

Peters, Leticia Tanes, Brian (Jack) Patton, Ray, Kateri Byrnes, Ann Coswello, Heather Healy, Peter Martin, Margie Wilmott, Letitia Simmons, and all who are unwell.

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)



Angus Belsar Child of Craig and Rebecca

**Evelyn Thomas** Child of Abilash and Anjali

Willa Hearn Child of Megan and John May these children grow in Love and Faith with the support of their family and their Catholic Community

## **Covid Updates**

As we reopen our doors of the churches this weekend, we give thanks that we may celebrate together even if in small numbers. Included in this week's Bulletin is a letter from Bishop Paul Bird outlining the path forward for us all.

# Working With Children Checks/ Police Checks

We are currently reviewing and updating our Child Safety Documentation and Police Checks. Thank you to those who have provided the parish with the details needed. If you are aware that your WWCC needs renewal we ask that you look into this as soon as possible. Please do not hesitate to contact Bron if you require some support with this.



## Diocesan Director of Caritas

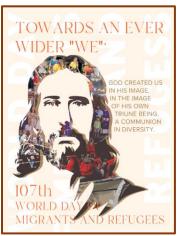
After many years of generous service, Sue Searls is retiring from the role of Diocesan Director of Caritas. Bishop Paul would like to hear from anyone who would be interested in taking up this role. The position will be funded by Caritas as a part-time role, averaging one day a week, although most of the work is concentrated in the months of February to May in relation to Project Compassion. There is a role description available from the diocesan website <u>https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/our-diocese/employment/</u>. If you would like to be considered for this position or if you would like more information, please contact Bishop Paul at <u>bishopsoffice@ballarat.catholic.org.au</u> by Thursday, October 7. Please include your contact details and some notes about your interest in this position and the experience you could bring to this role.

## <u> Planned Giving</u>

Should you wish 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 queries regarding Planned Giving, please phone our Finance Officer Kerrie McTigue, on 53 312 933 or via email: <u>ballaratoffice@ballarat.catholic.org.au</u>

We thank you for your continued Support





# Migrant and Refugee Sunday

Pope Francis has chosen the theme, Towards An Ever Wider "We", for the 107th World Day of Migrant and Refugees, commemorated in Australia on Sunday, September 26, 2021. Download the 2021 kit from the Australian Catholic Migrant & Refugee Office

https://www.acmro.catholic.org.au/resources/migrant-refugee-kit/booklet

Prayer for Migrant & Refugee Sunday: Holy, beloved Father,

your Son Jesus taught us that there is great rejoicing in heaven whenever someone lost is found, whenever someone excluded, rejected or discarded is gathered into our "we", which thus becomes ever wider. We ask you to grant the followers of Jesus, and all people of good will, the grace to do your will on earth. Bless each act of welcome and outreach that draws those in exile into the "we" of community and of the Church, so that our earth may truly become what you yourself created it to be: the common home of all our brothers and sisters. Amen

### Season of Creation September 1 – October 4, 2021



The Season of Creation is the time of year when the world's 2.2 billion Christians are myneu to pray and care for creation. This prayerful season runs annually from September 1 through to October 4 - the Feast of St Francis of Assisi. The Season of Creation is dedicated to prayer, reflection and celebration of God as Creator. It also celebrates and reflects prayerfully on the gifts of creation and the mission given to us by God to care for creation and respond to its needs and crises today. This year our theme is 'A Home for All? Renewing the oikos of God' (one of the meanings for the ancient Greek word oikos is home). Oikos is a home for all but our common home, the Earth, is now in danger because of people's greed, exploitation, disrespect, disconnection and systematic degradation. Resources to assist celebrate the of Creation available diocesan website Season are from the https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/catholic-earthcare-ballaratdiocese/season-of-creation-2021/

## Year of St Joseph Monthly Reflection



Each month during the year of St Joseph, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference will purchased reflection on the various aspects of St Joseph's life and character. Lara Kirk, Marriage, Family and Relationships Co-ordinator for the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn, reflects on "The Holy Family" <u>https://catholic.org.au/yearofstjoseph</u>

### Reflection on the Gospel-26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

#### (Mark 9:38-48)

-Veronica M. Lawson RSM

 $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{S}}$ ometimes we act and speak as though we have the monopoly on access to the power

of God although we have no such monopoly. In today's gospel Jesus seems to be telling his disciples that God works through people of good will, irrespective of whether they are on the edge ("not one of us") or at the centre of the kin-dom of God movement. The apostle John, who is one of the twelve, reports that he and other disciples of Jesus have tried to stop an exorcist working in Jesus' name "because he was not following us." Jesus rejects their attempt to claim an exclusive right to speak in his name. He offers reasons for permitting the exorcist to engage in such deeds "of power": one who acts thus will not be speaking against him but will rather be "for" him. Jesus affirms all expressions of hospitality to his followers as deserving of "their reward". In other words, the followers of Jesus cannot claim exclusive rights to the grace of God or to the embrace of God's kin-dom. God's power informs every act of compassion and mercy.

The first reading from the Book of Numbers offers a similar message. It tells the story of Joshua, assistant to Moses, trying to exclude two men from prophesying on somewhat tenuous grounds. Moses does not take Joshua's advice. On the contrary, he prays that the Spirit of God might "rest on" and, by implication, work through all of God's people. Both the gospel passage and the reading from Numbers seem to be warning against attempts to control or domesticate the Spirit of God.

The second part of the gospel reading (9:42-48) brings a dramatic change of mood as it takes up the issue of scandalising the "little ones". The reference to "little ones" marks a return to the scene in the latter part of last week's gospel reading where Jesus takes a little child in his arms and instructs his disciples. The horror of harming the little ones is dramatized in a series of sayings that challenge the most vivid imagination. These sayings are hardly intended to be taken literally. Cutting off offending limbs only deals with the symptoms. It may, however, offer some solace to those little ones who have suffered "scandal" or worse to know that there is no stronger condemnation in the gospels than that reserved for those who bring harm to children and to vulnerable others. We are impelled to do everything in our power to heal the hurts of the past and to create conditions that ensure the protection and safety of our children. For the past few weeks, we have been celebrating the Season of Creation. As we enter the final week of this celebration, we might attend to the inextricable connection between the cry of the earth and the cry of those rendered poor, all the "little ones" of the Earth community, human and other-than-human.

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*First:* Num 11:25-29 *Second:* James 5:1-6 *Gospel:* Mk 9: 38-43,45,47-48

<u>27th Sunday in Ordinary Time</u>

*First: Gen* 2:18-24 *Second: Heb*2:9-11 *Gospel: Mk* 10:2-16

