

PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood (or Good Shepherd Sunday) is celebrated on the Fourth Sunday of Easter. This year it falls on May 6-7. Five seminarians from Corpus Christi College will be visiting the Diocese of Ballarat to speak about Vocations. The Corpus Christi College students for the Diocese of Hobart will visit Ballarat Diocese for Good Shepherd Sunday Weekend May 6-7 to give a vocation reflection in the following parishes.

- Chathura Silva to St Alipius Ballarat East
- Vinco Muriyadan to St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat
- Steven Smith to St Columba's Ballarat North and Our Lady Help of Christians Wendouree
- Fidelis Udousoro to St Aloysius Redan and St James Sebastopol
- Jessie Banez to Sacred Heart Mildura and Our Lady's of the Sacred Heart Merbein

William Lowry, a second year seminarian shares something of his story with us:

Hello, my name is William Lowry; I am twenty-three years of age and have one younger sister. I grew up in Woodend in central Victoria and have recently move to the Surf Coast with my parents. Since my youth I always had a deep spiritual longing which I could not fill. I went to Catholic schools and had a basic understanding of the faith; but it was not something we practiced growing up. As a teenager, I began to search for answers to this spiritual longing. I came to see that the answer was found in the Lord. His humility, love and mercy drew me to a deeper and living faith, values in which I try to emulate each day. In recent years I have come to realise his calling: to abandon the things of the world, to pick up my cross and follow him, now to the seminary and please God, to his Sacred Priesthood. Please pray for me.



In his message for the World Day of Prayer for Vocations this year, Pope Francis had this to say on the place of praying for and encouraging Vocations to the Priesthood:

“Jesus makes the seed grow. We become open to the silent working of the Spirit, which is the basis of mission. There can be no promotion of vocations or Christian mission apart from constant contemplative prayer. The Christian life needs to be nourished by attentive listening to God’s word and, above all, by the cultivation of a personal relationship with the Lord in Eucharistic adoration, the privileged “place” for our encounter with God. I wish heartily to encourage this kind of profound friendship with the Lord, above all for the sake of imploring from on high new vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life. The People of God need to be guided by pastors whose lives are spent in service to the Gospel. I ask parish communities, associations and the many prayer groups present in the Church, not to yield to discouragement but to continue praying that the Lord will send workers to his harvest. May he give us priests enamoured of the Gospel, close to all their brothers and sisters, living signs of God’s merciful love.”

Please pray for the priests of our diocese and for future vocations.

Fr Ed Moloney – Vocations Director