ASH WEDNESDAY - LENT BEGINS TODAY
Today is Ash Wednesday, and it marks the beginning of Lent. It is a special time for sharpening our spiritual focus. Its name comes from an ancient rite in which those who start their Lenten practice are signed with ashes on their foreheads. These ashes come from the burnt palm branches of last year’s Palm Sunday celebration. The marking of ashes on our foreheads is a sign to remind us to live the way Jesus wants.

During the holy season of Lent, God offers us a very special opportunity to grow in our relationship with God and with one another. In the “busy-ness” of our everyday life, these 40 days give us a chance to pray more deeply, experience repentance for the good we have failed to do and to be generous to those in need. Lent ends after 40 days with Easter.

I ask you to reflect during this season of Lent as a time when we think about changing ourselves to be better in our lives and a time of thinking of others.

PASTORAL VISIT BY BISHOP MARK EDWARDS
We are all thrilled to have our Regional Bishop, Bishop Mark Edwards visiting our Parish over the next four days. Unfortunately, he is now unable to co-celebrate our Beginning of the School Year Mass tomorrow night, but will still be visiting the staff for morning tea on Friday as well as meeting all the children.

Bishop Mark Edwards will also be co-celebrating all Parish masses this weekend.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the Bishop on behalf of our community.

RIDE WRISTBANDS - SAVE $10 ...
by purchasing a wristband prior to the Fete!

The wristband gives you UNLIMITED access to a wide range of rides and activities and you will certainly get great value from the wristband especially by choosing to buy the wristband prior to the Fete.

You can visit www.stjohnsfete.weebly.com to view the rides.

You can purchase a wristband in 3 easy steps:

Step 1: Go to our booking website at www.trybooking.com/172290
To order your wristbands (Visa, Mastercard and Amex are all accepted)

Step 2: Print a copy of your St John’s Fete wristband payment receipt and keep it somewhere safe until Fete Day - Saturday March 5

Step 3: Bring this receipt along to the Ticketbox at the School Fete and exchange it for your ‘unlimited access’ Fete wristband
SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY - TUESDAY, 16th FEBRUARY
A reminder again that the school will be closed next Tuesday, 16th February.

Jeni Wilson will be our facilitator for the day and she will be focusing on developing a common understanding regarding the establishment of the foundations for student led conferences.

An integral part of the day will also be linking Learning Intentions and success criteria with feedback and goal-setting with children.

CONDOLENCES
Our deepest sympathy and heartfelt condolences are extended to the Daly family on the recent death of Emma's father, Noel, father-in-law of Adrian, and grandfather of Alexandra (Year 4) and Liam (Year 1). We pray that God’s love will comfort them at this time. Please keep them in your prayers.

PARENT REPS WANTED FOR 1P, 3F and 5/6W
Thank you for those parents who have volunteered to undertake a Parent Rep position for 2016. It is greatly appreciated. Unfortunately, we still require parent reps for 1P, Ms Polichovski's class, 3F, Miss Ferron and Mrs Kettle's class and 5/6W, Miss Williamson and Mrs Jones' class.

If you are interested in becoming the class representative for your child’s class please email the school office with a subject heading Class Representative 2016 by Monday, 15th February. office@sjheidelberg.catholic.edu.au

We are hoping that we could get 2 to 3 representatives per class.

ST JOHNS ADVISORY COUNCIL ELECTIONS - NOMINATIONS EXTENDED TO MONDAY, 15th February
Unfortunately, we still require nominations for the School Advisory Council.

The Council acts in an advisory capacity in a range of matters relating to education and operation of the school. It supports and provides an opportunity for Father Mario and myself to seek support and share information in the formation and development of school policy.

This is a great opportunity to be involved in school life and assist in developing and advising in future directions of your school.

Amended Timetable for the Election Process:
A) Self Nominations Close: 4 pm Monday, 15th February.

