

ANOINTING MASS 10.00am TUESDAY: At our annual Advent Anointing Mass in St Augustine's Hall 10.00am this Tuesday 11th December we will remember three very special Care Group members, Maree Faulkner, Nancy Cooper and Paddy Harper who died this year. Bring yourself and a friend for Mass and the Sacrament of Anointing followed by Morning Tea.

VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL: We are invited to select a card from the giving tree near the lectern in St. Augustine's church and place non-perishable goods in the basket below the tree for Vinnies to give to needy families. There are also envelopes for cash donations that can be given to Vinnie or put on the collection plate between now and Christmas.

CHRISTMAS CARDS: "Keep Christ in Christmas" with beautiful cards from St Augustine's Piety Stall (next to Sacristy) or see Norma Nitschke or Fr John for these. \$8.00 per pack of 10.

2019 COLUMBAN CALENDARS: \$7 each from Piety Stall and Avoca and Dunolly churches.

CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY ROSTERS. There is a board on the centre table of the Church for you to fill in your name if you are able to take one or more of the Ministries over the Christmas Masses. Thank you.

NEW PARISH PHONE NUMBER 0466 451 984: Our Parish is gradually moving from our old landline number 5461 1084 to a new Parish mobile phone number 0466 451 984. For now, messages can still be left on our old number or we can ring or text our new Parish mobile number which can also take messages when Jill or Fr John are unavailable to answer this personally.

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020 – LISTENING AND DIALOGUE ENCOUNTERS.

All are invited to participate in the *Listening and Dialogue* process to help prepare the Plenary Council agenda. Information flyers on Ballarat diocese website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au and in ODC invite us to answer: "What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?"

Questions for individuals or groups: 1. *What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?* 2. *What questions do you have about the future of the Church for the Plenary Council to consider in 2020?* 3. *Do you have a story of your experience of faith, or the Church you would like to share?* Responses due by Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2019 at www.plenarycouncil.org.au

PLENARY COUNCIL – TIME TO SHARE OUR STORY AND SHAPE THE FUTURE:

The above notice urges us to think about what God is asking of us, to propose questions for our national Plenary Council to consider and to share stories about our faith including where we have felt God's presence in our lives and been inspired by others. In the 2016 Australian Census, 95,688 people identified themselves as Catholics in the area covered by our Ballarat Diocese. Of these, 8,481 regularly attend Sunday Mass in our 2018 Mass Count figures. While some speak of us having fewer priests, our Diocese presently has a more significant shortage of people attending Mass than our current priest per Mass attender ratio that is relatively high in historical terms. Leaflets outlining a way we can begin contributing to the Plenary Council are enclosed in our current "Our Diocesan Community" magazine. Copies of these leaflets are also at the back of the church inviting each of us to participate in a "Listening and Dialogue" encounter to discern and share where we think the Holy Spirit is speaking to us and seeking to lead us in our parish, across our diocese and throughout our nation.

Remembering those who have died:

We pray for those who died recently, and for those whose anniversaries are at this time: Jack May, Lou Prunty, Una Mary Burns, Bernard Maffescioni, Leo Grigg, Robert Mooney, Norman Lindsay, Gerald Halpin, David Singe, Greta Harnetty, Noel Faid, Gail Davey, George Moschetti, Ellie Wicks, Sheila Field, Anthony Felton, Kevin Meagher, Beth Prunty and Mary Agnes Chapman.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL 9th December 2018 Second Sunday of Advent

Priest: Let us gather our prayers before the Lord who is our hope and salvation and calls us to walk his path of holiness, justice and peace.

Reader: That the Church will be a sign of Christ's presence and, like John the Baptist, we may share the Salvation of God with the world.

(pause) Lord, hear us: All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For refugees and migrants travelling to new countries seeking a new life.

(pause) Lord, hear us: All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For those who have lost their way in their search for God.

(pause) Lord, hear us: All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For ability to see God's goodness in all things and, with St Paul, pray with joy for one another.

(pause) Lord, hear us: All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For Max D'Atri who died recently and those whose anniversaries are named on the Bulletin.

(pause) Lord, hear us: All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Priest: For Mary's intercession we pray: "Hail Mary....."

Priest: Lord God, your promise of salvation is close at hand. Teach us to heed the words of John the Baptist and with him eagerly embrace your will for our world in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.