



### 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 the 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*

*(Fr Ted Teal)*



**BARKLYS**  
HOTEL

### JANUARY

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God  
Mass 10am. Prayers for Australia

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> – **Parish Picnic (after 10.30 Mass)**

### FEBRUARY

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> —Ash Wednesday Mass 9.15am & 7.30pm

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> Stations of the Cross

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> -St. John's Parish School welcome Picnic**

### MARCH

Fridays—6<sup>th</sup>,13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>- Stations of the Cross

**Tuesdays 7pm-3rd, 10th & 17th – Talks on the Gospel of St. John with Assoc. Prof Joel Hodge**

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> - Palm Sunday Procession-all Masses

### APRIL

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> - **Holy Thursday** Mass of the Lord's Supper

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> - **Good Friday**-11am Stations of the Cross.

3pm-The Lord's Passion

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> - Easter Vigil Mass 7.30pm**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> - Easter Sunday Masses 8.30 & 10.30am**

### MAY

**SUNDAY 3rd May-10.30am - 175th Anniversary Mass**

**The Most Reverend Peter Comensoli  
Archbishop of Melbourne**

followed by light luncheon in the Hall.

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>-Ascension of the Lord**

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> - First Eucharist**

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May-**Pentecost Sunday**

**FRIDAY 29TH May-175th Anniversary Gala Dinner**

(Ivanhoe Centre-Heidelberg Town Hall) 7pm-10.30pm

### JUNE

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June - The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June-Mass & Sacrament of the Sick**

### JULY

**St. John's Fundraising Wine Drive/Sales**

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July-**Fun/Games/Trivia Night**

### AUGUST

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> August-Mary MacKillop Mass & M/tea

Thur 13<sup>th</sup>, Fri 14<sup>th</sup> & Sat 19<sup>th</sup> -School Performance

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August-Feast of the Assumption

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August—Confirmation**

### SEPTEMBER

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> 10.30am -Thanksgiving Mass for the Sisters of Mercy** in our parish followed by morning tea

### OCTOBER

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup>-First Reconciliation**

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> 2.30pm -Organ Recital**

**Dr Anthony Halliday plays the Fuller Organ**  
followed by Wine & cheese in the Parish Hall.

### NOVEMBER

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> - All Souls Day

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> St. Johns REUNION & Heritage Display**

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> -Heritage Display and High Tea**

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November-First Sunday of Advent

### DECEMBER

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>-Children Led Christmas Eve Mass 6pm**

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup>-Christmas Masses 8.30am & 10.30am**

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> -Thanksgiving Mass -**

**St. John the Evangelist Feast Day 8.30am, 10.30am.**

**Thumbnail sketch of  
St. John The Evangelist  
Catholic Parish Heidelberg**

In 1851 Bishop Goold formally established the Heidelberg Parish—then designated the Heidelberg Mission. He appointed Father Viventius Bourgeois as the Mission’s First Pastor. His responsibilities extended as far as Lilydale, Healesville, Warburton and many nearby places including Eltham, Hurstbridge, Bulleen, Yan Yean, Templestowe and Epping.

He organised the building of a weatherboard chapel on the site of the present school and dedicated it to St. Monica.

The foundation stone for the present church was laid by Rev. Dr Fitzpatrick, Vicar General, on the 6th March 1859. Blessed by Bishop O’Quinn of Brisbane on the 14th April, 1861 and dedicated to St. John the Evangelist.

Many new parishes have been established in the region originally covered by the Heidelberg Mission.

The boundaries have varied over the years however the beautiful bluestone church designed by William Wardell with its magnificent stained glass windows continues to serve our thriving parish of over 1000 families.

**175th Anniversary Gala Dinner**

The Centre Ivanhoe —(Heidelberg Town Hall)

**FRIDAY 29TH May 2026 7pm-10.30pm**

Singles, doubles, groups, tables of 8 or 10. 3 course dinner, wine, beer & soft drink inclusive. \$150 per head  
**Bookings -Try bookings available in 2026**

**EARLIER DAYS**

The first priest to arrive in what was then known as the Port Phillip District was Father Patrick Geoghegan. He celebrated the first Mass in that District on the 19th May 1839. Nine years later on the 23rd May 1848 he celebrated the first mass in the Heidelberg area. This was at the MacKillop home that was located where the then route of Bell Street crossed the Darebin Creek. No doubt the six year old daughter of the family was present, the girl who was to become Blessed Mary MacKillop of the Cross. On the 27th December 1848 (the Feast Day of St. John The Evangelist), Fr Geoghegan made an application for a grant of land at Heidelberg on which to build a church. Although it was approved, second thoughts about the location resulted in obtaining the site on which St. John’s now stands.

**Parish Priests**

- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1851 Fr. Viventius Bourgeois | 1960 Fr. Bernard Payne                                |
| 1857 Fr. Gerald A. Ward      | 1965 Fr. Mortimer Fitzgerald                          |
| 1858 Fr. John Hoyne          | 1971 Fr. Michael Sheehy                               |
| 1862 Fr. William M. Finn     | 1979 Fr. Robert Coghlan                               |
| 1878 Fr. John Horan          | 1983 Fr. James Atkins                                 |
| 1882 Fr. Dennis O’Callaghan  | 1987 Fr. Barry Whelan                                 |
| 1907 Fr. Parick Parker       | 1994 Fr. Anthony Girolami                             |
| 1915 Fr. Michael McKenna     | 2002 Fr. Edward Teal                                  |
| 1922 Fr. Thomas Power        | 2013 Fr. Mario Zammit mssp<br>(Administrator) PP 2016 |
| 1929 Fr. James Norris        | 2020 Fr. Joel Peart                                   |
| 1944 Fr. Parick Power        | 2022 Fr. Vinh Nguyen<br>(current 2026)                |
| 1949 Fr. Parick O’Connor     |   |



1851 - 2026

**ST JOHN THE EVANGELLIST  
CATHOLIC PARISH  
HEIDELBERG**

**Remember  
Rejoice  
Renew**