Email a completed nomination form following the format indicated below to: principal@sjheidelberg.catholic.edu.au

Subject Heading: School Advisory Council Nomination* (all nominations will be acknowledged by email)

Format for Nomination:

Name: __________________________
Name of your child/ren: __________________________
Grade/Year Level your child/ren are/is in: __________________________

Introduce yourself and why you would like to be a member of the School Advisory Council. e.g What strengths/skills and other relevant experience you may bring to the Council (Limit of 130 words – please note that your nomination will be published in the Newsletter)
* Newly elected members should be available to attend the first Council meeting on the 25th February.

B) School Community notified of Nominees: Wednesday, 17th February – voting commences.

NB: Elections shall only be carried out if there are more than the required nominations.

C) Elections Close: 4pm, Monday, 22nd February. (Father Mario shall appoint the Returning Officer.) Newly elected members will be contacted by the Principal, Nick Marinelli

D) Community informed of new Council members in the Newsletter on Wednesday, 24th February.

E) Elected members attend first School Advisory Council Meeting on Wednesday evening, 24th February.

Yours sincerely

Nick Marinelli
Principal

BEGINNING OF THE 2016 SCHOOL YEAR MASS

THURSDAY, 11th February, 2016

7pm

(Bottom Schoolyard)

Mass will also include the induction of the School Leaders and Commissioning of School Staff

There will be limited seating so I encourage you to bring a chair if possible.
Church Season of Lent

Today, Ash Wednesday sees the beginning of the church season of Lent. Lent is a forty-day season of preparation for the celebration of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday. On Ash Wednesday, we are marked on the forehead with ashes in the sign of the cross. This receiving of ashes is a visible sign of our intent to follow Jesus more earnestly during this season. Saint Leo the Great reminded the church:

“What Christians should be doing at all times should be done during Lent with greater care”.

How to Find Time in the Day for Lent!!!

The fast pace of your life may seem to leave little time and energy for the traditional Lenten practices. But you can weave moments of spiritual awareness and service into even the busiest of schedules. The trick is to see Lenten practice as part of, rather than in addition to, each activity of your ordinary hectic day.

The three foundational practices of Lent are prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. This week let's think about prayer in a new way.

Praying Daily

If we make a habit of saying a little prayer whenever someone irritates you, cuts you off in traffic, or makes life difficult; when someone does you a favour, you experience friendly service, or when something joyful happens to you—you will soon find yourself praying your way through the day. Try this simple practice and you will be observing the Catholic Church's call for greater prayer during the Lenten season. You may also find that this habit makes your life flow smoother, yourself more centred, and your Spirit more aware of God’s presence.

Suggestions for praying with your children during Lent

- Say Grace before a meal as a family.
- Pray with your child when you put them to bed.
- Visit the church with your child on the way to or from school.

Burning of greenery for Ash Wednesday

On Monday the students took part in a ceremony of the Burning of Palms. Father Mario led us in this ceremony where the blessed palms and greenery from last year's Palm Sunday were burnt. The ashes produced were used at today's Ash Wednesday prayer in each class. Thank you to those families who sent their blessed palms/greenery from last year to be burnt.

Sacramental Dates for 2016

Confirmation Grade 6 - Sunday November 6th 2.30p.m. St Patrick's Cathedral
Eucharist Grade 4 - Saturday July 16th 11.00a.m. OLMC
Reconciliation Grade 3 - Thursday August 4th 7.00p.m. Year 3F
Thursday August 11th 7.00p.m. Year 3V

Pastoral visit by Bishop Mark Edwards

Our regional bishop, Bishop Mark Edwards will visit the school this Friday and talking to the children. If you would like to join us at any of the sessions below you would be most welcome.

All sessions are in the LRC.

