

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS – July 19, 2020

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary time Year A

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Sandra Watkins: 0409 492 508
Fr Marcello Colasante 0416 194 825 Contact: St Columba's, Ballarat North 53 311 012
email: ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Information for special parish events (Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals)

Please contact Anne Beer on 5349 2168 or 0417 369 322

Parish Support:

A reminder that if anyone needs help with anything,
to please get in touch with one of our members below.

Gail Hall 0412 311 586 Bernadette Franc 0427 678 830 Anne Beer 0417 369 322

Welcome to 'Our Community News' for July 19th 2020

Note: Today's Community News email has one other attachment: copy of 'The Saving Word' and this link to access the Diocesan E News:- <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/e-news/ballarat-e-news/1211-2020-07-16.html>

The Memorare



Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly to thee, O Virgin of Virgins, my Mother; to thee do I come; before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

INTRODUCTORY REFLECTION: (From 'Australian Catholics' printed with permission.)

Can COVID-19 be completely eradicated? Many authorities suggest we mustn't expect this.

Preparedness, containment, and management are the enduring remedies at our disposal. In short, we must learn to live with the virus. That's the kind of lesson offered by the parable of the wheat and the weeds.

Whether early Christians were dismayed by the resistance they met when proclaiming the Gospel abroad or by the shock of moral failure within the community, they found solace in this story.

Mission ineffectiveness and moral betrayal are again acute problems for the church of today. The parable is no recipe for complacency but an invitation to combine realism about the human condition with renewed determination to testify to the good news.

THANK YOU – I had a lovely card with a note of thanks to St John the Baptist community from Ena Frichot for our recent message of sympathy to her in the loss of her brother, Micheal.

RETURN TO MASSES DELAYED - A MESSAGE FROM FR MARCELLO:

As the restrictions for people assembling remain fluid and uncertain due to COVID 19, it will be necessary to defer recommencement until at least 26th July 2020. The government has extended the limit of 20 persons until Sunday 19th July 2020, at which time a further update will be provided. Once the limit is increased to 50, we can resume the Sunday celebration on the 2nd & 4th Sundays @ 8.30 am.

FATHER JUSTIN'S ONLINE MASSES FROM ST JOHN OF GOD HOSPITAL:

Reminder: Daily Mass at 11.30 am from St John of God Hospital Chapel.

The Cathedral facebook page is Patrick's Cathedral <https://www.facebook.com/patricks.cathedral.9> but the Masses can also be reached via the Cathedral website where the Masses are posted each day after the Mass has concluded so for those who don't have a facebook account they can go to <https://stpatscathedral.weebly.com/>

CAN I SUGGEST THAT THE SECOND LINK HERE WILL PROBABLY WORK BEST FOR OUR COMMUNITY?
.... AND IT SEEMS WE MIGHT BE IN FOR A LONGER HAUL THAN WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT.

RECENT DEATHS:

We continue to pray for all the victims to Coronavirus throughout Australia and the world.

ANNIVERSARIES:

Ellen Kelly, Kathleen Hinchcliffe, Nan Naylor, Margaret Hinchcliffe, Brendan Ryan, Kevin Briody, Ken Linke, Mona Boyle, Ken Ryan, Rev Keith Wright, Keith Torney, Lorna Norbury and Bill Gustus.

PRAY FOR ALL THESE FRIENDS OF OURS WHO ARE ILL:

Pat Byrne, Margaret MacDonald, Roger Molomby, Graeme Dawson, Blake Dridan, Fr. Adrian McInerney, Shelagh Mulcahy, Valda Murphy, Maria Large (Judy O'Connor's sister), Joan Cushing and all those in need of prayer.

ROSTERS:

As Anne Beer will soon be preparing our new roster, can people give consideration to volunteering for any roles that may interest them? Anne's mobile number is 0417 369 322 or email:- bigmac09@bigpond.com

If any parishioners wish to contribute anything at all for inclusion in the newsletter, it will be greatly appreciated. This is a great way to keep our little community in touch. Just simply put your contribution in an email.

