

The Eyrie

St John The Evangelist Catholic Parish Heidelberg



**THE ARCHBISHOP OF MELBOURNE
MOST REV PETER A. COMENSOLI**
blesses our new statue of
St. Mary Mother of the Cross MacKillop
The 'side chapel' is now called the
St. Mary MacKillop Chapel.

Parishioners filled the church for the special mass and blessing on Saturday evening 10th August. The Archbishop was welcomed to our parish by the chair of our finance committee ,Hon Kevin Andrews. Kevin noted that as a young girl Mary MacKillop lived in our parish and it was fitting that Australia's first saint was given prominence in our church, the third oldest catholic church in Melbourne.

Many enjoyed the light supper served in the hall afterwards with a chance to chat with the Archbishop, Fr Vinh, Fr John & Fr Ted.



*Come light a candle with your intentions
and spend quiet time in reflection.*



Blessings and celebration



The children from St. John's Primary School had practiced the St. Mary MacKillop hymn and sang it beautifully at the blessing ceremony. They sang with their voices and hearts and it made the celebration even more joyous.

The Archbishop was delighted to see the children singing. Many thanks to Alison Dean who took them for rehearsals and the children for doing such a fine job.



FATHERHOOD—LOVE, RULES, DISCIPLINE & STRUCTURE

I'm filled with gratitude for the gift God has given me in my two beautiful daughters 13 and 15.

However, raising teenagers is not for the faint of heart and there have been a few books that have helped my wife and I in our parenting journey.

Recommendation #1 -

The Five Love Languages of Teenagers
by Chapman.

This book had a huge impact in both our marriage and our parenting, in understanding how we communicate our love. Although my girls are quickly growing into young adults, they're still children in many ways. What they need more than anything is unconditional love in the form of a hug, words of affirmation, or quality time. This book helped me remember that my love language is different from theirs, and different for each of them, and how to communicate my love effectively.

Recommendation #2 –

***The Collapse of Parenting* by Dr Sax.**

In a nutshell, our children need authority to grow up healthy and happy, and parents are the ones that need to provide that authority. Like our Catholic Faith, just loving God is not enough. We are also called to follow his church teachings in order that we may receive his love in the best possible way. In a similar manner, our children need our love, but they also need our rules, discipline and structure. This book has given my wife and I the courage to not provide our daughters with a phone, despite the overwhelming societal pressure to do so. Moreover, looking at the equally overwhelming research, it's probably the best parenting decision we ever made.



(Sean Dunn, wife Lindsay and their two daughters with Fr Vinh at St. Patrick's Cathedral for the Sacrament of Confirmation)

Recommendation #3 –

***Strong Fathers, Strong Daughters* by Meeker.**

This book presents the glaring evidence of just how important a father's role is in his daughter's life. There is perhaps no statistic that highlights this more powerfully than the research on weekly Mass attendance. When a father attends with his children there is a 70% chance his kids will keep the faith. If those same children go to weekly Mass with only their Mom, the odds drop to only 30%. This book was a wake up call for me on the importance of staying actively engaged as a father. It's a must read for Dad's with girls of any age.

I'm grateful that someone recommended these books to me years ago. I pray that one (if not all) of these books might help another father on their parenting journey too.

Sean Dunn

FATHERHOOD—BEING INVOLVED & INTERESTED



Simon Gysberts came to Australia from the Netherlands when he was 19 yrs old and lived in Kew parish where young immigrants were assisted by a Dutch priest until they could find themselves a job and become self-sufficient. They were always encouraged to say the Rosary in their daily lives.

When Simon met Mary they married and moved to Heidelberg and have been part of our parish for 65 years. They have 4 children (one who had severe disabilities) and 11 grandchildren.

Simon has assisted in many roles in the parish and community over the years. He tells of being a member of the Catholic Dutchy Migrants Association where new migrants are assisted and supported by those such as the Gysberts who settled here many years ago. Within the parish he remembers gatherings of youth groups on Friday evenings in the hall where a group of fathers would ensure a safe happy social time for the youth of our parish in the form of planned activities such as hikes, walks and bike rides or games nights.

With his own children he believed it was important to be involved with them, assisting in their activities and being involved in Sea Scouts, Brownies, tennis, ballet, youth orchestra and fundraising activities as well as taking them with him to assist in bed-wheeling when masses were held at the Austin.

Leading by example, Simon's involvement in St .Vincent de Paul, Ozanam House and Dutch Society Children's home he showed his children that practical assistance to those less fortunate is all important. Simon says, together with Mary the sharing their home for different social and fundraising activities as well as involvement has helped his children understand that a strong faith is the foundation of our society.

Simon is very proud of his children and grandchildren and enjoyed the special celebrations of his 90th birthday with them recently.

Simon Gysberts



We respectfully acknowledge the Wurundjeri People and their Elders past and present, the traditional custodians of this land on which our church and school stand. The St John's Community joins together in solidarity with our Indigenous brothers and sisters, working for justice and reconciliation.

FATHERS DAY CELEBRATIONS - Don't burn the sausages!



