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 Secretary Hrs: Mon to Fri 8.30am-12.30pm

## St Mary's Noticesheet

St Mary's Colac is a community of believers, who strive to bring Christ's good news to the people of Colac and district. Through service, caring and love we aim to create an environment of respect and understanding in which every one can grow. We acknowledge the Gulidjan, people, the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years.

### Fifth Sunday of Lent – 29<sup>th</sup> March 2020 – Year A

#### Responsorial Psalm

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

#### Gospel Acclamation

Glory and Praise Lord Jesus Christ; Glory and Praise to you.  
 I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;  
 whoever believes in me will not die for ever.  
 Glory and Praise Lord Jesus Christ; Glory and Praise to you.

#### This Week's Readings

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Ezekiel 37:12-14. Romans 8:8-11. John 11:1-45.

#### Next Week's Readings

Passion Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-7. Philippians 2:6-11. Matthew 26:14-27:66.

*\*Next week: Blessed Palms:*

*Will be available to collect at the Church Doors.*

**Deaths:** Those who have died from the Coronavirus

**Anniversaries:** John Paatsch, Joan Mugavin, Patrick O'Toole, Aileen McCarthy, Fr Leo Baker, Srs Geraldine Mugavin, Bridget Ryan, Loretta Foley,

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**St Mary's Church is Closed:  
 (Until at least the 14<sup>th</sup> April).**

**\* NO EASTER CEREMONIES.**

**\*No Stations of the Cross, Communal Celebrations of Anointing or Reconciliation.**

**\*Individual/Personal Sacramental Ministry etc.** Contact Presbytery for an appointment.

**\*Parish Financial Support:** Appreciation to:

Parishioners who left 'envelopes (including Project Compassion) at the Presbytery; who continue to give by direct Debt, and to several parishioners who this week took up the option of Direct Debt: **BSB: 083 585 Account: 811051426**

**REF: Envelope number/surname**

#### COLAC AREA HEALTH & AGED CARE PROTOCOL.

**\*Colac Area Health (including Corangmarah Aged Care).** No Visitation from St Mary's Parish

**\*Barongarook Gardens Aged Care:** No Visitation from St Mary's Parish.

**\* Mercy Place Aged Care** No Public /Communal Liturgies; \*Fr Michael – welcome as usual to 'attend' to residents (with attention to the appropriate cleansing regulations).

**Anam Cara** – Please phone 5233 8203

**Strong Recommendation:** If Parishioners (Individual /Families) have members planning hospitalizations and seek sacramental ministry contact Parish Office Ph:5231 2177, prior to admission to facilities.

**R.C.I.A.** Tricia Hook – Now All Preparation in Public Forums including Lenten Groups Postponed.

## CONGRATULATIONS

**60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary Jack & Rosie McCarthy**

**50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary: Michael & Kaye Harrison**

**90<sup>th</sup> Birthday: Patricia Callaghan (Barongarook Gardens).**

**Catholic Mass online:** <http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand> or <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>.

**Daily Mass by Pope Francis:** [shalomworld.org/dailymass](http://shalomworld.org/dailymass)

**Mass for you at Home:** Broadcast on Eleven and Network ten on Sundays and Aurora Channel of Foxtel every day.

<http://www.mfyah.com/video.html>

**\*Hymns of Praise, Sunday 11.30 am on ABC**

**Project Compassion Week 5: Malawi.** Tawonga is a 10-year-old girl, living with a disability. She lives in a village in northern Malawi in a region plagued by food insecurity and poverty. For most of her life, her parents have struggled to put meals on the table. Tawonga often had to miss school because she was too sick from hunger. The family also faced discrimination in their community due to her disability. Since participating in a Caritas Australia supported program, Tawonga's life has transformed. Her family now grows enough food to provide three meals a day, ending the struggle of malnutrition, and helping her thrive at school.

