

We pray for Remy Bourke, Joan O'Beirne, Waffa Ghali, Mary Hall, Betty McGarry, Anne D'Cruz (Singapore), Peter Saunders, Agnes Peters, Brian (Jack) Patton, Ray, Heather Healy, Peter Martin, Margie Wilmott, Letitia Simmons, and all who are unwell.

Unwell:

Upcoming Dates in the Parish Community

		May		
11	Confirmation Information Night	7.00pm	St Alipius Church and Hall	
17	Reflection Day on Loss	9.30 – 2pm	OLHC Parish, Wendouree	
18	Adult Faith Session with Fr Barry	6.30pm	St Alipius Hall	
20	Casserole Night	7.00pm	Ss Peter & Pauls Church, Bun	inyong
21	Confirmation Prep	6pm /10.30	St Alipius Church	
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Loving God, we pray for our mothers, who have given us life and love,

that we may show them reverence and love, and others who show us a mother's love.

We pray for adoptive mothers and for the women who wish to give birth but experience challenges, that they know your care.

We pray for mothers who have lost a child through death, that their faith may give them hope, and their family and friends support and console them.

We pray for those who wish to serve as mothers, but are not able to do so, that they know your comfort. We pray for mothers who have died, that God may bring them into the joy of his kingdom. Amen.

We are so thankful for the blessings of Mothers in our lives. Their everyday care and compassion for those around us and the strength and guidance they bring to each day. Thank you to each and every Mum

A Faith Enriching Session May 18th @ 6.30pm

Are you longing to enrich your faith? Would you enjoy hearing and learning more about what and why we believe then a night in conversation with Fr Barry Ryan is just what you need. *Come and spend some time with him in an adult faith formation session – for more information or to* register your interest please contact the parish office. Places are limited.



Laudato Si' Week: May 16-24, 2022

As part of Catholic Earthcare's celebration of Laudato Si' Week, they are hosting an online screening of the newly released 'Regenerating Australia' short film - a fictitious news segment set on New Year's Eve 2029, examining the decade that

'could be'. The film challenges people to consider how to respond to the Cry of the Earth. Participants will be joined by Bishop Ken Howell and a range of guest speakers to share in this celebration. After the film, there will be a panel discussion and question time regarding how we can take the teachings of the film and respond as Catholics here in Australia. You are welcome to join by yourself or register a parish group for the viewing (please note if registering for a group, only 1 person need register via Trybooking). The video will be streamed via zoom so you can watch together on a large screen at a suitable venue like a parish hall. The online event will be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 from 6.00pm - 8.00pm AEST, 4.00pm - 6.00pm AWST. Bookings at: <u>https://www.trybooking.com/BZADT</u>.



Planned Giving

Should you wish to continue our Planned Giving or contribute to the First Collection, please place your offering in an envelope into the mailbox near the front door of the Presbytery. Any gueries regarding Planned Giving, please phone our Finance Officer Kerrie McTigue, on 53 312 933 or via email: ballaratoffice@ballarat.catholic.org.au Parish \$821.20

Presbytery \$ 2077.00 Easter Offerings \$ 1165.00



This weekend we welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism:

"The Church gives the faith to your children through Baptism and you have the task to make it grow . (Pope Francis)



Murphy Watson Son of Carla and Todd

Blake Kochskamper Son of Laura and Eric May these children grow in Love and Faith with the support of their family and their Catholic Community

Confirmation 2022

The parish is now open to enrolments for Confirmation which will take place in Term 2. All details can be found on the parish website.



<u>www.ballarat.catholic.org.au</u>

Confirmation Welcome letters can be found in the foyer of the church.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Liturgy Rosters and Participation

The latest Liturgy Roster is now available in the Sacristy of each church. The liturgy Team in the Parish is always looking for more people to join in supporting the Parish Mass and liturgies. If you would like to support the parish in this way please contact the Parish Office on 5332 6611. We would love to hear from you.