- Prep, Years 1 and 2 - 11.45 - 12.15
- Years 3 and 4 - 12.15 - 12.45
- Years 5 and 6 - 12.45 - 1.15
St John’s Parish Family Offertory Gift Roster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Families</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>6.00p.m</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday Feb 20th/Sunday Feb 21st</td>
<td>Assaad Family (Matthew)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Taouk Family (Sadie)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Booth Family (Philippa and Charles)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brabender Family (Zac)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>8.30a.m.</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday Feb 27th/Sunday Feb 28th</td>
<td>Borg Family (Ethan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chiara Family (Ariana)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Boyd Family (Lucy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Daminato Family (Alessia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>10.30a.m.</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5.00p.m.</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

You may remember that late last year we were asked for donations of coloured pencils, tex-tas and art and craft materials for the Emergency Department of the Royal Children's Hospital. The community response was amazing. I recently received this letter of thanks:

Dear Students, Teachers, and Parents of the St John’s Community,

On behalf of the volunteers in the Emergency Department of the Royal Children’s hospital, I would like to express our sincere gratitude in receiving all of your generous donations. Our cupboards are fully stocked with pencils, art and craft, stickers, games, and so many other wonderful things. I have been amazed by the sheer generosity of your school community. The items you have all so open-handedly donated will be used to restock our cupboard all year, and keep the sick children and their bored siblings occupied during long waits in the hospital. It’s truly wonderful to see how readily your community is willing to help out a good cause, and it is a real tribute to the values and beliefs of the school you are all a part of.

Kind Regards
Elena Harty
Royal Children’s Hospital Volunteer

God bless you and your family.
Elizabeth Williamson
(Education in Faith Leader)

Carolyn Walsh - Student Wellbeing/Learning & Teaching Leader

Our kids matter.
KidsMatter helps our school nurture happy, balanced kids.

Parent School Partnerships
Working together to care for children is the best way for schools and parents and to support children’s mental health and wellbeing. (KidsMatter Primary)

Thank you very much to the parents who were able to attend the ‘Getting to know you” student/parent/ teacher meetings last week. These meetings have enabled the initial connection in the very important partnership in learning between you and your child’s teacher.
Parenting Seminars: Nillumbik Health is running a 4 session course for parents in March. Topics include- Strategies to address Problem Behaviour, Getting Kids to Listen , About Kids’ Feelings: Developing Emotional Intelligence (See attached flyer for details)

Parenting support is also available through Nillumbik Health’s Family Support Worker who can assist families in dealing with challenges such as tantrums, bedtime problems, mealtime difficulties, children not following instructions, aggression towards parents, siblings and others or other areas of concern. Contact the Service Co-ordination team at Nillumbik Health on 9430 9100 between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday.

Other Parenting Information resources:
Michael Grose: www.parentingideas.com.au


Prep for Parents: The Department of Education also have a webpage specifically for parents with children in their first year of primary school. Their articles cover topics such as what Preps learn at school, learning to read, understanding maths, the excitement of science, the importance of play, and learning to write. They also include links to further resources and online content to help you support your child’s learning journey.

KidsMatter Better Buddies Day
Next Monday 15th February the whole school will participate in our first official KidsMatter event for the year:

“Better Buddies Knowing me, Knowing You Day”.

The purpose of the day is to support the Preps and other new students in their transition to our school - to ensure they feel welcome and safe and build familiarity with the school environment. It is also an opportunity for all students to get to know each other and build positive relationships across the school, enhancing their sense of belonging and connectedness. This clearly reflects the KidsMatter goal of promoting a positive school community where everyone belongs.

The children will be organized into multi age groups and participate in various activities which will focus on the KidsMatter motto “Knowing Me, Knowing You and Getting Along Too”. As usual the Better Buddies values: caring for others, friendliness, respect, valuing difference, including others and responsibility will also be highlighted.

The children are able to bring their favourite thing to school to share with other children and are invited to wear something orange or pink - the KidsMatter colours (this is optional).

Better Buddies is an initiative of The Alannah and Madeline Foundation designed to create friendly and caring school communities where bullying is reduced.

