Dear Parents,

I often speak about the joy I get from the busy school environment. I love the learning environment, children exploring new topics, the enthusiasm of getting to know their new classmates and teachers together with the many events that occur around the school, and the enthusiasm of starting a new school year. The past week certainly has been a week full of great learning opportunities.

BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR MASS

My thanks to all the families who were able to attend our Beginning of the School Year Mass last Thursday evening. This was our third outdoor evening Mass to welcome and celebrate the start of the year and was the best attended so far. The weather was perfect after the previous two years of blistering heat.

It's a great rare opportunity for the whole community to come together and gather as a community of faith to be spiritually nourished by the Eucharist. Opportunities like this encourage us to live out and show that we are a vibrant Catholic Community nourished by Christ.

The Beginning of the School Year Mass was the perfect opportunity to gather as a family and remind your child that faith, prayer and community are aspects of life that really matter to us.

I sincerely hope that opportunities to gather as a whole community will be embraced in the future and that a commitment by all families is undertaken.
PASTORAL VISIT BY BISHOP MARK EDWARDS
A highlight of the week was the visit by Bishop Edwards to our Parish last week. Bishop Edwards met all the staff and children last Friday and led the Parish masses over the weekend.

No doubt many of you would have heard from your children about the Bishop's talk and presentation to the children. If not, please ask them about his talk.

The Bishop talked to the children about his role as a Bishop, but the highlight was his discussion about the symbols related to his role as a Bishop - and spoke about the Mitre, his ring, the pectoral cross, the crozier and the zucchetto (skull cap). His talk was very engaging and informative and gave everyone greater insight into the role of being a Bishop.
SCHOOL CAPTAINS FOR 2016
I am delighted to announce that this year’s School Captains are:

- Ebony Pepper McCubbin (Red)
- Madeline Ellis Streeton (Green)
- Luca Ambesi Withers (Yellow)
- Edward Calacsan Roberts (Blue)

These House names are named after famous Australian painters who all spent time painting in the Heidelberg area.

All children currently in Year 6 delivered a speech late last year whereby they presented and offered themselves as a potential School Captain. The speeches were delivered confidently to their peers and reflected the learning experiences and opportunities that the children have had in the past.

Children then voted for whom they thought should be the School Captains for 2016.

These votes were then tallied and then ratified by the 2015 School Leadership Team.

Ebony, Maddy, Luca and Edward have now undertaken a very significant leadership role as they will represent the entire school throughout the many internal and external events over the year ahead.

The role requires them to be leaders within the school and also to be ambassadors for our school.

STUDENT SCHOOL LEADERS
A new initiative this year is to also to have student school leaders who will lead Student Action Teams in a number of areas. These children wrote applications expressing their interest in an area that they were interested and passionate about. These Leaders were chosen on the strength of their applications and on their willingness to bring about positive change. The Student Leaders will work very closely with Teachers who take responsibilities for these areas.

Caroline T. - Student Leader of the Education In Faith S.A.T (Student Action team)
Caroline will Lead Education in Faith SAT meetings, promoting the importance of our faith throughout the whole school, presenting student ideas at the staff Education in Faith action team meetings and helping with tasks associated with Liturgies and the Sacraments.

Eleanor P. - Fire Carrier
Eleanor will be a Fire Carrier and will work at ensuring that the school will be mindful of maintaining Indigenous awareness and will do such activities as raising the aboriginal flag, acknowledge the traditional custodians and assist with observing and celebrating significant dates in shared story.
Anton G. Student Leader of the KIDSMATTER S.A.T (Student Action team)

This role will include Leading KM SAT meetings, promoting KidsMatter at all school events, initiating activities that promote wellbeing, inclusion and belonging, presenting student ideas at the staff KM action team meetings

Alyssa V. - Student Leader for Sustainability and the Environment S.A.T. (Student Action team)

This role will Her role will include helping to Lead the Environment & Sustainability SAT meetings, promoting the importance of sustainability throughout the whole school, being a role model in sustainability practices, and presenting student ideas at the staff Environment action team meetings

Charlie V. - Student Leader of the eSmart S.A.T (Student Action team)

Charlie lead eSmart SAT meetings, promoting the importance of cybersafety throughout the whole school, being a role model in cybersafe practices, presenting student ideas at the staff eSmart action team meetings, and promoting the safe and careful use of technology in the school.