A Day of Reflection

You are invited to a day of reflection, "Where is the will of God for us in loss" being held at OLHC Parish, Wendouree, Tuesday 17th May from 9.30am - 2.00pm. Numbers are limited. For bookings contact Kath 331 2677

RCIC Program

The parish will be holding an information evening on RCIC in coming weeks. If you would like to have your child/children participate in this program or offer support please contact the Parish Office.

National Family Week: May 15-21, 2022

CatholicCare Victoria believes that building strong family relationships is the key to building healthy, resilient communities. Strong families give children the foundation they need to grow and the support they need to face challenges and setbacks not only now, but into the future. So how can parents and families build strong family relationships? Family Relationship Practitioners in Bendigo, Julia Feiss and Lisa Castles. share five important elements for creating strong families at https://www.catholiccarevic.org.au/news/247/a-blessing-for-families. There is also, "A Blessing for Families" on this webpage.

Alive in the Spirit 2022 – Virtual Conference

"Alive in the Spirit" is for lay and clergy, staff, leadership teams, finance teams, pastoral councils, pastoral ministers and volunteers, those in education, counselling, pastoral care, youth ministry, family ministry, aged care and chaplaincies and anyone who wants to be "Alive in the Spirit". The conference will be held from May 26-28, 2022. For more information and to register go to <u>https://aliveinthespirit.com.au/</u>

Reflection of the Gospel-Easter 4C (John 10:27-30)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Existening is important. Having the capacity to hear is even more so. Today's gospel is wonderfully reassuring for those who truly hear the voice of Jesus. He "knows" them. These are the ones who "follow" him, those who live as he lived, caring for the "flock". There is a sense of mutuality in hearing and in being known. The inheritance of the "known" ones is "eternal" or never-ending life. In other words, they participate in God's way of being in the world. Just as the shepherds of the ancient world protected their flocks, so the followers of Jesus are secure in his "hand", secure in the "hand" of God. Later in John's gospel, Mary of Magdala will hear Jesus' voice and recognise him when he calls her by name. She is one whom Jesus' "knows". Her faithful following of Jesus will find expression in her presence at the foot of the cross and her visit to the empty tomb.

Sisters of the Good Shepherd, founded in post-revolution France to shepherd God's people, especially young women at risk, take their inspiration from the gospel image of Jesus as shepherd. They continue to shepherd God's people, including women who have been trafficked as sexual slaves. They have expanded their mission and, together with their associates and partners in ministry, have decided "to shepherd God's creation". Their foundress, Sr. Mary Euphrasia Pelletier, understood the ways of shepherds in mid-19th century rural France: "How, in fact, do good shepherds act? They forget themselves and often have to endure hunger and thirst. They are crushed by fatigue and difficulties—no matter! They are happy if their sheep do not suffer and if they find those that are lost. What trouble they take to lead their sheep to good pastures! In summer they seek out places where there is water and shade; in winter they lead them to where the cold is less biting and the grass more abundant. If they notice poisonous plants near the little lambs they hasten to pull them up. Day and night, they are on guard against wolves—they never completely relax." The same respectful stance is needed as we seek to care for our threatened Earth community.

For the earliest readers of John's gospel, the term "good shepherd" was a contradiction in terms. Shepherds were known to trespass on the property of others in their search for feed. A positive image of the shepherd is nonetheless part of Israel's prophetic tradition. John's gospel evokes that tradition. It also evokes the figure of David, the shepherd boy who was destined to become king and to shepherd God's people. For biblical scholar Margaret Daly-Denton, the Israelite understanding of kingship is "shepherding done in the name of the true Shepherd of Israel (Ps. 80.1), the kind of care that reveals the divine 'care-fulness'" (*John: An Earth Bible Commentary*, T&T Clark, 2017, 144). Those who hear the voice of Jesus are called to that kind of care for one another and for our planetary home.

Fourth Sunday of Easter / Vocation Sunday

First: Acts 13:14, 43-52 *Second:* Rev 7:9, 14-17 *Gospel:* Jn 10:27-30 <u>*Fifth Sunday of Easter*</u> *First:* Acts 14:21-27

Second: Ps144:8-13 Gospel: Jn 13:31-35

