

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS – May 10th 2020

FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER 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, if needed.

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

Welcome again to 'Our Community News for May 10th

Note: Today's Community News email has four other attachments

- Fifth Sunday of Easter copy of 'The Saving Word'
- Letter from Pope Francis for month of May
- Caritas Free Concert 9th May Flyer
- Coronavirus Stakeholder Pack "Testing"

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.**

Managing Coronavirus Together – Stakeholder Pack "Testing"

The Victorian Council of Churches has forwarded information from the Victorian Government to keep Victorians informed about the outbreak of COVID-19 and is providing translated information in up to 48 languages. Access to translated information is particularly important for people who are isolated from friends, family and their usual support network. Making sure people understand what they can do to reduce their risk of coronavirus, is key to slowing its spread. Information provided by the Victorian Government is the most relevant source of information for people living in Victoria. *The pack is attached.*

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

Week of Prayer and Christian Unity 2020

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Australia will be observed from May 24-31, 2020 in the week between Ascension and Pentecost. This year's theme, "*They showed us unusual kindness*" (Acts 28:2), calls us to move from shared prayer to shared action and remembers the historic shipwreck of Paul on the island of Malta. It calls us to a greater generosity to those in need. Resources are now available at the website [The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au). Further resources will be added to this page in the coming days.

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

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

Access by searching St Patrick's Cathedral in Facebook If you can't watch then, you can always replay it.

Caritas Online Concert – May 9

On Saturday, May 9, Australian singer, songwriter and musician Gary Pinto, will lead a free online concert for Project Compassion. Gary wrote a song for Project Compassion titled "Walk With Me" this year is bringing Australian and international musicians together in support of Caritas Australia. You can find more details on this free concert and view the great artist line-up at caritas.org.au/loungeroomsessions.

To view the concert, supporters will need to register at livemusic2u.com/loungeroomsessions/.

RECENT DEATHS:

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

ANNIVERSARIES:

Patricia Kinsman, Thomas Murphy, Catherine Briody, Fr Kevin Smith, Fr Denis McCarthy, Brian Molloy, Michael O'Connor, Barry Torney

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 is be a great way to keep our little community in touch. Just simply put your contribution in an email.

May: Angela Gerrard Phone: 0439 565 468 Email: colangegerrard@gmail.com

MASS COUNTS

Under normal circumstances the Annual Mass Counts are conducted in May. As we know, Masses are currently not being held due to the government restrictions for the Coronavirus. 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.

REFLECTION ON TODAY'S SCRIPTURE:

'In this way, the Christian people, "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession", expresses its cohesion and its hierarchical ordering. All, therefore, whether ordained ministers or lay Christian faithful, in fulfilling their function or their duty, should carry out solely but totally that which pertains to them' (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, § 91).

How easy it is to think that one ministry is more important than another. By baptism and confirmation, we are all one with Christ, the priest, and so all share his priesthood. We are all formed into that one priesthood of Christ with only a very few called to the ministerial service of the priestly people of God. In Sunday Mass, we are all called to exercise our priestly office.

PRAYER FOR TODAY:

Graciously be present to your people, we pray, O Lord, and lead those you have imbued with heavenly mysteries to pass from former ways to newness of life.

POSITION AVAILABLE — BALLARAT EAST PARISH COORDINATOR

Applications are currently being sought for a part-position position of Parish Coordinator.

A copy of the position description and application form are available on the St Alipius' Parish website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au . Applications close Friday, June 26, 2020.

BALLARAT DIOCESE LAY PASTORAL MINISTRY PROGRAM – NOW OPEN FOR NEW PARTICIPANTS

Low-cost online study and formation for lay workers in parish and other ministries - employed or volunteers. Sacraments, Scripture, Youth Ministry, Liturgy, Leadership and more. Study over 5 weeks per subject. Study Cycle 4 begins May 24. Registrations open now until May 13. More information at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or email kim.butler@ballarat.catholic.org.au ph. 0407 523 424.

HEART TO HEART E-SEMINARS

Archbishop Chris Prowse, Canberra-Goulburn Diocese, is presenting these 30-minute e-seminars over four weeks. <https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/hearttoheart/>

Pentecost Pilgrimage

Catholics are invited to join others worldwide on a spiritual pilgrimage to Pentecost. Register for free for a series of talks uploaded twice a week. Go to <https://www.pentecostpilgrimage.com/>



'IT IS BETTER THAN I GO AWAY ...'

Today's Gospel comes from the long instruction that Jesus, according to the Fourth Gospel, gives to his disciples at the Last Supper. He reflects upon his return to the Father and what his absence will mean for the disciples.

Jesus' 'departure' seems to operate on two levels. The setting of the supper on the night before he dies makes it natural to understand 'going away' as a reference to his imminent departure in death; his 'coming back', then, would refer to his appearance on the third day as risen Lord.

At another level, however, Jesus addresses a more permanent 'going away' when, following his appearances to the disciples as risen Lord, he finally ascends to the Father (see John 20:17). From this perspective, his 'coming back' would refer to his return at the end of time.

At this level the instruction Jesus gives does not bear upon the short space between Good Friday and Easter, but upon the indefinite 'time of the Church' that will follow.

During this time – which remains our time – the disciples will not enjoy his physical presence. But Jesus insists that it will be a better time in fact. His death on the cross will defeat the grip of sin and death upon the human race, and open up for us the gift of eternal life.

Jesus is 'the Way, the Truth, and the Life' in the sense that his death supremely reveals the 'truth' about God (that God is love) and opens up the 'way' to human sharing in God's (eternal) 'life'.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too.

You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

No one can come to the Father except through me.

If you know me, you know my Father too.

From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"?' Do you not believe

that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself:

it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work.

You must believe me when I say

that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for

no other reason.

'I tell you most solemnly,

whoever believes in me

will perform the same works as I do myself,

he will perform even greater works,

because I am going to the Father.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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FIRST READING

Acts 6:1-7

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

They elected seven men filled with the Spirit and wisdom.

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 32:1-2, 4-5, 18-19. R. v. 22

R. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you. (*or* Alleluia!)

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; / for praise is fitting for loyal hearts. / Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp, / with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. **R.**

2. For the word of the Lord is faithful / and all his works to be trusted. / The Lord loves justice and right / and fills the earth with his love. **R.**

3. The Lord looks on those who revere him, / on those who hope in his love, / to rescue their souls from death, / to keep them alive in famine. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Pet 2:4-9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 14:6

Alleluia, alleluia! / I am the way, the truth and the life, says the Lord; / no one comes to the Father, except through me. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 14:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

I am the way, the truth and the life.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Trust in God still, and trust in me.

There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you.

I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place,