The School Captains and the new Student Leaders were officially inducted at last Thursday evening’s Mass and on behalf of our entire school community we congratulate them and wish them a wonderful year in their new responsibilities.

“…Lord, strengthen these children in their role as leaders within our school.
Let your spirit enlighten their minds and guide their actions.
May they always be encouraged to use their gifts in service. …”

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS – TUESDAY, 1st MARCH
This year’s annual School Photographs will be taken on Tuesday, 1st March.

‘Advanced Life Photography’ order envelopes have been sent home and instructions for ordering photographs are on the envelope. Spare envelopes are kept at the office if required.

** Sibling envelopes are also available from the office. You can either have one of your children collect an envelope from the front office or you can order the sibling package online at :

We strongly encourage that ALL orders, that is, both individual and family/sibling orders be done on-line.

If you choose not to order online, envelopes should be returned NO LATER than Monday, 29th February.

ALL online orders are due by the day of photography, 1st March.

For online orders go to:

advancedlife.com.au
Online code: CQL 7XW JL6

SCHOOL CLOSED – LABOUR DAY – 14th MARCH
A reminder that school is closed on Monday, 14th March for Labour Day, a public holiday.
ENROLMENTS – SIBLINGS - COMMENCE ON MONDAY, 23rd FEBRUARY
Enrolments for siblings who are starting school in 2017 commence on Monday.

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.

My first School Tour for prospective 2017 families commenced on Monday. As you know, there is always a strong demand for places at St John's so it is very important that Sibling Enrolment forms are completed and returned to school as soon as possible.

PARKING ON YARRA STREET
I know that parking is dire in the school vicinity at peak times but I ask for your common sense. The safety of all the children is of the utmost importance to all of us. I realize that mornings can be hectic, and everyone can feel a bit rushed, but please take a little extra time to consider the safety of your children.

I encourage you to park further away especially on the southern side of Yarra Street and have a pleasant walk to school with your children. With the installation of the School Crossing on Yarra Street a few years ago, this is now a safe and viable option.

Please note, that even though it is a 2 minute parking zone on Yarra Street, immediately in front of the school entrance, we have agreed as a school community that this zone ONLY allows for drop-off in the morning and immediate pick-up after school, so it’s important that we observe this in order to minimize frustration for other parents.

A reminder too that double parking is a dangerous practice and I urge you to refrain from doing this. May I suggest again that you leave home 5 minutes earlier and park further away where there is sufficient parking and have a pleasant short walk to school with your child.

SCHOOL FETE

RIDE WRISTBANDS - SAVE $10 ...by purchasing a wristband by February 29!

Be mindful, that once your children come to the Fete, they will want to make the most of the rides and the activities. Paying for a number of these over the time that they’re here could end up being expensive, so I really encourage you to pre-purchase the 'Ride Wristband', which will give you great savings!!

The wristband gives your child 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 purchase a wristband in 3 easy steps:**

**Step 1:** Go to our booking website at [www.trybooking.com/172290](http://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

You can visit [www.stjohnsfete.weebly.com](http://www.stjohnsfete.weebly.com) to view the rides.

Yours sincerely,

Nick Marinelli, Principal
KidsMatter Better Buddies Day

On Monday the whole school participated in our first official KidsMatter event for the year: “Better Buddies Knowing Me, Knowing You Day” The purpose of the day was to support the Preps and the new students in their transition to our school - to ensure they feel welcome and safe and build familiarity with the school environment. It was also an opportunity for all students to build positive relationships across the school, enhancing their sense of belonging and connectedness.

The day began with the KidsMatter Student Action Team handing out wristbands to celebrate our special day. The children were then organized into cross age groups and participated in various activities throughout the day which focused on the KidsMatter motto “Knowing me, knowing you and getting along too”. Activities included exploring the concept of friendliness through picture story books, participating in various ‘getting to know you’ games, designing a piece for a whole school mural and having a photo with their buddy in the KidsMatter photo booth (these are on display in the LRC).