July: **Bernadette Franc** Phone: 0427678830 Email: bernadette.franc.m@gmail.com

INFORMATION FOR PARISHES FROM THE DIOCESE:

Novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

We continue to distribute information regarding the coronavirus as it received. All updates are also on the diocesan website "news" section" www.ballarat.catholic.org.au The last update I have was on June 21st, which was circulated at the time. [Still no further updates](#) as of July 15.

St Vincent de Paul Society Winter Appeal

As a result of the coronavirus many people have found themselves in the position of having a job one day, and being unemployed the next. This will lead to an increasing number of people reaching out to Vinnies for help for the very first time. Therefore, this year's appeal will focus on addressing the needs of Victorians who have been impacted by COVID-19. Now more than ever, the funds raised during this appeal are critical in ensuring that Vinnies can continue to be there for people when they need us most. You can donate to our appeal via: online at vinnies.org.au or by phone 13 18 12. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible

Australian Catholic Men's Gathering

Online program available from Aug 15 (see previous attachments in last 2 week's emails).

Plenary Council Update

The journey to the Plenary Council 2020 continues. While it's in a context more different than we could have ever expected, the need to pray, discern and listen to the Holy Spirit and each other is more important than ever.

Discernment Papers: The six discernment papers have been released and are available to be read. The National Plenary Facilitation Team will soon release resources to assist parishes and communities to explore each of the papers. Here in the diocese, we will endeavour to look at one paper for a month. For the month of July (you can start in June, of course), we will look at **HOW IS GOD CALLING US TO BE A CHRIST-CENTRED CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA THAT IS Missionary & Evangelising?** *'Mission' is God's initiative and proceeds from the Trinity, whose love overflows in creation and redemption. The Word and Spirit are present and active in the unfolding of the universe and in all human history, as evidenced in the goodness and truth found in all cultures and societies. The incarnate Son of God through his life, ministry, death and resurrection revealed God to us and redeemed us in a unique and unsurpassable way through his paschal sacrifice. His evangelising activity gave birth to the Church which is the visible manifestation of the Gospel command to "Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations" (Mt 28:19).* Have a read of the discernment paper, think about your parish and the diocese in general. We welcome any comments. Please send through to jane.collins@ballarat.catholic.org.au. Read the discernment paper Visit the Missionary and Evangelising theme's page.

ACRATH (Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans) - World Day Against Trafficking in Persons is on July 30

COVID-19 is impacting those most vulnerable to trafficking because they often live in poverty and lack suitable housing and healthcare. Hundreds of thousands of these people will be drawn to the promise of work simply to put food on their tables - work that often turns out to be a job in slave-like conditions. Each year ACRATH asks for your support as we mark the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons on July 30. Each year, generously, you respond. And each year because of your response, ACRATH has been able to develop projects, services and resources. If you're able, your donation will be much appreciated. You can donate online at <https://www.trybooking.com/au/donate/acrath> or go to Youth Social Justice page of the diocesan website at <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-and-agencies/dsp-default.cfm?loadref=238> for other donation options and more information.

ST VINCENT PALLOTTI SCHOLARSHIP TRUST

Scholarships are offered to enable lay people to further their understanding and skills in leadership/ministry or a specialised activity, such as promoting faith enhancement, social justice and pastoral care. More information and applications forms are available at <https://pallottine.org.au/scholarships/st-vincent-pallotti-scholarship-for-lay-ministry.html>. Closing Date : July 31, 2020.

EXPLORING THE WORD

Matthew 13:24–30

The contrast between the good and bad seed reflects a reality within Matthew's community. This text highlights the difficulty of being a church called to spread the Good News while there are some within its ranks who scandalise others by their bad behaviour or decadent way of life. This parable counsels patience. The answer to the dilemma is to let both the righteous and the lawless members of the community grow together until the harvest time and then let God be the judge. Ultimately, this parable assures its hearers that God will not allow evil to destroy what is good. In the longer version of this gospel, the short parables of the kingdom compare it to a mustard seed and to the yeast in dough. Both are small and insignificant, but both develop almost imperceptibly, and once begun, there is no stopping them.

MAKING CONNECTIONS

- Say the Lord's Prayer slowly each day this week and reflect on ways you can help to build the kingdom:

'Thy kingdom come on Earth as it is in heaven.'

LIVING THE WORD – something for us to think about during this period and to reflect on how we might continue to address our wider community members from outside our particular faith community ...

