$\overline{17^{4h}}$ Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B): ~ 24 -25 July 2021

THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF GORDON



St. Brigid's, Ballan ~ St. Patrick's, Gordon ~ St. Michael's, Springbank

The Gordon Parish is a supervised, community-led parish ~ Parish Leadership Team: Sue Daly, Lin Bowers , Joan Bourke, Shane Carey, Marie Shanahan, Brendan Maher, Dan Toohey, Gabrielle Driscoll and Paul McDowell

Supervising Priest: Fr Ed Moloney

Priest: Fr Sajan Mathew

Parish Secretary/Parish Office (Tuesdays 9.30am-2.30pm): \$\infty\$ 5368 9280 or 0492 903 409

Magordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au ~ 4 www.ballarat.catholic.org.au (follow parish links)

Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals and Maintenance: contact Parish Secretary ~ Safeguarding Officer: Lin Bowers

PARISH VISION: That all parishioners and visitors are welcomed as family and nourished as the Body of Christ

St. Brigid's Primary School Principal: Ms Gabrielle Driscoll **2** 5368 1015 www.sbballan.catholic.edu.au Parish Schools **2** 5368 9495 St. Patrick's Primary School Principal: Mr Paul McDowell www.spgordon.catholic.edu.au

Collections in Church last weekend

Loose	Presbytery: \$	Parish: \$
Planned Giving	Envelopes 2020/21:	\$372.00

Vicar-General visits the Parishes of Gordon & Bungaree

The Vicar-General of the Diocese of Ballarat, Fr. Kevin Maloney, met with the Gordon Parish Leadership Team & the Bungaree Parish Leadership Team at the Gathering Space, St Brigid's Church on Wed evening, 7 July 2021. Also present were Fr. Sajan and Fr Ed. The challenges facing the Diocese were outlined by Fr. Kevin, & initiatives implemented to address administrative and operational costs in country parishes were detailed. Further meetings are scheduled in the coming weeks. We will keep you informed of any developments; no major

decisions will be made prior to general consultations with all parishioners.

Interim Principal- St. Brigid's School

Jayne Bosworth has been appointed as Interim Principal at St Brigid's in Ballan for Term 3. Jayne has worked in Catholic education as Deputy Principal & Curriculum Leader for the last 5 years & has been in education for 20 years. Jayne is a passionate, enthusiastic & reflective learner, educator & leader who has a clear vision of high-quality education for all children. Jayne is really looking forward to fostering meaningful connections within the parish.

ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC PARISH ~ BUNGAREE



St Peter's, Clarkes Hill ~ St Brendan's, Dunnstown ~ St Michael's, Bungaree Parish Administrator: Fr Sajan Mathew ~ \$53340450 ~ C/-Post Office, Bungaree Vic 3352 Parish Secretary/Parish Office (Thursday 9.30am-2.30pm): \$\infty\$ 5368 9280 or 0492 903 409 ☑ bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au ~ ♥ www.ballarat.catholic.org.au (follow parish links)

Parish Schools

St. Mary's School, Clarkes Hill

Principal: Inez French[®] 5334 5280 St. Brendan's School, Dunnstown Principal: Inez French 5334 7604

www.smclarkeshill.catholic.edu.au www.sbdunnstown.catholic.edu.au

Collections last weekend:

Presbytery:	\$ Parish: \$

Vicar-General visits the Parishes of Gordon & Bungaree

The Vicar-General of the Diocese of Ballarat, Fr. Kevin Maloney, met with the Gordon Parish Leadership Team & the Bungaree Parish Leadership Team at the Gathering Space, St Brigid's Church on Wed evening, 7 July 2021. Also present were Fr. Sajan and Fr Ed. The challenges facing the Diocese were outlined by Fr. Kevin, & initiatives implemented to address administrative and operational costs in country parishes were detailed. Further meetings are scheduled in the coming weeks. We will keep you informed of any developments; no major decisions will be made prior to general consultations with all parishioners.