During Assembly in the afternoon, the Yr 6s introduced their Prep buddies to the whole school and new students were also welcomed. A few groups shared their new ‘friendly’ version of the ABBA song “Knowing Me, Knowing You” and the teachers then led a final well rehearsed sing-a-long of “You Can Count on Me”!

Better Buddies Day concluded with many new friends made and important messages learnt about belonging to our school.
PARENT CLASSROOM REPS - We still have vacancies for Parent Classroom Reps for 3F & 5/6W. If you are interested in this role, please email the school as soon as possible at: office@sjheidelberg.catholic.edu.au

Parent-School partnerships
SchoolMate App

Parents, do you want to find out more about what your child is learning at school in each subject at each year level? Need practical tips about what you can do at home to help support your child’s education? SchoolMate is an essential App for parents of school-aged children in Victoria, Australia. Produced by Victoria’s Department of Education and Training, SchoolMate will provide parents with a roadmap to help aid their child’s learning at home and at school.

JUST4KIDS

Rosanna Library
Monday 22 February
4.00pm – 5.00pm
Nature walk in Rosanna Parklands, with Jim Mead from Banyule City Council.

Carmel Armiento - Deputy Principal, & Literacy Coordinator

Prep Literacy and Numeracy Meeting

A reminder that we will be hosting a Literacy and Numeracy information evening next Thursday February 25 at 7.00pm in the Learning Resource Centre for parents in Prep. If you have not yet done so, please send us your meeting reply slip.

Looking forward to seeing many in attendance.
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
This Friday we have our first away game against Ivanhoe East Primary School. Bat tennis and Volleyball games will be held at the school and softball and cricket will be played at Chelsworth Park. Good luck to all students who are playing. Have fun and do your best!

Swimming
The Ivanhoe District Swimming Carnival will be held on Wednesday 24th of February at Northcote Aquatic Centre. The last swimming trial will be held at the same venue on Wednesday 17th from 4pm-5pm. Students from Year 3-6 are welcome to trial with the conditions of confidently swimming the full length of a 50m pool. Students with the fastest times will represent St John’s swim team at the carnival.

If you attended last week it is not compulsory to attend this week, however if you would like to try and improve your time please feel free to come.

Have a great week.

---

The Marcellin Eagles Basketball Club forms part of the Eastern District Junior Basketball Association (EDJBA)
We are a family orientated club that looks to develop its players, with both Girls and Boys teams from under 8's to under 20's. With just over 30 teams we pride ourselves on knowing and developing the individual within a friendly team environment. Courts are at Marcellin College, 160 Bulleen Road, Bulleen. Training nights are Monday and Thursday.

Register now on-line at http://www.marcellineagles.basketball.net.au
WINTER SEASON 2016 starts Saturday 16 APRIL.

MEBC is a community based club that highly values the full participation and engagement of its membership in their basketball endeavours. The hard work of volunteers in all aspects of the clubs operations means the club is in a strong financial position at this time and would like to encourage, thank and welcome your involvement in our club. The committee is proud to offer a:-

SPECIAL ONCE OFF EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION FEE

25% DISCOUNT (on regular fee).
You must register between Sunday 14th February and Sunday - 28th February 2016 to receive this once off offer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Once Off Early Bird Fee</th>
<th>Regular Fee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$82.50 1st Child</td>
<td>$110.00 1st Child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$60.00 2nd Child</td>
<td>$80.00 2nd Child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$41.25 3rd and subsequent children</td>
<td>$55.00 3rd and subsequent children</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: registrations after midnight Sunday 28 February will automatically be charged the Regular fee

Endorsed Kylie Coen President MEBC 11 February 2016
Dear Parents,

School fees statements will be sent home this week. Listed below are the 2016 Annual School Fees and payment methods available in order to pay your school fees.

In the correspondence sent home at the end of 2015 regarding school fees, the Year 5 & 6 Camp Fee was incorrectly printed. This has now been rectified and the total Camp Fee for 2016 is $275.

We remind all families that it is their responsibility to meet their school fee obligations as they fall due. In the event that a family is seeking an alternative payment arrangement, or seeking fee relief due to a genuine inability to meet the payment, these families are required to contact Nick Marinelli, the school principal, or the school office staff as soon as possible.