For more information about the Alannah and Madeline Foundation and the Better Buddies initiative please visit the website: http://www.betterbuddies.org.au/
Inquiry Learning at St John’s
We are all set for another exciting year as we discover together through our inquiry based learning.
The following table summarizes the inquiry focus for each level this term.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Key Concept</th>
<th>Essential Question</th>
<th>Understandings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PREP</td>
<td>Community</td>
<td>What helps us learn together?</td>
<td>At school there are lots of different people that will help us learn. Working together helps us to learn. Within our school there are different areas where we learn and play.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>Change &amp; Continuity</td>
<td>How has technology changed over time?</td>
<td>There are different types of Technology that are a part of our everyday lives. Technology is continually changing over time. Changes in technology can be driven by inventions, needs and wants and purpose.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 3 &amp; 4</td>
<td>Wellbeing</td>
<td>How can we all be effective members of our learning community?</td>
<td>We have a responsibility for our own and others well-being so we can all learn best. A great inquiry learner uses many skills and dispositions to drive and manage their learning. Within an effective learning community we learn with and from each other.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 5 &amp; 6</td>
<td>Resources &amp; Community</td>
<td>How do businesses work?</td>
<td>There are profit and non-profit businesses in our community. There are different types of businesses that produce goods or services to meet a need or want and create jobs. Advertising and media have a large role to play in promoting goods and services. There are roles and rules when running a business.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Help Needed!
To help extend the children’s learning we are seeking expertise from the school community. The areas of expertise/interest we are especially looking for this term is in the area of **business** (Yr 5/6 are investigating how businesses work)

We are particularly looking at the types of businesses in the local area and are keen to have students linked to local businesses to visit, to interview owners and to see first hand how they work.

If you (or a family member) are willing to share an area of expertise/interest that matches any of the Inquiries please fill in the form below and return to school ASAP.

Alternatively reply via email to your child’s classroom teacher or to: cwalsh@sjheidelberg.catholic.edu.au

Many thanks for your continued support.

Name: ..............................................................

Email.................................................................

Child’s name and Class ................................................

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area of interest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I am willing to be a guest speaker in the classroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am willing to answer children’s questions via email</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I would be interested in speaking to the class via Skype</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I can offer:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Parenting Seminars

When: Wednesday 9th March 2016
Strategies to address Problem Behaviour
✓ Bringing out the best in your child
✓ How to encourage your child to co-operate
✓ Tips for parenting ‘hard to manage’ children

Wednesday 16th March
Getting Kids to Listen
✓ How to give great instructions
✓ New ways to get kids to co-operate
✓ Encouraging co-operation

Tuesday 22nd March
About Kids’ Feelings: Developing Emotional Intelligence
✓ Why feelings matter
✓ Helping children deal with their feelings
✓ Ways to develop your child’s emotional skills

Where: Nillumbik Health
917 Main Road Eltham

Time: 9.30am (allow 2 hours)

Cost: $20 per session ($10 health care card holders)
Payable to reception on the day
Partners are encouraged to attend at no additional cost

Bookings: Notify the date(s) you plan to attend ASAP

Essential: Joan.Lauricella@nillumbikhealth.org.au or 9430 9122

Note: Please arrange childcare as this is not available at the Centre.
Inter school Sport
Last week we played Mother of God in our first home game for the summer season. It was a very successful day with all teams showing great skill and fair play. Well done to all the students who participated and to the coaching staff on their first game of 2016. This week we play St Bernadette’s in a home game. Good luck to everyone involved.

Swimming
Swimming trials will be held this afternoon (10/2/16) and next Wednesday 17th of February at Northcote Aquatic Centre from 4pm-5pm. It is not compulsory to come to both trials, however students are more than welcome to attend both to try and beat their lap time.

Please remember to bring your hats and a full drink bottle to your Physical Education lessons.