Sacramental Program

Sacramental Packs are ready for pick up at St. Mary's & St. Brendan's for the children who attend these schools; and the porch at the Parish House (Bungaree Presbytery). The meeting for parents of children wishing to receive the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist has been rescheduled for next Tuesday night, 27th July at 7:30pm.The Sacramental meeting will be via Zoom. Go to Join Zoom Meeting

https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/83912501464?pwd=UkRzWENpbo tWRjlBTFpWY1cwY1lSdz09

Meeting ID: 839 1250 1464 Passcode: 214522

	READER/INTERCESSIONS	OFFERTORY	WEEDKDAY MASSES				
24/25 July	17 th Sunday in Ordinary Time 2 Kings 4: 42-44; Eph 4: 1-6						
Clarkes Hill-6.30pm	No Mass Tuesday – 9.30am Bungaree						
Gordon-8.45am	No Mass		Wednesday – 9.30am Bungaree				
Ballan-10.30am	No Mass		Thursday – 9.30am Bungaree				
31 July/1 August	18 th Sunday in Ordinary Time Ex 16:2-4, 12-15; Eph 4: 17, 20-24						
Dunnstown-6.30pm	Di Cahir	Di Cahir Friday – 9.30am Bungaree		Г			
Gordon-8.45am	Monica Eastwood, Mark Conroy		Saturday – 9.30am Bungaree				
Ballan-10.30am	Bert Jarvis, Lin Bowers		Holy Hour – 1 st Thursday of each Month				
7/8 August	St Mary of the Cross (MacKillop) 1 I	Kings 17: 8-16; Col 3: 12-17					
Springbank-6.3opm	To be Advised	e Advised Friday- Benediction after each 9.30 am n		Г			
Bungaree-8.45am	Julie & Sophie Boyd	Saturday- Reconciliation after 9.30 am mass					
Ballan-10.30am	Catherine Green, Sandra Miller						

LITURGIES /WEEKDAY MASSES								
Fr Sajan celebrates mass each weekday morning (except Mondays) - Bungaree 9.30am All Welcome!								
	1 st Sunday	2 nd Sunday	3 rd Sunday	4 th Sunday	5 th Sunday			
Sat 6.30pm	Dunnstown	Springbank	Dunnstown	Clarkes Hill	Springbank			
Sun 8.45am	Gordon	Bungaree	Gordon	Gordon	Bungaree			
Sun 10.30am	Ballan	Ballan	Ballan	Ballan	Ballan			
	Korobeit Sat 6.30pm ~ Creswick 8.45am ~ Daylesford 10.30am							

Anniversaries: Pat O'Neil, Jimmy Toohey, Clare Molloy, Edith Holmes, Patrick Maher, Marie Britt.

We offer our prayerful support for the sick Anna Bartaska, Mitchell Prendergast, John Ryan, Mary Cassar, Lyla Geary, Michelle Hall, Moira Myers, Louise Smith, George Roberts, Stan Mahar, Lore Winter, Thelma Keating, Noel Craven, Christine Hall, Alice Gardiner, Eileen Haintz.

Grandparents Day - 25 July 2021

"I am with you always" (Mt 28:20) is the theme chosen by Pope Francis for this inaugural commemoration. His written message, printed as a Booklet 'I Am With You Always', will be placed in all churches. You can also watch his message 'I Am With You Always' on https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bFUSwj3fjLA

National Mass to mark Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children's Day – August 2
Aboriginal Catholic Ministry are planning a live broadcast of a national Mass to mark National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children's Day on August 4, 2021 with the theme, "Proud in Culture - Strong in Spirit". Archbishop Peter Comensoli will celebrate this livestreamed Mass at the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Chapel in Thornbury at 12.00noon. Contact Sherry Balcombe, Manager Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Victoria, ph. 0439 780 899 or email Sherry.balcombe@cam.org.au for more information.

Prayer for the First World Day for Grandparents & the Elderly

I thank You, Lord, for the comfort of Your presence: even in times of loneliness, You are my hope and my confidence, You have been my rock and my fortress since my youth!

I thank You for having given me a family and for having blessed me with a long life.

I thank You for moments of joy and difficulty, for the dreams that have already come true in my life and for those that are still ahead of me.

I thank You for this time of renewed fruitfulness to which You call me.

Increase, O Lord, my faith, make me a channel of your peace, teach me to embrace those who suffer more than me, to never stop dreaming and to tell of your wonders to new generations.

Protect and guide Pope Francis and the Church, that the light of the Gospel might reach the ends of the earth.