ANNUAL FEES FOR 2016

Per Family
Total Annual Family School Fee $1,470.00
Total Annual School Fee for 2 or more children $370.00

Payable at the beginning of the year or by instalments, due by the following dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Amount Due for 2 or more children</th>
<th>Amount Due for 1 or more children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term 1 School Fees</td>
<td>14/4/2016</td>
<td>$367.50</td>
<td>$460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 2 School Fees</td>
<td>16/6/2016</td>
<td>$367.50</td>
<td>$460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 3 School Fees</td>
<td>18/8/2016</td>
<td>$367.40</td>
<td>$460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 4 School Fees</td>
<td>20/10/2016</td>
<td>$367.50</td>
<td>$460</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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(The total $1,470 + $370.00)

The following levies are due by 25th February, 2016

Per family
Capital Levy $180.00
Special Project Levy – Information Technology $80.00

Per Student
Student Levy $350.00
Sport Levy $180.00

Camp Levy due 15th April, 2016
Camp Levy Yrs 5 and 6 $275

2016 School Ball Fee TBA

2016 Payment Options:
- All fees may be paid in full at the beginning of the year;
- Payment of fees as they fall due.
- Payment of the Annual Family School Fee and where applicable the Annual School Fee for 2 or more children, may be paid over the following 10 months; or
- By agreed arrangement with myself or the school office staff.

2016 Payment Method:
Mastercard, Visa, Cash, Cheque (made out to St John’s School) or Direct Banking (see details below);
BSB: 083 947
Account No: 657597374
Account Name: St John’s School General Account

We can also arrange, through the Catholic Development Fund, the drawing of payments from personal bank or credit card accounts. For this option, you will be required to complete a form, which is available from the school office.

ALL SCHOOL FEES AND ANY OUTSTANDING FEES MUST BE PAID BY OCTOBER 20TH, 2016
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government’s commitment to breaking the link between a student’s background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

• $125 for primary school students
• $225 for secondary school students.

HOW TO APPLY

Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

MORE INFORMATION

For the CSEF application closing dates and more information about the fund visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef
To help enhance the learning/listening environment in classrooms we have decided to trial three sound systems at St John’s for a month. The sound system amplifies the teacher’s voice making it easier for students to hear, which encourages them to contribute more in class. We already have 2 systems in use at school and we are aware of the benefit these offer. The systems will be trialled in 2N, 4D & 5/6B. If your child is in one of these classrooms, I would love to get feedback from you or your child.

My email is: jdoupe@sjheidelberg.catholic.edu.au

**BIRTHDAYS**

Feb 18  Henry S Prep P
Feb 19  Natalie G 4S
Feb 20  Damien D 3F
        Xavier M Prep C
Feb 21  Giacomo C 2N
        Cora L 5/6W

**STUDENT AWARDS**

Noah B 1L, Madeline W 1L, Mikaela D 2T, Samuel I 2T, Amelie B 3V, Stella M 3V, Jorgia F 4S, Ayrton D 4S, Massimo F 5/6W

**ST JON’S 165TH COMMEMORATIVE JOURNAL**

2016 is St John’s 165th Anniversary. A commemorative journal is now being drafted. Any photos, printed articles, clippings, school reports. Or school or parish activities over the past 165 years including all recent years would be gratefully received and once scanned given back to you. Any notes of things you were involved with would also be useful for the keeping of theorist history for the future.

Contact: Michelle Penson at pmpenson@hotmail.com or Maureen Hegarty on 0423 877 736

**LOST.......**

BLUE SANDWICH KEEPER (Tupperware brand)
Clearly marked with a picture of a face and the name 'Lachal' on it.
If found, please return to the school office or contact Shamilah on 0439 946 317

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>School Photo Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>March 14</td>
<td>Labour Day - School Closed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Judy Doupe - Student Services Coordinator
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 emmadoyl@thepersonalstylist.com.au
Promotion ends March 5 2016

Viewbank Preschool
Inspiring learners for life.

Kindergarten Open Day
Saturday 27 February 2016
9am - Noon
Viewbank Preschool
Cnr Lyon Rd & Duff Pde
Viewbank

3 & 4 yo programs available
Tour the facilities
Meet the educators
Connect with other local families
Fun activities for the kids

Come and experience
“EXTRAORDINARY KIDS!”

no sequins no make up just...