John, Helen & family

Over the years we have been blessed with 10 wonderful grandchildren, Sam, Olivia, Madeleine, Chloe, Ava, Angus, Abbey, Isaac,

Greta and Jasper. We are so happy and lucky to have all our children and grandchildren live close by. We see them all very often.

Father's Day, like all the years before, is a very special day for me, all my family are coming to my house to celebrate. Hope I don't burn the sausages!

Our relationship with St John's Parish dates back to 1961. All of our children have been baptised, made their first Eucharist and Confirmations as well as their weddings here.

We have seen wonderful priests come and go, with lots of changes over the years but it will always be "our St John's". Helen's uncles, 6 of them started their schooling here in 1936, so we have had a long and strong association with our church. Helena and I still attend mass every Sunday.

We are usually 10.30am mass goes of a Sunday and enjoy a chat with regulars we have known for many years and newcomers as well.

I treasure time with family and the grandkids in particular. Father's Day I give special thanks for all the blessings fatherhood has given me in my life and being a Grandpa has double blessings and brings much enjoyment.

John Griffiths

I am a happy and (hopefully!) healthy 88-year-old. Father's Day has a strong meaning to me, and I would like to share some of my memories and stories with you all.

I lived most of my early life in Fairfield with my wonderful parents Jack and Muriel and younger sister Iris. I was an altar boy at St Anthony's Church.



John, Helen and their grandchildren

I first met my dear wife Helena (Helen) at a dance at the Heidelberg Town Hall. We were married on 4th November 1961 and settled in Heidelberg, where Helena and I still live today. Our first child, Karen arrived the year later, then Donna came not long after, then Brendan, Julia and Alison.

Term 3 St John's Catholic Primary School

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION

Term 3 has been filled with many exciting experiences for our students and their families. From celebrating Book Week and Grandparents Day to participating in inter school sports and our amazing school performance, *Dodgeball Dreamer*, there has been much to enjoy and be proud of.



The school community also came together for a special celebration of the Feast of the Assumption. In this gathering, we reflected on the profound example Mary offers us. Mary, fully human in every way, demonstrated extraordinary openness and trust in God, allowing His will to be fulfilled through her life. She is not only a model of faith but a source of hope and a promise of what God can accomplish in our own lives when we trust and believe.

Each St. John's family was asked to bring a flower to contribute to a class bouquet, which was placed before Mary. The altar was beautifully adorned with these flowers as a heartfelt gift to Mary, in gratitude for all she has done and continues to do for us.

Father's Day Prayer

God our Father,

We give you thanks and praise for fathers young and old.

We pray for young fathers, newly embracing their vocation; May they find courage and perseverance to balance work, family and faith in joy and sacrifice.

We pray for Fathers around the world whose children are lost or suffering; May they know that the God of compassion walks with them in their sorrow.

We pray for men who are not fathers but still mentor and guide us with fatherly love and advice.

We remember fathers, grandfathers, and great grandfathers who are no longer with us but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love.

Amen



Sacrament of Confirmation - Sunday 18 August

As part of their preparation for Confirmation, our Year Six students recently participated in a Reflection Day in the city. They rehearsed for their upcoming Sacrament at St. Patrick's Cathedral and visited the Mary Glowrey Museum. This enriching experience captivated the students, sparking curiosity and providing them with a deeper understanding of the life and legacy of Mary Glowrey, as well as our Catholic heritage, community, and beliefs. Mary Glowrey, only the second Australian being considered for sainthood, served as a powerful role model for the students. They explored how the Gifts of the Holy Spirit were evident throughout her life story, offering them an inspiring example of faith in action.

We were delighted to receive the following email from the facilitator at the Mary Glowrey Museum:

"We have just finished two sessions with your Year 6 students at the Mary Glowrey Museum. We greatly appreciated the respectful and engaged way your students participated in the presentations and activities. They asked thoughtful questions and made meaningful connections with their prior learning and with what they heard and experienced today. They were wonderful representatives of your school community. It was a pleasure working with them and with the staff."

"We couldn't be prouder of our students for their exemplary conduct during this special day."

The Sacrament of Confirmation was celebrated at St. Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday, August 18th, at 2:00 p.m. The celebration was open to all, and our parish community was moved by the inspiring leadership of Vicar General Tony Kerin. His homily deeply resonated with the students, as he emphasised the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit and how these talents are reflected in their daily lives. We hope that our Year 6 students have grown more aware of their unique gifts and feel called to use them in service to others.



We extend our heartfelt thanks to the parents, teachers, sponsors, and Father Vinh for their integral role in guiding the students through this important journey of faith. A special note of gratitude goes to our dedicated teachers, Hollie Goad and Shane Thompson, and to our parish catechist, Elizabeth Williamson, for their hard work in preparing the students throughout the year. Their support has been invaluable in ensuring that this sacred milestone was a memorable and meaningful experience for all.