Send Your Spirit, D Lord, to renew the world, that the storm of the pandemic might be calmed, the poor consoled and wars ended. Sustain me in weakness and help me to live life to the full in each moment that You give me, in the certainty that you are with me every day, even until the end of the age. Amen.

Diocesan Liturgical Commission Membership

The Ballarat Diocesan Liturgical Commission assists the Bishop with diocesan liturgies, liturgical matters of the diocese and provides formation to assist the growth of good liturgical practices. Membership of the Commission includes representation from priests, religious and laity throughout the diocese. The Commission is currently seeking new members from all areas of the diocese. Membership is for an initial term of three (3) years with the option of two further terms (3 years per term). The Commission meets five times per year in Ballarat. Video linking facilities are available for meetings. All members of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission must hold a current Working with Children check or VIT (Victorian Institute of Teaching) registration. Expressions of interest can be forwarded to liturgical liturgical liturgic

Plenary Council Prayer Campaign - Fan the Flame: Towards Plenary Assembly One October 2021

A national campaign has been launched to support a prayerful build-up to the first assembly of the Plenary Council. The "Fan the Flame" campaign is offered as resources for individuals and groups of various sizes and contexts who are providing essential support by praying for the Council journey and specifically for the Council assemblies. Resources are available from https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fantheflame/

'Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and gave them out to all who were sitting ready' John 6:1-15.

Grace moves God's people to ask questions grounded in the call we received at Baptism: How do we better nourish, accompany, give witness, support, invite, welcome, engage and be present to others, such that we all grow in holiness? (Prayerful and Eucharistic – Discernment Paper p. 6) www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fantheflame/

CSSV Mission Inspired Leadership Program 2021

The Mission Inspired Leadership program is a professional development opportunity for senior leaders (Board members, CEOs, senior/executive managers and emerging leaders) in the Catholic social services sector and other affiliated organisations within health and education. It is designed for busy people so it is set up as four 1.5 hour workshops over four months. A mix of practical knowledge, conceptual challenge and reflective practice, the program is a chance to spend a few hours hearing from experienced, relevant and highly skilled facilitators. It is a space to consider, share and encourage each other in the mission that all our organisations are a part of. This year each of these sessions will be run online via zoom, with an additional face-to-face 'cocktail' networking event in Melbourne for local participants in late November. Further info at https://css.org.au/events/mil2021/

COVID restrictions

On July 15th, Bishop Bird wrote to all parishioners on the impact of COVID restrictions on the holding of masses, marriages and funerals. Go to **Notes for Lockdown** at https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Notes-for-lockdown-16-07-2021.pdf

For parishioners who do not subscribe to the e-copy of the combined newsletter, copies for 18 July 2001 and 25 July 2021 will be available for pick-up before the regular weekend masses during August.

by curing the sick. Jesus climbed the hillside, and sat down there with his disciples. It was shortly before the Jewish feast of Passover.

Looking up, Jesus saw the crowds approaching and said to Philip, 'Where can we buy some bread for these people to eat?' He only said this to test Philip; he himself knew exactly what he was going to do. Philip answered, 'Two hundred denarii would only buy enough to give them a small piece each.' One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said, 'There is a small boy here with five barley loaves and two fish; but what is that between so many?" Jesus said to them, 'Make the people sit down.' There was plenty of grass there, and as many as five thousand men sat down. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and gave them out to all who were sitting ready; he then did the same with the fish, giving out as much as was wanted. When they had eaten enough he said to the disciples, 'Pick up the pieces left over, so that nothing gets wasted.' So they picked them up, and filled twelve hampers with scraps left over from the meal of five barley loaves. The people, seeing this sign that he had given, said, 'This really is the prophet who is to come into the world.' Jesus, who could see they were about to come and take him by force and make him king, escaped back to the hills by himself.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

Reproduction of this bulletin in any form prohibited. Published with ecclesiastical approval by ST PAULS PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135. Tel 02 9394 3400 Fax 02 9394 3444. Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible, published and © 1966, by Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co. Inc. are used by permission of the publishers. Psalm text from The Psalms, A New Translation, © 1963, The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New translation of the Order of Mass from The Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj. Layout, commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 2021. No 1888. Website: www.stpauls.com.au

Breaking Open the Word

READING THE SIGNS

One of the major themes of the first half of John's gospel is whether people have the capacity to understand the meaning of the signs that Jesus worked. Time and again, a sign is worked but only partially comprehended. In the coming weeks the true meaning of the feeding of the multitude will be our focus.