STUDENT AWARDS

BIRTHDAYS
Feb 13
Jonas P 4S
Stefania P 3V
Feb 14
Nari F 3F
Kaitlyn F 3V
Polly M 5/6B
David M 5/6B
Madeleine T 5/6W
Feb 15
Juliette C 3F
Joseph M 5/6C
Feb 16
Sophie C 2N

FORTHCOMING EVENTS
Thursday
Feb 11
Opening School Mass 7pm
Tuesday
Feb 16
School Closure Day
As part of our commitment to being an AuSSI Resource Smart and a Kids Matter School, we will be encouraging students to walk or wheel to school every Wednesday.

We hope that by participating in this initiative it will:

- **Promote Healthy Lifestyles** – integrates physical activity, helping students and adults to incorporate walking and biking into a daily routine and all year round.

- **Strengthen the Community** – neighbours and families have an opportunity to interact with each other while walking and biking on their way to school and bringing together a sense of community.

- **Raise Environmental Awareness** – walking and biking to school results in fewer vehicles on the streets therefore reducing air pollution and traffic congestion. Our school is an AuSSI Resource Smart School and by participating in this initiative, we were able to complete some points in the CORE and Energy modules.

- **Promote Walking and Biking/Scootering/Skating Safely** – children develop and learn life skills from adults accompanying them along walks preparing them for road safety and personal awareness skills.

- **Increase School Spirit** – children and adults alike have the opportunity to come together and celebrate the event while taking pride in what they are doing.

The Enviro Student Action Team will be conducting a ‘Hands Up’ audit on a Wednesday to count how many students are walking, riding, scootering or skating to school. They will input this data onto the Bicycle Network ‘Ride 2 School’ website to track our active travel and CO2 savings. A trophy will be presented at Assembly to the class with the most walkers or wheelers and prizes to the most committed students.

So far, we have had 2 very successful Walking/Wheel to School days and we want to commit to reducing carbon emissions, increasing environmental awareness, and making healthy lifestyle choices on a regular basis.

**Please keep in mind that the roads leading to our school are very busy.** We encourage parents to supervise their children when riding, walking, scootering or skating to school. You may choose to organise your own walking/Wheeling School Bus for a group of children.

Please find details for walking/wheeling routes outlined below. These will **NOT** run as official Walking/Wheeling School Buses, however, there are students who have continued to use these routes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Walk #</th>
<th>Starting Point</th>
<th>Route</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Walk 1</td>
<td>De Winton Park, Corner of Cape St and St James Rd Rosanna - wait on the oval near the corner of St James Rd</td>
<td>South bound on Cape St</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walk 2</td>
<td>Albert Jones Reserve, Mount and Durham St Eaglemont—Wait on the reserve near the corner of Mount and Durham St</td>
<td>North bound on Mount St, then East on Yarra St</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walk 3</td>
<td>Merv Anderson Pavillion, Banyule Cricket Club, Beverley Rd - wait on the oval near the pavilion steps</td>
<td>South West on Beverly Rd, then West on Burgundy St</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walk 4</td>
<td>Warringal Cemetery, Comer Powlett and Darebin St - wait on the grass on the South East corner of Powlett St.</td>
<td>East bound on Darebin St, then South bound on Cape St</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chicken News
A very big thank you to the following families for taking care of our Chickens over the holidays: the Wignell family (Jacob), the Gazzola family (Tom), the Paonessa family (Charlotte and Frankie), the Vincent family (Ava and Charlie) and the Veljaca family (Venetia). We really appreciate the time and effort you put into ensuring our Chickens were kept safe over the break.

Would you be interested in looking after the chickens on a weekend? Our chickens enjoy roaming free in the school yard and they especially enjoy the peace and quiet they get on the weekends. It will involve you letting the chickens out in the morning, feeding them and ensuring they have water, then putting them back in the coop in the late afternoon. If you would like to help out in any way, please email Connie Costa: ccosta@sjheidelberg.catholic.edu.au
If there is enough interest, I will set up a roster/timetable in the office for families to fill in.