In what ways does your community seek to build a stronger relationship with those outside the church? Is there an ecumenical or interfaith dimension that is actively pursued by the community? How can catechumens become involved in this activity?

SYMBOLS AND IMAGE:

The kingdom of heaven that is proclaimed by Jesus is not explained by him. What Jesus does do is to convey its meaning through the parables he uses, and his life illustrates some of the key characteristics of the kingdom: the overcoming of evil, the triumph of mercy, the welcome extended to all. The kingdom of heaven was established among us through the death and resurrection of Jesus, but clearly it has yet to come in its fullness. There is a future dimension to the kingdom as well as a present dimension. In the Lord's Prayer we pray for the kingdom to come. There are also two dimensions in the location of the kingdom. It exists in heaven but we pray for it to come in its fullness on earth as well. We participate in the building of the kingdom each time we act in harmony with the teaching and example of Jesus.

A couple of Feast Days coming up this week are:-

July 22 nd – St Mary Magdalene https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=83

July 25 th – St James, Apostle https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=59

The above links might be worth checking out.

THANK YOU TO ALL THE FOLK WHO HAVE GIVEN POSITIVE FEEDBACK ABOUT OUR NEWSLETTER
DURING THIS PERIOD OF RESTRICTIONS.

He put another parable before them, ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.’

He told them another parable, ‘The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.’

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfil the prophecy:

I will speak to you in parables
and expound things hidden since the
foundation of the world.

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, ‘Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.’ He said in reply, ‘The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!’

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

Shorter form 13:24-30.

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 9746 1140. 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, 2020. No 1834. Website: www.stpauls.com.au

Reflections on the Gospel



THE SAVING WORD

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

19 JULY 2020

PATIENCE IS BETTER THAN MISPLACED ZEAL

Today’s Gospel presents a further image from agriculture in Palestine. A poisonous weed called darnel affects wheat crops. In the early stages it looks very like the young shoots of wheat. By the time both plants can be distinguished their roots are so entwined as to make tearing out the darnel very injurious to the wheat.

The parable addresses the disciples’ dismay at the continuing prevalence of evil in the world. If, as Jesus teaches, the Kingdom of God has dawned, why has God not intervened to root out evil once and for all?

Like the wheat and darnel in the field, good and evil are at present so inextricably co-existent as to make too ruthless an attempt to eradicate the one fatal to a successful harvest of the other. In the harvest time to come, however, God will deal once and for all with evil, before gathering in the ‘wheat’ of the kingdom.

The parable also challenges the kind of religious zeal that, filled with moral outrage, wants to go in and root out from the community of believers any considered unworthy to be there.

It can even apply on an individual level. So often a person’s good qualities spring from the same source as their less desirable ones. An irascible person may struggle vigorously for justice; a laid-back character may be a good listener – and so on.

Christianity’s long history of intolerance – the Inquisition, etc. – shows the tragedy and folly of being more zealous to root out evil than to encourage good. The final judgement belongs to God.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

FIRST READING

Wis 12:13, 16-19

A reading from the book of Wisdom

In the place of sin, you give repentance.

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything, / to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly. / Your justice has its source in strength, / your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all. / You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned / and you expose the insolence of those who know it; / but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, / you govern us with great lenience, / for you have only to will, and your power is there. / By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people / how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men, / and you have given your sons the good hope / that after sin you will grant repentance.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 85:5-6, 9-10, 15-16. R. v. 5

R. Lord, you are good and forgiving.

1. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, / full of love to all who call. / Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer / and attend to the sound of my voice. **R.**
2. All the nations shall come to adore you / and glorify your name, O Lord: / for you are great and do marvellous deeds, / you who alone are God. **R.**
3. But you, God of mercy and compassion, / slow to anger, O Lord, / abounding in love and truth, / turn and take pity on me. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 8:26-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The Spirit himself pleads for us in a way that could never be put into words.

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts



knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Mt 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia! / Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; / you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 13:24-43

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Let them grow together until the harvest.

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner’s servants went to him and said, “Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?” “Some enemy has done this,” he answered. And the servants said, “Do you want us to go and weed it out?” But he said, “No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn.”’