The ministry of Jesus was having enormous success. His healing of the sick had attracted such a crowd that 200 denarii (over half a year's wages for a labourer) would only be sufficient to give them a small piece of bread each. Like Elisha before him, Jesus will work with what is at hand so that the people will not go hungry. In both cases what is at hand is minimal, but the resulting surplus is a powerful sign of what can happen when the Lord is given room to work with what we have to offer. When Jesus is at work there is always more than is needed, just as the fullness of his identity and mission cannot be exhausted by the crowd's perception that he is a prophet and king.

Paul knew that the abundance of the life that we have received in baptism is meant to be shared. If we have understood the gift we have been given then we will understand that we too are called to be a sign for the world. Our unity and charity towards one another are a sign of the life we share in Jesus, the living bread and source of our lives.

Christopher Monaghan CP

n

THE SAVING WORD

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

25 JULY 2021

FIRST READING

2 Kings 4: 42-44

A reading from the second book of the Kings.

They will eat and have some left over.

A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing Elisha, the man of God, bread from the first-fruits, twenty barley loaves and fresh grain in the ear. 'Give it to the people to eat,' Elisha said. But his servant replied, 'How can I serve this to a hundred men?' 'Give it to the people to eat' he insisted 'for the Lord says this, "They will eat and have some left over." ' He served them; they ate and had some over, as the Lord had said.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 144: 10-11, 15-18. R. v. 16

R. The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.

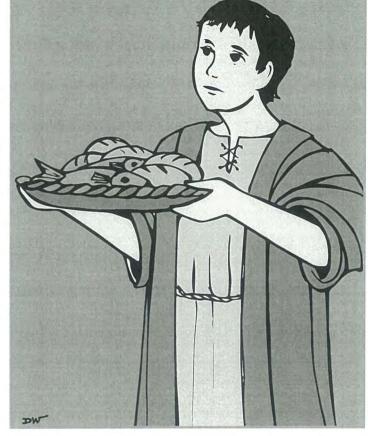
- 1. All your creatures shall thank you,
 O Lord, / and your friends shall repeat their
 blessing. / They shall speak of the glory
 of your reign / and declare your might,
 O God. R.
- 2. The eyes of all creatures look to you / and you give them their food in due time. / You open wide your hand, / grant the desires of all who live. R.
- 3. The Lord is just in all his ways / and loving in all his deeds. / He is close to all who call him, / who call on him from their hearts. R.

SECOND READING

Eph 4: 1-6

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.

There is one body, one Lord, one faith, one baptism. I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one Body, one



Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is Father of all, through all and within all.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 7: 16

Alleluia, alleluia!

A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

In 6: 1-15

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

He distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted.

Jesus went off to the other side of the Sea of Galilee – or of Tiberias – and a large crowd followed him, impressed by the signs he gave I ask the Lord that, also through his example, all of us may open our hearts in sensitivity to the sufferings of the poor and intercede for their needs. May each of us learn to repeat to all, and especially to the young, the words of consolation we have heard spoken to us today: "I am with you always"! Keep moving forward! May the Lord grant you his blessing.

Franciscus

Rome, St. John Lateran, May 31, 2021, Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS

WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

#IAMWITHYOUALWAYS





Message of Pope Francis



even now be at our side, caring for us. These kinds of memory can help to build a more humane and welcoming world. Without memory, however, we will never be able to build; without a foundation, we can never build a house. Never. And the foundation of life is memory.

Finally, prayer. As my predecessor, Pope Benedict, himself a saintly elderly person who continues to pray and work for the Church, once said: "the prayer of the elderly can protect the world, helping it perhaps more effectively than the frenetic activity of many others." 4 He spoke those words in 2012, towards the end of his pontificate. There is something beautiful here. Your prayer is a very precious resource: a deep breath that the Church and the world urgently need (cf. Evangelii Gaudium, 262). Especially in these difficult times for our human family, as we continue to sail in the same boat across the stormy sea of the pandemic, your intercession for the world and for the Church has great value: it inspires in everyone the serene trust that we will soon come to shore.