Thank you,

Connie Costa, Angela Pope, Stephanie Doutre, Natalie Ferron, Rebecca Georgiou, Virginia Halse and Carol Skouris
The Environment Staff Action Team.

New Year, Fresh Wardrobe

Exclusive offer to St John's Families and Friends, normally valued at $300.
Spend $250 on a Personal Wardrobe Integration and $50 will be donated to our 2016 School Fete.
To book now call Emma Doyle on 0412827595 or email emmadoyle@thepersonalstylist.com.au
Promotion ends March 5 2016
Hi everyone,

Last week at OSHClub was awesome! We made some mini pizzas, pancakes on Shrove Tuesday and fruit-smoothies for breakfast on Friday morning which were delicious and the children loved them. This week we had wide selection of activities ranging from a home corner camp site to making Minions!

It’s that time of year again where all of our medical records need to be updated so please be aware I might have some forms to hand out to children/parents to be filled out in regards to medical conditions.

If your child/ren are absent from school or other arrangements are made for them, could you please let us know that they will not be attending afterschool care.

On the day cancelations/bookings must be made with a phone call or text to the program number on 0401 333 932.

You will not be able to make online bookings or cancelations on the day. Online bookings or cancelations can be made up until midnight the night before.

We hope to see you at OSHClub! Enjoy the rest of your week.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NEXT WEEKS ACTIVITY</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Before Care Activities</td>
<td>Morning Stretches</td>
<td>Chinese Whispers</td>
<td>Fruit Smoothies</td>
<td>Sewing with felt</td>
<td>Imagination time under the sea (home corner)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After Care Activities</td>
<td>Making Sushi</td>
<td>Fruit Salad (game)</td>
<td>What are you doing?</td>
<td>Making rainbow fish</td>
<td>Handball</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parent Information

OSH program phone: 0401 333 932
Coordinator: Deanna Bellen
Assistants: Jill El-Khoury
OSHClub Head Office: 03 8564 9000

All families must be enrolled to attend the program, remember this is Free!! Please create an account online at www.oshclub.com.au all bookings and cancellations can also be managed via your online account. For on the day bookings please contact the Coordinator direct at the program.
Father Mario’s Sermon

07 February 2016 (5th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year C)


‘Leave me, Lord; I am a sinner.’… ‘Do not be afraid!’

Jesus continues with his ministry of speaking the word of God to the crowds that were gathering around him. It seems that in order to reach more people, he chooses to get into Simon’s boat and asks to be put out a little from the shore. From very early times the boat out at sea has been seen as an image of the Church; it is through this Church that God’s word will be preached.

At the conclusion of his teaching, Jesus invites Simon to go back out into deeper waters and cast his nets once again, netting a very abundant catch of fish. Seeing this Simon falls down on his knees and implores Jesus to leave him, as he was a sinner!

In the bible we are first introduced to the concept of sin in the story of Adam and Eve who choose to disobey God’s will. In today’s first reading we see Isaiah who in front of a vision of God’s glory, recognises his own sinfulness. In our own personal daily experience we too know that very often we feel the burden of our sins. In the words of Saint Paul: we know what is good, want to do what is good, but find ourselves doing what is wrong (Romans 7:21).

While Simon feels too unclean in front of the Lord, Jesus answers: do not be afraid! Simon’s sinfulness (and Isaiah’s sinfulness) does not stop God from inviting him to take up the ministry of preaching the word of God. God looks at us and accepts us in our sinfulness. He does not remove our sinfulness from us, we are still free to reject God and his will and often we do fail in our journey of faith, yet God’s mercy has freed us from the bonds of sin. Each time we fail we hear Jesus calling out: do not be afraid! There is no sin big enough to block out the light of God’s mercy; there is no sin big enough not to be forgiven by God.

