

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS – May 3, 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY of EASTER YEAR A

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Information for special parish events (BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS, FUNERALS)

Please contact Anne Beer on 5349 2168 or 0417 369 322

Welcome again to 'Our Community News for May 3rd. Today's Community News email has two other attachments - Fourth Sunday of Easter copy of 'The Saving Word', and a letter from the AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE Bishops Commission for Social Justice – Mission and Service Social Solidarity in a Time of Social Distancing Pastoral Message for the Feast of St Joseph the Worker May 1st, 2020.

PLEASE NOTE FROM OUR DIOCESE: Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) All updates are on the diocesan website "news" section". As per the latest information from the government, ***all places of worship are closed, including chapels.***

Mass Counts: Under normal circumstances this weekend would mark the first week of the Annual Mass Counts. As we know, Masses are currently not being held due to the government restrictions for the Corona Virus. We will send details of when the Mass Counts will take place once the restrictions have been lifted and Masses are able to be held again.

Message from Pope Francis to Pray the Rosary in May

Pope Francis has asked Catholics to make a special effort to pray the Rosary during May and has composed two new prayers asking for Our Lady's intercession to help end the COVID-19 pandemic. See attached or go to the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Good Shepherd Sunday & World Day of Prayer for Vocations - May 3, 2020 (Fourth Sunday of Easter) is the World Day of Vocations. Pope Francis tells us, "Every vocation is born of that gaze of love with which the Lord came to meet us, perhaps even at a time when our boat was being battered by the storm. We will succeed in discovering and embracing our vocation once we open our hearts in gratitude and perceive the gaze of God in our lives" (message for World Day of Prayer for Vocations 2020). Let us pray for the young people in our community and in our families and circle of friends. May our prayers and presence reflect the gaze of love from the Lord to help them discover their vocation.

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

Gail Hall 0412 311 586 Bernadette Franc 0427 678830 Anne Beer 0417 369 322

Recent Deaths: We continue to pray for all the victims to Coronavirus throughout the world.

Anniversaries: Geoff Bruty, Teresa Anderson, Joy Crouch, Pastor Peter Font, Pat Armstrong, Hugh Ferrari, Kath Martin, Max Naylor, Eugene Grigg, Roma Briody, Anne Jess, Ellen Flanagan & Brian Flanagan.

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, Michael Wise and all those in need of prayer.

ROSTERS:

The newsletter roster will continue, but if any parishioners wish to contribute anything at all for inclusion, it will be greatly appreciated. This would be a great way to keep our little community in touch. Just simply put your contribution in an email.

**May: Angela Gerrard 0439 565 468
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REFLECTION ON TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: In today's Gospel, John draws the contrast between the shepherd who enters the fold by the gate and the thieves and brigands who seek to enter another way. It is really about leadership. There are good leaders and bad leaders. The good leader of God's people must come to them through Jesus, who is the gate. The thieves and brigands will only lead the people to fear and confusion, where they will be scattered. Perhaps John is addressing a situation in his community where those who are seeking leadership are not following the voice of Jesus but seeking their own aggrandisement or following their own agenda. Such people will ultimately lead the flock to destruction, but Jesus gives life in abundance to all who know his voice and follow him as shepherd.

SYMBOLS AND IMAGES: The image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd is a very well-known one. It denotes his individual and pastoral care for all the flock. John takes this a step further. Entry into the flock of God's people can only come through the gateway that is belief in Christ.

PRAYER FOR TODAY:

Psalm 22 (23) is one of the best loved and most well-known psalms.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit.

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

Can I remind people that if you have access to Facebook, it is a real privilege to be able to share in daily Mass from St John's at 11.30 a m? All you need to do is type 'Patrick's Cathedral' into the search bar of your Facebook page. If you can't watch then, you can always replay it.