



Plenary Council 2020  
Listen to what the Spirit is saying...

Towards the first Assembly  
2<sup>nd</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> October 2021

From today's Gospel:  
'You have the message of  
eternal life, and we believe.'

Through appropriate faith formation,  
God can shape us into deepening our  
spirituality within the life of the  
Church, engaging with scripture, en-  
countering God in worship and  
prayerfully developing our living re-  
lationship with Jesus Christ.

(Prayerful and Eucharistic -  
Discernment Paper p. 5)

[www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au](http://www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au)  
[fantheflame/](http://fantheflame/)

#### THE PLENARY COUNCIL AND YOU

The Ballarat diocesan members of the  
Plenary Council, Marie Shaddock, Felicity  
Knobel, Bishop Paul Bird and Fr Kevin  
Maloney, will soon be visiting parishes  
to talk about the Plenary Council and  
the Assemblies to be held in October  
this year and July next year. More infor-  
mation to come.

**SCRIPTURE STUDY:** 1pm-2pm Fridays,  
St Pius X Church. All welcome.

**FIRST FRIDAY SACRED HEART MASS:**  
6pm, Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> September, at St Pius X.

#### WEEKDAY LITURGIES IN OUR REGION

<b>Mon</b>	9:30am, St Pius X
<b>Tue</b>	9:30am, Our Lady's 10:00am, St Patrick's
<b>Wed</b>	9:30am Mass, Our Lady's 10:00am Mass, St Joseph's 10:00am Mass, Infant Jesus
<b>Thu</b>	9:30am Mass, Our Lady's
<b>Fri</b>	9:30am Mass, Our Lady's 10:00am Mass, St Joseph's
<b>Sat</b>	9:30am Mass, Our Lady's

#### CONFESSION TIMES IN OUR REGION

<b>Mon</b>	5pm to 6pm, St Pius X
<b>Tue</b>	5pm to 6pm, St Pius X
<b>Wed</b>	5pm to 6pm, St Pius X
<b>Thu</b>	5pm to 6pm, St Pius X
<b>Fri</b>	After 9:30am Mass, Our Lady's After 10am Mass, St Joseph's 5pm to 6pm, St Pius X
<b>Sat</b>	10am to 11am, St Pius X

**SATURDAY VIGIL MASS**  
6:30pm Infant Jesus, Koroit

**SUNDAY MORNING MASSES**  
8:30am St Joseph's, Warrnambool  
9:00am St Patrick's, Port Fairy  
10:00am St Joseph's, Warrnambool  
10:30am St Pius X, West Warrnambool

**SUNDAY EVENING MASS**  
6:00pm St Joseph's, Warrnambool

Also Our Lady's: 6pm Saturday, 9am Sunday

**WARRNAMBOOL MINISTRY DISTRICT**  
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#### PARISH PRIESTS

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#### MOYNE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Infant Jesus Parish, Koroit  
St Patrick's Parish, Port Fairy  
[www.moyneatholic.org.au](http://www.moyneatholic.org.au)



## 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 2021

#### FIRST READING

Joshua 24:1-2,15-18

*We will serve the Lord, for he is our God*  
Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel  
together at Shechem; then he called the  
elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Is-  
rael, and they presented themselves be-  
fore God. Then Joshua said to all the  
people, 'If you will not serve the Lord,  
choose today whom you wish to serve,  
whether the gods that your ancestors  
served beyond the River, or the gods of  
the Amorites in whose land you are  
now living. As for me and my House, we  
will serve the Lord.'

The people answered, 'We have no in-  
tention of deserting the Lord and serv-  
ing other gods! Was it not the Lord our  
God who brought us and our ancestors  
out of the land of Egypt, the house of  
slavery, who worked those great won-  
ders before our eyes and preserved us  
all along the way we travelled and  
among all the peoples through whom  
we journeyed? What is more, the Lord  
drove all those peoples out before us, as  
well as the Amorites who used to live in  
this country. We too will serve the Lord,  
for he is our God.'

#### RESPONSORIAL

Psalm 33(34):2-3,16-23

*R/. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord*  
I will bless the Lord at all times,  
his praise always on my lips;  
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.  
The humble shall hear and be glad.

#### *R/. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord*

The Lord turns his face against the  
wicked  
to destroy their remembrance from  
the earth.

The Lord turns his eyes to the just  
and his ears to their appeal.