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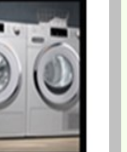
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St Vincent de Paul Heidelberg Conference – A Hands Up

The St. Vincent de Paul Heidelberg conference is one of the oldest conferences in the Preston District and has been operating since 1927. Conference members provide support to individuals and families by visiting them in their homes or in the community. The support may be financial, food, clothing or advice on community and social contacts with the premise being a hand up (rather than a handout). The dignity of all those we visit is at the forefront of what we do. All the monies received are raised through the Vinnies shops and from donations from parishioners which are passed on to those in need in the form of food vouchers.

Home visitation to those who call us is very rewarding but can also be challenging. Witnessing those in need are not that far from where we live.

The Heidelberg conference needs your help in being able to continue the work. If you have an hour to spare each week, please consider volunteering. Training is provided and there is a close-knit group which meet regularly to manage the requests for help and exchange stories. Please contact Elizabeth for more details, 94571066

PARISH MISSION 2024

18th & 19th October

*"What does it all mean? Living a contemporary
Catholic life of faith, hope and love"*



Rev Fr Richard Leonard SJ



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Parish Mission 2024
With Fr Richard Leonard

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the sessions to cover costs of this great speaker
and the light refreshments. Thank you.*

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH WINDOWS



We give thanks for those who donated to the installation of such beautiful stained glass windows.

Have you taken time to look at each window in our church. Each one has a message for us and is a work of art.

The St. John the Evangelist window (featured on the front of the Eyrie) is up in the choir loft and looks down on us as we gather together in our church. The St. John the Evangelist window gives us the message -to treasure what we have in our church, preserve it and go out and proclaim God's love in word and deeds.

Near the organ at the front of the church is this beautiful window of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Take time to reflect on its meaning and beauty. The angels hold a banner that has a message for us all.

In the devotion to the Sacred Heart, the heart of Jesus represents the divine wellspring of love, the source from which flows an abundance of compassion, mercy, and grace.

It is the heart that symbolises the core of Christ's message –

**love God above all
and love your neighbour as yourself.**



FR VINH NGUYEN—ST. JOHN’S PARISH PRIEST

As I am writing this, we have begun the new season of spring when it is supposed that the long, cold season of winter, especially this year, comes to an end. After one week of very windy, cold weather we celebrated Father’s Day 1st September 2024 at the beginning of the new season of spring.

As we welcome the new season of spring blossoms and flowers can be seen as a symbol of new life. They are a blessing from God reminding us of a new beginning, new hope in our life. As we celebrate Father’s Day, we give thanks to God for revealing to us, through his Son our Lord Jesus Christ, the loving Father the greatest example for the vocation of fatherhood. By his infinite love for us, God the Father gave up himself through his only Son for our salvation. Imitating God the loving Father, fathers sacrifice their lives for their families. They do this by being the spiritual leader and guardian of the family, praying for and with their family. They do this by being a courageous witness to the Gospel, providing care and support for their family, serving as an example of goodness and truth. They do this by leading with courage and accountability and by laying down their life for another.

In a special way, let us be grateful for our fathers, by birth or adoption, who love us and support us through life. We are grateful for our Church leaders, who take on the paternal role of guiding us through life. Especially, let us give thanks to God our Father, who will always teach justly and grant us boundless mercy.

Fathers are a blessing, and we thank them for blessing us with lives of dedication, endurance, and love. We honour all fathers and offer a special prayer for them.

We are grateful to our Archbishop Peter A Comensoli for his love and care and for being our shepherd. It was a blessing and a most joyful evening for us that on Saturday August 10th Archbishop Peter visited our parish to celebrate Mass and bless our new statue of St Mary of MacKillop of the Cross. His presence, love and care in leading us in the celebration of Mass and at the gathering afterwards was a sign of his role as our leader, shepherd and spiritual father of the Church in the Archdiocese of Melbourne. In his homily, the archbishop reminded us that, “The word ‘parish’ derives from the word ‘to sojourn.’ So, this parish Church is not meant to be where we come to stop and stay. It is meant, instead, to be where we come to rest for a short while, and to prepare for the next day on the road with Christ. So, keep coming to Mass on Sunday folks, because Jesus keeps offering himself to us here. But don’t get stuck here, because we are being given eucharistically what we need to leave this place and go out with Gospel hope.”

We thank our Archbishop for a such blessing and pray especially for him that God may give him wisdom and guidance, so that he may always act as a truly spiritual father to lead us all in peace and unity according to the Lord’s will. May we also be a blessing for one another as we try to live as eucharistic people in our families, in the life of our parish community here at St John’s Heidelberg, in our workplaces and in our world.

Every blessing,

Fr Vinh Nguyen

Parish Priest

The Eyrie

OUR TEAM

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The views, thoughts and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the individual authors and should not be interpreted as theology or moral and ethical teaching.

**YOUR FEEDBACK and ARTICLES
MOST WELCOME**

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*Please contact the parish
secretary 03 9457 1066*

PARISH MISSION 2024

Fr Richard Leonard SJ

Friday 18th October

7-8.30pm

Saturday 19th October

10am-3pm

Bookings at Try Booking

October

Month of the Holy Rosary

All Saints Day Nov 1st

All Souls Day Nov 2nd

**Christmas Carols
5th December**
