy is to determine, in our own life, the conclusion to this parable. Is the older son happy to participate in the joy of the Father at the return of his sisters and brothers?

Fr Mario
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.

Parish office:
52 Yarra Street Heidelberg 3084
t: 9457 1066; f: 9459 7874
e: heidelberg@cam.org.au
w: www.cam.org.au/heidelberg
facebook: stjohnheidelberg
Parish Priest: Fr Mario Zammit
Assistant Priest:
Fr Arockiaraj Vijgulum (Raj)
Sacrament Coordinator:
Sr Loreto Lynch RSM
Parish Secretary: Mary Pearis
Office Hours:
9:30am-2:30pm, Mon-Tue, Thu-Fri
Parish Pastoral Council: Maureen Hegarty
Parish Primary School:
55 Cape St Heidelberg 3084
t: 9459 2963; f: 9459 0133
e: office@stjheidelberg.catholic.edu.au
Principal: Nick Marinelli
Hall Hire: Fra n mob: 0417973317
10:00am-5:00pm (Mon-Fri only)

Weekend Mass times:
Saturday: 6:00pm
Sunday: 8:30am, 10:30am, 5:00pm
Austin Hospital Mass:
3rd Sunday of the Month at 9:30am.
Weekday Mass: 9:15am
Reparation Hospital Mass:
Tuesday only at 12noon
Rosary: Monday to Saturday after Mass.
Praying the Gospels: Every second and fourth Monday of the month at 7:30pm, in the parish house.
Legion of Mary: Tuesday night at 7:30pm in the parish house. Info: Sue 9459 8604
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:
Wednesday: 7:30pm - 9:00pm;
Thursday: 9:40am - 11:00am,
Friday: 8:00am - 9:00am
Reconciliation:
Saturday at 9:45am & 5:30pm or by appointment.
Baptism: On Sundays at 11:45am, by appointment.
Baptism Information Evening:
Last Thursday of each month at 7:30pm in the parish house, except Dec and Jan.
Weddings: By appointment.
Parish Pilgrim statue of Mary: In order to have the statue of Mary in your home for one week please contact Marj McBroom 9440 8885.
If a priest is urgently needed and none is available at St John’s, please contact Fr Wayne Edwards at West Heidelberg parish on 9457 5794.

05th / 06th March 2016 - 4th Sunday in Lent Yr C

Dear Parishioners, Visitors and Friends

In the gospel this week we are invited to read and reflect on the beautiful parable often referred to as ‘The Prodigal Son.’ The parable speaks about two sons and their relationship with the father and with each other.

In this parable Jesus speaks about God’s mercy shown towards the two sons. In the case of the younger son the father not only waits anxiously for his return, but also welcomes him home and fully reinstates him in his position as a son. This fully reflects the way God deals with each one of us each time we fail and abandon our faithfulness to the Father.

Towards the end of the parable we are invited to reflect on the older brother, who never physically left his father’s house, and yet feels estranged by the father because of the way his returned younger brother had been welcomed. Once again the father goes out to plead with the son inviting him to accept his brother.

In this year of mercy we need to consider both these aspects: God the Father always mercifully welcomes us each time we return, but he also expects us to show mercy with our sisters and brothers who return to our community. By our welcome and mercy we reflect the love and mercy of the Father and help our sisters and brothers to accept the Father’s invitation to return to our family of faith.

Fr Mario

A Providential Time

Lent comes to us as a providential time to change course, to recover the ability to react to the reality of evil which always challenges us. Lent is to be lived as a time of conversion, as a time of renewal for individuals and communities, by drawing close to God and by trustfully adhering to the Gospel.

In this way, it also allows us to look with new eyes at our brothers and sisters and their needs. That is why Lent is a favourable time to convert the love of God and neighbour; a love that knows how to make its own the Lord’s attitude of gratuitousness and mercy – who “became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich” (cf.2 Cor 8:9)

Pope Francis, General Audience, March 5, 2014

Reflection: In what ways can you look “with new eyes” at your brothers and sisters and their needs?

Please Remember in your prayers

The Sick: Maree Doherty, Young Ok Dowling, Karmnu Galea, David Kemp, Elizabeth Larkin, M J McCann, Josephine Sheahan, Francesco Valsorda, Patricia Wong.
Anniversaries: John Gilbert Ward, Simone Pertile, Carmelo, Franco Siclari, James and Catherine Tyrrell.
Recently Deceased: Bruno Rigoni.

Please submit any items for the newsletter, including sick, recently deceased and anniversaries, by Thursday morning latest. Thank you.
**Collection Weekly Average for January**

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<tr>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>Stewardship</th>
<th>Presbytery</th>
<th>Stewardship</th>
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<td>$3239.30</td>
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<td>$488.60</td>
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<tr>
<th>Heideclerc Co-Ordinator</th>
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<td>April 2016: Joan</td>
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<td>9459 3889</td>
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**Thank you for supporting St John’s financially. Please advise if your credit card is lost/stolen or the expiry date has changed.**

**MORNING TEA:** available in the parish hall after 10:30am Mass this Sunday 6th March. Please join us!

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT:** Fridays 7.30pm

**LECTIO DIVINA DURING LENT:** Mondays 7.30pm at the Parish house.

**HOURS OF GRACE:** conducted by Jesus Youth Australia over a period of three months in 38 parishes across Australia between Ash Wednesday and Pentecost Sunday. We are having 24 hours adoration from 9th March at 9:15am to 10th March at 9:00am. If you would like to participate please put your name down on the list provided.