Dear grandmother, dear grandfather, dear elderly friends, in concluding this Message to you, I would also like to mention the example of Blessed (and soon Saint) Charles de Foucauld. He lived as a hermit in Algeria and there testified to "his desire to feel himself a brother to all" (Fratelli Tutti, 287). The story of his life shows how it is possible, even in the solitude of one's own desert, to intercede for the poor of the whole world and to become, in truth, a universal brother or sister.

Giotto, *The dream of Joachim*, Cappella degli Scrovegni, Padova.

 $^{^{\}rm 4}$ Visit to the Group Home "Viva gli Anziani", 2 November 2012.

live once the storm has subsided. All of us must "take an active part in renewing and supporting our troubled societies" (ibid., 77). Among the pillars that support this new edifice, there are three that you, better than anyone else, can help to set up. Those three pillars are dreams, memory and prayer. The Lord's closeness will grant to all, even the frailest among us, the strength needed to embark on a new journey along the path of dreams, memory and prayer.

The prophet Joel once promised: "Your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men will have visions" (3:1). The future of the world depends on this covenant between young and old. Who, if not the young, can take the dreams of the elderly and make them come true? Yet for this to happen, it is necessary that we continue to dream. Our dreams of justice, of peace, of solidarity can make it possible for our young people to have new visions; in this way, together, we can build the future. You need to show that it is possible to emerge renewed from an experience of hardship. I am sure that you have had more than one such experience: in your life you have faced any number of troubles and yet were able to pull through. Use those experiences to learn how to pull through now.

Dreams are thus intertwined with memory. I think of the painful memory of war, and its importance for helping the young to learn the value of peace. Those among you who experienced the suffering of war must pass on this message. Keeping memory alive is a true mission for every elderly person: keeping memory alive and sharing it with others. Edith Bruck, who survived the horror of the Shoah, has said that "even illuminating a single conscience is worth the effort and pain of keeping alive the memory of what has been." She went on to say: "For me, memory is life."3 I also think of my own grandparents, and those among you who had to emigrate and know how hard it is to leave everything behind, as so many people continue to do today, in hope of a future. Some of those people may

 3 Memory is life, writing is breath. *L'Osservatore Romano*, January 26, 2021.

Dear Grandfathers and Grandmothers, Dear Elderly Friends,

"I am with you always" (Mt 28:20): this is the promise the Lord made to his disciples before he ascended into heaven. They are the words that he repeats to you today, dear grandfathers and grandmothers, dear elderly friends. "I am with you always" are also the words that I, as Bishop of Rome and an elderly person like yourselves, would like to address to you on this first World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly. The whole Church is close to you – to us – and cares about you, loves you and does not want to leave you alone!

I am well aware that this Message comes to you at a difficult time: the pandemic swept down on us like an unexpected and furious storm; it has been a time of trial for everyone, but especially for us elderly persons. Many of us fell ill, others died or experienced the death of spouses or loved ones, while others found themselves isolated and alone for long periods.

The Lord is aware of all that we have been through in this time. He is close to those who felt isolated and alone, feelings that became more acute during the pandemic. Tradition has it that Saint Joachim, the grandfather of Jesus, felt estranged from those around him because he had no children; his life, like that of his wife Anne, was considered useless. So the Lord sent an angel to console him. While he mused sadly outside the city gates, a messenger from the Lord appeared to him and said, "Joachim, Joachim! The Lord has heard your insistent prayer". Giotto, in one of his celebrated frescoes, seems to set the scene at night, one of those many sleepless nights, filled with memories, worries and longings to which many of us have come to be accustomed.

¹ The episode is narrated in the Protoevangelium of James.

² This image has been chosen as the logo for the World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly.

Even at the darkest moments, as in these months of pandemic, the Lord continues to send angels to console our loneliness and to remind us: "I am with you always". He says this to you, and he says it to me. That is the meaning of this Day, which I wanted to celebrate for the first time in this particular year, as a long period of isolation ends and social life slowly resumes. May every grandfather, every grandmother, every older person, especially those among us who are most alone, receive the visit of an angel!

At times those angels will have the face of our grandchildren, at others, the face of family members, lifelong friends or those we have come to know during these trying times, when we have learned how important hugs and visits are for each of us. How sad it makes me that in some places these are still not possible!