#### *R/. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord*

They call and the Lord hears  
and rescues them in all their distress.  
The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;  
those whose spirit is crushed he will  
save.

#### *R/. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord*

Many are the trials of the just man  
but from them all the Lord will rescue  
him.

He will keep guard over all his bones,  
not one of his bones shall be broken.

#### *R/. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord*

Evil brings death to the wicked;  
those who hate the good are doomed.  
The Lord ransoms the souls of his  
servants.

Those who hide in him shall not be  
condemned.

#### *R/. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord*

#### SECOND READING

Ephesians 5:25-32

*Christ loves the Church, for it is his body*  
Follow Christ by loving as he loved you.  
Husbands should love their wives just  
as Christ loved the Church and sacri-

ficed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself.

A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. *For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body.* This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.*

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life: you have the words of everlasting life



**ST VINNIES WINTER APPEAL**

The annual winter appeal of the Koroit and Port Fairy conferences of the St Vincent de Paul Society will be taken up at the end of today's Mass. All monies received will be assist local people in dire need. Thank you for your generosity.



**Contact Tracing**

The Government requires people check in using QR codes connected to Services Victoria. You can scan the image here or at the church entrance. Alternatively, please write your name and number on the pen and paper form provided.

*Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.*

**GOSPEL**

John 6:51, 65-69

*Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You are the Holy One of God*

Jesus said to the crowd: 'I am the living bread which has come down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world.'

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Heath Bishop, Vincent Griffin, Dawn Murnane, Max Paten, Alex Smith.

*Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord; let perpetual light shine upon them.*



**UPDATE ON NEW PARISH**

The Catholic communities of Koroit, Port Fairy, Warrnambool West and Warrnambool look forward to becoming a totally new parish later this year.

Nothing is official yet, but the new parish may be established as soon as 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021 (just six weeks away). We await the bishop's decision, but the parish will probably be called Star of the Sea, South West Coast.



**FOLLOWING CHRIST**

Fr Francis Fernandez

The First Reading of today's Mass tells us about the moment when the Chosen People, having crossed the Jordan, are about to enter the Promised Land. Joshua gathered the tribes of Israel together at Sichem and said to them: *If you be unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. And all the people answered him: Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord ... We also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.*

In the Gospel of the Mass we also find Jesus posing the same question to his disciples. After the announcement of the Eucharist in the synagogue at Capharnaum many of his disciples abandoned their Master because they found his teaching about the mystery of the Eucharist difficult to accept. Jesus is left with only his closest followers, and He wants them to reaffirm their loyalty and their unconditional confidence in him. So Our Lord turns to those men who have followed him thus far and asks them: *Will you also go away?* And Peter answers in the name of all: *Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life; and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.* The

Apostles say Yes once more to Christ. What would become of them without Jesus? Where would they go? Who would satisfy the longings of their hearts? Life without Christ, then as now, is life without meaning.

We too have said Yes to Jesus, forever. We have embraced Truth, Life, Love. We have directed that freedom which God has given us towards its only valid objective. The day on which Our Lord looked upon us in a special way we told him that He would be the goal towards which we would direct our steps; and we have since told him on many occasions: *Lord, to whom shall we go?* Without you nothing has any meaning.

Today is a good opportunity to examine the sincerity of our self-surrender to Our Lord, to see if we joyfully put aside anything that prevents us from following Jesus. *Ask yourself now – I too am examining my conscience – whether you are holding firmly and unshakeably to your choice of Life? When you hear the most lovable voice of God urging you on to holiness, do you freely answer 'Yes'?* (St Josemaría Escrivá, *Friends of God*, 24.) To say yes to Our Lord in all circumstances means also saying no to other paths, to other possibilities. He is our Friend; only He has the words of eternal life.

Let us reaffirm today our following of Christ, with a lot of love, trusting in his merciful help; and with complete freedom we can tell him: *Lord, I put my freedom in your hands.* Let us also imitate our Blessed Mother, who famously declared: *Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be unto me according to your word.*

NEXT WEEK: Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2021. (*Fifth Sunday of August.*)

22 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	6:30pm Mass, Koroit	9:00am Mass, Port Fairy
Welcome & Intercessions	Bob Shanahan	Liz McVeigh
First & Second Readings	Lyn McElgunn	Olga Lyons
Procession of Gifts	<i>(As long as masks are mandated indoors, there is no procession.)</i>	
Holy Communion	Margaret Moloney	<i>(Not applicable)</i>