*The most wonderful places to be in the world are: In someone's thoughts.*

*Someone's prayers.*

*And in someone's heart.*

Please share this Bulletin - "If you or a Parishioner that you know would like the Parish Bulletin

Emailed. Please Email the Parish Office: [colac@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:colac@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

## **LET US BE UNITED IN PRAYER: 5<sup>TH</sup>. SUNDAY OF LENT 2020**

**Individual/ Family Prayer: Introduction** – ‘Your brother will rise again,’ said Jesus, ‘the resurrection and the life’ (John 11:25), to Martha (John 11:24) ‘The glory of God is a human being fully alive,’ said St Irenaeus  
Lord Jesus, you bring pardon and peace to the sinner: Lord, have mercy ...

Lord Jesus, you intercede for us with your Father: Christ, have mercy ...

Lord Jesus you raise the dead to new life, through your gift of the Holy Spirit: Lord, have mercy ...

**Let us pray** (for the courage to embrace the world with Jesus)

Father, the love of your Son led him to accept the suffering of the cross, so that his sisters and brothers might rise to new ways of living. Change our selfishness into self-giving. Help us to embrace the human race with his generous love, and through the power of his life, death, and resurrection, to transform its darkness and pain into light and joy. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

**Gospel Reading; John 11: 1–45** On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days. When Martha heard that Jesus had come, she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, ‘If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.’ ‘Your brother,’ said Jesus to her, ‘will rise again.’ Martha said, ‘I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.’ Jesus said, ‘I am the resurrection. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?’ ‘Yes, Lord,’ she said, ‘I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who has come into this world.’ Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, ‘Where have you put him?’ They said, ‘Lord, come and see.’ Jesus wept; and the Jews said, ‘See how much he loved him!’ Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, ‘Take the stone away.’ Martha said to him, ‘Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.’ Jesus replied, ‘Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?’ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, ‘Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I know indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.’ Then he cried out in a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, here! Come out!’ The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, ‘Unbind him, let him go free.’

**Questions for Reflection:** Are you surprised that Jesus wept at the death of his friend? Why/why not? Identify some experiences that are destructive of people, other than physical death. How can you and I help others to recover from such experiences?

**Responsorial Psalm:** With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Glory and Praise Lord Jesus Christ; Glory and Praise to you. I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die for ever. Glory and Praise Lord Jesus Christ; Glory and Praise to you.

### **Prayers of the Faithful**

We make our petitions to our merciful God, with trust in his power to deliver us from evil.

We pray for the world. May the Lord speedily deliver it from the scourge of the COVID-19 Coronavirus. Lord, hear us ...

We pray for the Church. May it proclaim to everyone the good news of the eternal life won for us by Jesus Christ. Lord, hear us ...

We pray for our political leaders. May they respond to the needs of their people in the present crisis with wisdom, courage, and generosity. Lord, hear us ...

We pray for those caring for the sick and the dying. May they persevere in their service despite all difficulties. Lord, hear us ...

We pray for those who are grieving because of the death of dear ones. May they receive comfort and hope. Lord, hear us

We pray for all people of good will: May we treasure the beautiful but fragile gift of life. Lord, hear us ...

We make these prayers to God our loving Father, who through the resurrection of Jesus his Son, has filled us with trust in everlasting life with God. All: AMEN.

**Our Father**, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Blessing** - May the Lord bless us, keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life. All: AMEN.

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### **Gospel Reflection:**

Sunday’s readings touch into the most profound of mysteries, the mysteries of life and death. The news this morning (March 23) tells us that 14,641 people have died from Coronavirus over the past two months. With this pandemic comes an extraordinary outpouring of grief and fear. Death brings tears, even anger. Little wonder that “life” becomes a metaphor for transformation and new beginnings or that “death” so often signifies deprivation and loss.

The Gospel reading is about the death and restoration to life of Lazarus, “the one whom Jesus loved.” The story revolves around the plight of Lazarus, the sick “brother” of Martha and Mary. Might they all be part of a little faith community in Bethany rather than biological siblings? Right now, in the face of a pandemic, we are called, as sisters and brothers across the globe, to play our part so that this illness may lead to greater love and even to “life”.

Sr Veronica Lawson rsm