The Lord, however, also sends us messengers through his words, which are always at hand. Let us try to read a page of the Gospel every day, to pray with the psalms, to read the prophets! We will be comforted by the Lord's faithfulness. The Scriptures will also help us to understand what the Lord is asking of our lives today. For at every hour of the day (cf. Mt 20:1-16) and in every season of life, he continues to send labourers into his vineyard. I was called to become the Bishop of Rome when I had reached, so to speak, retirement age and thought I would not be doing anything new. The Lord is always – always – close to us. He is close to us with new possibilities, new ideas, new consolations, but always close to us. You know that the Lord is eternal; he never, ever goes into retirement.

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus tells the Apostles, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (28:19-20). These words are also addressed to us today. They help us better understand that our vocation is to preserve our roots, to pass on the faith to the young, and to care for the little ones. Think about it: what is our vocation today, at our age? To preserve our roots, to pass on the faith to the young and to care for the little ones. Never forget this.

It makes no difference how old you are, whether you still work or not, whether you are alone or have a family, whether you became a grandmother or grandfather at a young age or later, whether you are still independent or need assistance. Because there is no retirement age from the work of proclaiming the Gospel and handing down traditions to your grandchildren. You just need to set out and undertake something new.

At this crucial moment in history, you have a renewed vocation. You may wonder: How this can be possible? My energy is running out and I don't think I can do much. How can I begin to act differently when habit is so much a part of my life? How can I devote myself to those who are poor when I am already so concerned about my family? How can I broaden my vision when I can't even leave the residence where I live? Isn't my solitude already a sufficiently heavy burden? How many of you are asking just that question: isn't my solitude already a sufficiently heavy burden? Jesus himself heard a similar question from Nicodemus, who asked, "How can a man be born when he is old?" (Jn 3:4). It can happen, the Lord replies, if we open our hearts to the working of the Holy Spirit, who blows where he wills. The Holy Spirit whose freedom is such that goes wherever, and does whatever, he wills.

As I have often observed, we will not emerge from the present crisis as we were before, but either better or worse. And "God willing... this may prove not to be just another tragedy of history from which we learned nothing... If only we might keep in mind all those elderly persons who died for lack of respirators... If only this immense sorrow may not prove useless, but enable us to take a step forward towards a new style of life. If only we might discover once for all that we need one another, and that in this way our human frailty can experience a rebirth" (Fratelli Tutti, 35). No one is saved alone. We are all indebted to one another. We are all brothers and sisters.

Given this, I want to tell you that you are needed in order to help build, in fraternity and social friendship, the world of tomorrow: the world in which we, together with our children and grandchildren, will



Bishop's Office 5 Lyons Street South Ballarat VIC 3350 P.O. Box 121 Ballarat VIC 3353

Phone: (03) 5337 7121 Fax: (03) 5332 1122

E-mail: bishopsoffice@ballarat.catholic.org.au

July 16, 2021

Hello Everyone,

As you would be aware, the Victorian government has announced a state-wide lockdown from midnight on Thursday July 15 till midnight on Tuesday July 20. Having experienced several lockdowns previously, we may all be familiar with what is involved. However, it may be helpful to have some notes to remind us as to how the lockdown will affect religious services for the next five days. The following points are drawn from the Victorian government website.

For the five days of the lockdown, all places of worship in Victoria are closed for private worship or religious ceremonies. Ceremonies and services can be recorded or broadcast live from the place of worship for viewing online. Only those who are necessary to conduct the ceremony may be on site to record and live stream services (up to 5 people). Gatherings for the purposes of worship, prayer groups, or any other religious purposes may only occur remotely.

Places of worship may be opened for the purposes of conducting permitted weddings or funerals, but there are strict limits on the number of people who can attend.

A place of worship may host a funeral, but attendance will be limited to 10 people plus those required to conduct the funeral.

Weddings are not permitted indoors or outdoors unless one or both people getting married are at the end of life or would otherwise be deported. In these exceptional cases, only five people can attend the wedding - the couple being married, two witnesses and the celebrant.

During these days of lockdown, we will not be able to gather for worship as we usually do. However, we can still pray in our homes. I encourage you in your personal prayer and your prayer as a family. Our diocesan website has information about links to online Masses and other prayer resources at https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/coronavirus-the-churchs-information-and-advice-2/#links-to-masses-online

May Christ be with you through these five days and in all the day ahead.

God bless you all.

Bishop Paul