**Holy Thursday - Washing of the feet:** Part of the Holy Thursday celebration includes the washing of the feet of twelve people. If you would like to participate in this celebration please put down your name on the sheet provided or speak to Fr Mario.

Palm Sunday: On Palm Sunday parishioners are invited to bring with them palm and olive branches or any other suitable greenery. These will be blessed before the Mass as we celebrate the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. It would be greatly appreciated if you could bring some extra pieces for parishioners who do not have access to suitable greenery.

**CELEBRATING THE 165TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR PARISH:** Parishioners and businesses are invited to sponsor pages in our special anniversary publication. Sponsorships by businesses cost $250 and sponsorships by parishioners cost $100. For details please contact the parish office on 9457 1066 or heidelberg@cam.org.au

**CHOCOLATE EASTER LAMBS:** are available for sale at $8. Please book your lamb at the parish office on 9457 1066 or heidelberg@cam.org.au

**FREE COUNSELLING:** available at the St John’s parish house by arrangement. Contact Julie Jensen, a registered counsellor, on 0411 241005.

**HOLY WEEK AND EASTER CELEBRATIONS**

**Palm Sunday:** Saturday 19 March, 6:00pm Blessing of the palms in front of parish house garages followed by procession and Mass; Sunday 20 March, 8:30am Mass; 10:30am Blessing of the palms in front of parish house garages followed by procession and Mass; 5:00pm Mass.

**Holy Thursday 24 March, 7:30pm:** Mass of the Lord’s Supper and Washing of the Feet followed by Adoration. Evening Prayer at 10:00pm. Adoration continues after Evening Prayer.

**Good Friday 25 March, 11:00am:** Stations of the Cross in the church and school grounds; 3:00pm: Solemn Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion at the OLMC Gym.

**Holy Saturday 26 March, 9:00am:** Morning Prayer; 8:00pm: Easter Vigil.

**Easter Sunday 27 March, Masses at 8:30am and 10:30am.**

**PLEASE NOTE:** No evening Mass on Easter Sunday.

**St John’s School Fete:** Thank you to all who have been involved in the organising and running of this year’s fete.

**An Evening With Francis Sullivan:** CEO of the Truth, Justice and Healing Council, hosted by the Yarra Deanery, on Wednesday 9th March from 7:30pm to 9:00pm at OLMC Mercedes Hogan Theatre - Yarra St, Heidelberg (parking available on the courts the rear of the building). Francis Sullivan will be addressing and answering questions about the Royal Commission into child abuse by members of the Catholic Church in Australia. Entrance free. All welcome to attend.

**Parish Newsletter by email:** our newsletter is now also being sent out by email. If you would like to be included in our mailing list please contact the parish office or email heidelberg@cam.org.au
Floating Inflatable Fun
Ivanhoe Aquatic & Fitness Centre
Monday to Friday
(except Wednesdays)
1-3pm

Learn to Swim Intensives
intensives
Tuesday 28/3—Friday 1/4 - $52.40
Monday 4/4—Friday 8/4 - $65.50
Or
do all 9 days for $106.10 (10% discount)
Includes pool entry
Bookings essential on 9490 7111

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<thead>
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<th>Monday 28/3/15</th>
<th>Tuesday 29/3/15</th>
<th>Wednesday 30/1/16</th>
<th>Thursday 31/3/16</th>
<th>Friday 1/4/15</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CLOSED</strong></td>
<td><strong>9:30-11:30</strong></td>
<td><strong>9:30-11:30</strong></td>
<td><strong>9:30-11:30</strong></td>
<td><strong>9:30-12:30 ($25)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Easter Monday</strong></td>
<td><strong>CLOSED</strong></td>
<td><strong>Stunt, jump tumble</strong></td>
<td><strong>Wood magic</strong></td>
<td><strong>Karate</strong></td>
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<td>Learn to do 'basic stunts, tumbling, jumps and motions' like competitive cheerleaders in the movie “bring it on”. Great for strength &amp; coordination</td>
<td>Trace, cut and sand wood pieces to make something you can take home</td>
<td>be introduced to the fundamentals of Karate while learning simple, self defence behaviours.</td>
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<td><strong>Monday 4/4/15</strong></td>
<td><strong>9:30-11:30</strong></td>
<td><strong>9:30-11:30</strong></td>
<td><strong>9:30-11:30</strong></td>
<td><strong>CLOSED</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Circus fun</strong></td>
<td><strong>Boot camp</strong></td>
<td><strong>Cooking</strong></td>
<td><strong>CLOSED</strong></td>
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<td>experience fun lessons in tumbling, acrobatics, juggling, spinning plates, hula hooping and more</td>
<td>Come along in old clothes and crawl commando style, go on missions and test your skills and ability on obstacle course</td>
<td>Easy, quick and inexpensive cooking activities the kids can try at home</td>
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