Drama
Singing
Dance

TUESDAYS 4 - 6PM
@ ST PIUS X PRIMARY SCHOOL
419 Waterdale Road Heidelberg West
Bookings essential
www.extraordinarykids.com.au
0400 830 159

Footy for Fun & Fitness
Diamond Valley Bears Superules Football Club

Are you looking for a way back into FOOTY? Why not check out SUPERULES!
We play 11 games a season, every second Sunday.
Training once a week on a Thursday night at our club oval. Come and enjoy the fantastic club atmosphere.
Drop into training one night to check us out!
4 teams - Over 35’s, Over 40’s Over 45’s and Over 50’s

IT’S NEVER TOO LATE TO START
Phone David 0417 116 627 or email dunramdfs@gmail.com
www.dvfc.com
Father Mario’s Sermon

14 February 2016 (6th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year C)
Led by the Spirit through the wilderness!

Immediately after his Baptism, the Holy Spirit leads Jesus into the wilderness were he stayed for forty days, eating nothing. There Jesus is tempted by the devil but Jesus overcomes the devil.

On this first Sunday of Lent, we too are invited into the wilderness. In the wilderness the people of Israel were tempted, but they also experienced the presence of God among them as he led them by a pillar of cloud during the day, and a pillar of fire at night. The forty days of fasting also remind us of the experiences of Moses and Elijah and their meeting with God. Wilderness evokes imagery of emptiness, struggle and meeting with God.

Lent is an invitation for us to enter into our own wilderness to encounter our God there. We are not expected to abandon everything that goes on in life and isolate ourselves from family and friends for the duration of Lent. Wilderness is a spiritual and not necessarily a physical space. Especially during Lent, we are invited to create in ourselves an emptiness for God.

One of the great symbols of Lent is our fasting: fasting from foods. We eat what is necessary for us to live, without over indulging in food. This same symbol can be applied to various other aspects of our life: while we carry out our daily duties, we are encouraged to set aside activities we can do without. We create the wilderness when we can create some time for us to slow down and be quiet. This becomes the space where we can meet God, ideally on a daily basis. The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness, and it is the same Spirit that guides us into our own wilderness, into this sacred space where we can encounter God.

When we slow down and are quiet, when we turn to God in prayer, we too are tempted. Jesus was tempted to perform a miracle and turn the stones into bread to satisfy his hunger. This is a legitimate suggestion after forty days of not eating anything; yet Jesus insists that only God and his word can satisfy us. God gives us our talents and our gifts not for ourselves but to share with those around us. We are stewards of God’s creation and we are invited to reach out and to share our resources with those in need: ‘whatever you do with the least of my sisters and brothers, I consider done to me,’ Jesus tells us. Charity, especially when I am able to share from my own resources, is another moment when we meet Christ. Do I really see Christ in those I reach out to? Do I give generously from the gifts God has provided me with? Do I realise that Christ walks in my life every day?

Jesus is invited to worship the devil in exchange for the homage of all of humanity. The devil promises Jesus that in an instant he could achieve his mission and be considered as the messiah by all, if only he acknowledged the devil as his lord. Jesus replies that we owe allegiance to only one God and one Lord! My idol can be work, money, friends or other things that claim authority over my life. I may find myself worshipping other gods, believing they could give me access to the whole world, to become famous quickly. In the end there is only one thing that counts: to worship God alone and place him as the centre of my life.

Finally Jesus is invited to test God by jumping from a high place to see if God would really send his angels to protect him, as is said in the Psalms. We are often tempted to test God in prayer, trying to bargain with him hoping to get what we think we need. If we really trust God then our one prayer would be: “thy will be done!” In prayer I need to constantly declare my belief that in God alone is my security. He provides me with all I need. God does in fact send angels to help Jesus at different difficult moments of his life, as we observe when we read the gospels. God will also send his angels to help us forward at difficult moments of our own life.

Let us once again journey in fasting, prayer and charity this Lent, as we continue to experience and give thanks for God’s great mercy, so we can once again declare Jesus as our Lord and our God on Easter day!