Do not be afraid! While acknowledging our sinfulness, we are encouraged to come forward and participate in God’s mercy. The sacrament of Reconciliation is, in a special way, a celebration of God’s mercy and forgiveness. In this sacramento, like Simon, we declare: ‘I am a sinful person.’ In return we hear Jesus kindly telling us: ‘do not be afraid, your sins have been forgiven! Go in peace!’ As we start the season of Lent, we are once again invited to turn back to God, accept and recognise his mercy.

Even though Isaiah and Simon acknowledged their sinfulness, they were still invited to go out and preach God’s word. Our sinfulness does not stop us from entering into a relationship with God and his word, because we enjoy his mercy and we are saved sinners. Once we accept the invitation to enjoy God’s mercy, we are invited to become missionaries of mercy. The mercy we enjoy needs to be reflected in our actions and in our relationships with our sisters and brothers.

Simon is invited to catch people instead of fish. He is invited to give witness to this mercy he enjoyed. The good news that we live in the good news of God who became a human person like us, suffered in the same way we all do, so that we could enjoy the mercy of God. Isaiah and Simon accepted their call and became missionaries, preaching and witnessing to God’s word.

The question for me today is: how do I witness God’s mercy in my life? How do I become an image and likeness of God and share his mercy with all around me? The Church gives us the acts of mercy to perform, but at times it may be even easier and simpler than that. At times a simple smile can be a sign of welcome and acceptance to people I come across. When I refrain from judging others and reach out to them in love I can be an effective expression of God’s mercy. Do not be afraid! You are a saved sinner! Share the joy of God’s mercy with those around you!

Fr Mario
165 YEARS
ST JOHN’S CATHOLIC PARISH
52 Yarra Street
HEIDELBERG
Jubilee Holy Year of Mercy

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

Parish Priest: Fr Mario Zammit
Assistant Priest: Fr Arockiaraj Viagulam (Raj)
Sacrament Coordinator: Sr Loreto Lynch RSM
Parish Secretary: Mary Peeris
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@heidelberg.catholic.edu.au
Principal: Nick Marinelli
Hall Hire: Fran mob: 0417972317
10.00am-5:00pm (Mon-Fri only)

Weekend Mass times:
Saturday: 6:00pm
Sunday: 8:30am, 10:30am, 5:00pm
Austen 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 8504
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

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 McRitchie 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.

Caritas Australia
Project Compassion
Sunday
6th / 7th February 2016 - 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr C
Dear Parishioners, Visitors and Friends
This week we launch Project Compassion by Caritas Australia. The theme for this year’s Project Compassion is: Learning more, creating change. Our support will be helping to empower the world’s poorest children, women and men with vital learning and renewed hope; when people are offered an education, they are given tools to better their own life situation.

This year’s efforts will go to assist Australian Indigenous peoples, people in Malawi, Laos, Papua New Guinea, Cambodia and India. Each week a story about these people will be shared; you will be able to pick up a copy of these stories from the porch.

This week we are invited to take home a Project Compassion box or set of envelopes, which will then be returned after Easter. Pope Francis reminds us that, “Lent is a time for drawing near to Christ,” and sharing our gifts with those less fortunate than us is one way of being merciful in our world today.

Caritas Australia is also providing a Lent Calendar which can be downloaded on your phone. It can be used to deepen our spirituality this Lent and to learn about Caritas Australia’s work in six countries across the globe. The calendar provides daily readings, prayers and social justice actions. For more information about Project Compassion visit www.caritas.org.au

Fr Mario

An Intense Desire
The primary reason for evangelising is the love of Jesus which we have received, the experience of salvation which urges us to ever greater love of him. What kind of love would not feel the need to speak of the beloved, to point him out, to make him known? If we do not feel an intense desire to share this love, we need to pray insistently that he will once more touch our hearts.

Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium

Reflection: Do you have an intense desire to share God’s love?

Please Remember in your prayers
The Sick: Patricia Wong, Karimu Galea, Bern Green, Young Ok Dowling, Elizabeth Larkin, M J McCann, Debbie Soric.
Recently Deceased: Paolo Mercogliano, Grace Stewart.

Names on the sick list remain for six weeks, unless otherwise advised.

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

[Image -6x-6 to 592x842]
MORNING TEA: available in the parish hall after 10:30am Mass this Sunday 7th July. Please join us!

IN PREPARATION FOR ASH WEDNESDAY (February 10), parishioners are invited to return any of last year’s blessed palms / greenery and place it in the box at the church entrance.

A CELEBRATION FOR THE BURNING OF THE PALMS for Ash Wednesday will be held at the primary school this Monday 8th February at 2:40pm.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES: with the ceremony of the ashes will be at 9:15am and 7:30pm.

ASH WEDNESDAY is a day of fasting and abstinence.

BISHOP MARK EDWARDS: our regional bishop, will be visiting our parish from 11 to 14 February.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: During the Fridays of Lent we will meet at 7:30pm to pray the traditional prayer of the Way of the Cross, in preparation for the celebration of the Lord’s passion and death.

ST JOHN’S CATHOLIC PLAYGROUP: a very casually run playgroup that has an inclusive approach, with the aim of having fun and is available to the St John’s Catholic Parish and Primary School Community. Playgroup will recommence Term 1, 2016, every Monday from 9:15am. Contact Vanessa Javier or Bernadette Inman sjcplaygroup@gmail.com

ST JOHN’S FETE: on Saturday 5th March. All funds go to support works in the school. Please join us to make this day a great success.

FETE GARDEN STALL: We are seeking donations of established plants, seedlings, plantings of seeds or cuttings, etc. for the Garden Stall, the week prior to the fete. Contact Nicole Pellizzaro on 0407047878.

FREE: A Leather Lounge in excellent condition, ideal for a good home. Must arrange own delivery. Contact Des 0438796986.

LECTIO DIVINA DURING LENT: As we journey through Lent to Easter, two sessions of praying with scripture are being offered in our parish: Mondays at 7:30pm and Fridays at 10:00am starting Monday 8 Feb. During these sessions we gather to listen, reflect and pray the Word of God, allowing it to continue to take root and influence our lives. All welcome.

CELEBRATING THE 165TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR PARISH: As a way of celebrating this anniversary, we would like to print a pictorial memorial of our parish. This will comprise photos of different groups and activities. We appeal to any parishioners who have photos of event and activities to give us a copy. All originals will be returned to their owners.

BIBLICAL REFLECTIONS ON THE EASTER TRIDUUM: A reflection on the gospel accounts of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus by Fr Frank Moloney sbd. At Our Lady of the Pines Church, 77 Carbine St Donvale, on Thursday 3rd March from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Cost $5.00 RSVP by 28 February skay@bigpond.net.au or Steve on 0407 392 763

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). In 2013 the Federal Government announced the establishment of a Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. Consequently the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and Catholic Religious Australia established this Council in recognition of the imperative for the Church to address the past openly and honestly. The Council oversees the Church’s engagement with the Royal Commission. Please put this important event in your diary.
Want to play basketball?

Basketball is a great introduction to team sports for kids from 7 years up. If you would like to join the Ivanhoe Knights Basketball Club and play next season you need to register on Saturday 20 February 2016.

Winter Season runs over terms 2 and 3 of the school year. Competition games are held on Saturdays.

To register for the 2016 Winter Season you need to attend our Registration Day.

When: Saturday, 20 February 2016
Time: 10 am to 4 pm
Where: SPACE Centre, Ivanhoe East Primary School, Warncliffe Rd, Ivanhoe East.

If you are already playing with the Ivanhoe Knights you can register online.

For further information go to: www.ivanhoeknights.org