

Holy Hour for Vocations at Nazareth House Chapel 28th September from 7.30 pm - 9.00pm

Ballarat Catholic Secondary College Information evenings

Loreto College Tuesday October 24th 7.00 pm

Damascus College Thursday October 26th 6.30 pm (Registrations by 6.15 pm)

St Patrick's College Thursday October 26th 7.30 pm Please register

<https://www.trybooking.com/RCPH>

Bikes for Humanity Collection Day

International charity **Bicycles for Humanity** gives old bikes a new home. They collect old bicycles, refurbish them and send them to Africa where the shipping container they came in transforms into a bike workshop providing employment, skills, training, economic development and ongoing benefits to the local community as well as all the 'new' bikes! Collection of your old bikes and parts Thursday 5 October, 9am -3:00pm St Patrick's Cathedral car park.

Season of Creation

On September 1st, Christian Churches (Major Orthodox, Catholic, Anglican, Uniting and Protestant) around the world came together to celebrate **World day of Prayer for the Care of Creation** and the start of the **Season of Creation** between Sept. 1st to Oct. 4th the feast of St Francis of Assisi. An ecumenical service to complete the **Season of Creation 2017** will be held at OLHC Church Wendouree on Sunday October 1st at 2.30pm. Afternoon tea to follow. All welcome

Pastoral Letter: Marriage according to Pope Francis

Copies of a pastoral letter from Bishop Paul which offers some reflections about marriage, drawing on the writings of Pope Francis are available from the Church foyer.

50 year celebration of Mercy education at Damascus College Mt Clear site

Past students and staff of Damascus College and the three foundation Colleges, Sacred Heart College, St Paul's Technical College and St Martin's in the Pines are invited to the opening of the Commemorative Walk, a 240 metre bush walking track. Please register your attendance by Friday 27th September, by going to the Damascus website: <http://www.damascus.vic.edu.au/news-and-events-50-year-celebrations>

30th Anniversary of Ordination of Fr Gary Jones

The Parish of St Peter's Daylesford will be celebrating the 30th Anniversary of Fr Gary's Ordination at 10.30am Mass on Sunday, October 15th 2017 followed by morning tea in the Parish Centre.

All welcome. Please RSVP to daylesford@ballarat.catholic.org.au to assist with catering.

Linton Parish Meetings

Parish Delegates meeting at the Linton Presbytery Wednesday September 27th at 7.00 pm

Parish Finance meeting at the Linton Presbytery Wednesday October 11th at 7.00 pm.

Special Leaving Collection at Masses today Famine in Africa affection millions of people

The world faces the largest humanitarian crisis since the second world war with more than 20 million people facing starvation and famine. Caritas Australia, as part of the Caritas Internationalis network, has helped provide lifesaving support to over half a million people impacted by the famine. We are seeking donations to scale up our efforts and get food and water to people and communities in dire need. Enquiries to Sue Searls, ph. 0409 401 329 or email

sue.searls@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Year of Youth 2018

2018 is the Year of Youth in Australia, commencing at the start of Advent (3 December). The theme of the Year of Youth is *Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy*. Parishes and others are asked to incorporate the Year of Youth in their planning, considering how they might celebrate locally or in conjunction with neighbours. Year of Youth information is on the Ballarat Diocese website

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au /Youth and Young Adult pages, or email

youth@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Supporting Edmund Rice Works: Timor-Leste

Film luncheon "The Mountain Between Us" at the Regent Theatre Ballarat on Sunday, October 22, 2017 at 2.30pm. Cost: \$20.00pp, school students \$15.00. Contact: Liz, ph. 0417 347262 or email

lizh@aanet.com.au

Australian Catholic Youth Festival - Registrations still open!!

Festival registrations are open until September 22nd for Groups and under-18s. Over-18 registrations will stay open until Festival capacity is reached. Information and links on

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au / Youth and Young Adult pages or contact Amanda on 0427 748 867

or youth@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Eco-Spirituality Retreat, October 23th - 27th 2017

The Ministry Development Committee of the Ballarat Anglican Diocese is organising an Eco-Spirituality Retreat in Budg Bim (south western Victoria) from 23-27 October 2017. More

information at www.ballaratanglican.org.au/ecospirit

Gospel Reflection

The Gospel reading for this Social Justice Sunday is Jesus' parable of the workers in the vineyard. Using an everyday example of economic hardship, Jesus teaches how the reign of God is open to all, generous, and especially mindful of those left behind. God provides sufficiently and fairly for each person, all the while attentive to the needs of those who experience exclusion and have little hope.

The vivid image of market place and vineyard still resonates. That the employer goes four times during the day to find workers in desperate need speaks of the precarious existence of the day labourer, and a market that fails to serve the whole community.

This Social Justice Statement considers Australia's economic priorities. It draws from the teachings of Pope Francis and his predecessors, highlighting how extreme versions of free-market economics have failed to serve all. Inequality has been growing in Australia. Many have missed out on opportunities to secure stable employment and a just share in income and wealth – even after 26 years of continuous economic growth. When it comes to the social justice of the entire economic system, the statement draws on new understandings of human development from economics and social policy that emphasise how the wellbeing of humans and all of creation must be an economy's central purpose.

The Church has been part of a global movement for 'inclusive growth'. It is not just about improving sections of the economy that have failed the poor. It is not about continually picking up people who have fallen through the system and placing them back into a market place that cast them aside in the first place. The Bishops of Australia are calling for a new approach that prevents exclusion from the outset and, like the owner of the vineyard in our Gospel reading, engages all people as dignified, active contributors to sustainable and inclusive growth.

The parable may seem unfair to us. Not only does the owner of the vineyard employ workers who, through no fault of their own, find themselves locked out of the market system, he also pays all of them one denarius – even those who completed only one hour's work. But the denarius was the basic daily pay of labourers, sufficient for a living wage, and akin to our notion of a minimum wage. The payment given by the owner recognises the dignity of all, regardless of the hours they worked. The generosity of the owner is shown in how he places the human person, not the prevailing standard of the market, at the centre of his concern.

We see a vineyard in which all are engaged as active contributors to the economic enterprise. We are called to work for an economy that is inclusive and capable of putting the needs of the poor before the wants of the rich. We envisage an alternative to market places that are harsh and inhospitable: the vineyard, lush and green, sustainable in its growth and inclusive in its economy.

As we have said, Jesus' parable speaks as much to us now as it did to the listeners of his time. The Church does not believe an ideal world is possible on earth. Only God can fully usher in the perfection of His Kingdom. But Christ's promise of that Kingdom calls us to work for just social transformation based on the great commandment to love God and to love our neighbour, especially the most vulnerable (Matthew 22:34–40).

Jesus invites us to see others as God sees them, as unique and precious, and to treat them accordingly. It is an offence in the eyes of God to treat people simply as commodities, to be discarded when no longer commercially profitable. We are called to challenge commonly held assumptions and ways of operating that undermine human dignity and damage the most vulnerable of our neighbours.