Fr Mario
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 Viagulum (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@sjheidelberg.catholic.edu.au

Principal:
Nick Marcelli

Hall Hire:
Fran mob: 0417972317

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
Repatriation 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: 9:00am - 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 Mary McBror 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.

13th / 14th February 2016 - 1st Sunday in Lent Yr C

Dear Parishioners, Visitors and Friends

On Wednesday we started our season of Lent, a period of preparation for the celebration of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The celebration of Lent and Easter is always a very important moment in our Church year, but this year, as we reflect in a very special way on God's merciful love towards us, this celebration becomes a very central moment in our year.

In Jesus Christ God became man to live with us and to show us the face of God the Father. We are saved by knowing and entering into a relationship with our God, who is a personal God.

As we celebrate the passion and death of Jesus, we see a God who knows what it means to be human and what it means to suffer. In the person of Jesus, like us, God experienced our suffering. He did not remove suffering from our world, but by his resurrection Jesus showed us that there is new life when we have the courage to travel through our own sufferings.

In this year of mercy, as we reflect more deeply on this truth, like Jesus we are also invited to inter into the sufferings of our sisters and brothers as they carry their own cross. Our friendship and support can be for those around us a source of resurrection.

Fr Mario

Why Must We Return to God?
The exhortation which the Lord addresses to us through the prophet Joel is strong and clear: "Return to me with all your heart" (Joel 2:12). Why must we return to God? Because something is not right in us, not right in society, in the Church, and we need to change, to give it a new direction. And this is called needing to convert!

Once again Lent comes to make its prophetic appeal, to remind us that it is possible to create something new within ourselves and around us, simply because God is faithful, always faithful, for he cannot deny himself, he continues to be rich in goodness and mercy, and he is always ready to forgive and start afresh. With this filial confidence, let us set out on the journey! Pope Francis, Homily, 5th March 2014

Reflexion: What’s not right with you at the moment?

Please Remember in your prayers

Recently Baptised: Zara Williams, Tate Flynn, Grace Eppliet.

The Sick: Patricia Wong, Karmnu Galea, Bern Green, Young Ok Dowling, Elizabeth Larkin, MJ McCann, Debbie Soric, David Kemp, Maree Doherty.

Recently Deceased: Noel Pendlebury.

Anniversaries: Jack Byrnes, Bill Sullivan, Gerry Rochford, Frank Byrnes, Catherine Cummins, Maureen Packer, Martine Hewitt, Leigh Hewatt.

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.
Welcome to Bishop Mark Edwards: who is visiting our parish this weekend. Thank you Bishop Mark for your presence and support to our parish community.

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.

Lectio Divina during Lent: As we journey through Lent to Easter, two sessions of praying with scripture are being offered at the parish house: Mondays at 7:30pm and Fridays at 10:00am. 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.

St John’s Catholic Playgroup: available to the St John’s Catholic Parish and Primary School Community. Every Monday from 9:15am. Contact Vanessa Javier or Bernadette Inman sjcplaygroup@gmail.com

Fete Garden Stall: We are seeking donations of established plants, seedlings & plantings of cuttings for the Garden Stall. There will be a donation point outside the front of the presbytery by Sunday 28th February. Any queries, please contact Nicole Pellizzaro on 0407047878.

Faith Formation Talks: by Fr Brendan Byrne sj at Rosanna Community Centre, 5 Silk Street on 23rd February and 1st March from 7:30pm to 9:00pm. RSVP by 19th February on macleod@cam.org.au

Austin Mass: will be celebrated next Sunday 21st February. Volunteers please meet at 8:30am for 9:30am Mass at the chapel. Parishioners are also invited to participate in this Mass to minister to the sick by their presence. Thank you.

During Lent, you can practice penance by doing one of the following: Prayer - Going to Mass, family prayer, a visit to a church or chapel, reading the bible, making the Stations of the Cross, praying the Rosary; Self-Denial - not eating meat, sweets or dessert, giving up entertainment to spend time with family, limiting food and drink to give to the poor. Project Compassion is a major means of expressing self-denial in Australia; Helping Others - visiting someone who is poor, sick, elderly, lonely or over burdened.

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.

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.

Free Counselling: available at the St John’s Parish House by arrangement. Contact Julie Jensen a registered counsellor on 0411 241005.