

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS – July 05, 2020
Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary time 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.

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

Welcome to 'Our Community News' for July 5th 2020

This Sunday is Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Sunday

Note: Today's Community News email has 2 other attachments: copy of 'The Saving Word' and a flyer advertising the Australian Catholic Men's Gathering.

RETURN TO MASSES DELAYED - A MESSAGE FROM FR MARCELLO:

As the restrictions for people assembling remain fluid and uncertain due to COVID 19, it will be necessary to defer recommencement until at least 26th July 2020. The government has extended the limit of 20 persons until Sunday 19th July 2020, at which time a further update will be provided. Once the limit is increased to 50, we can resume the Sunday celebration on the 2nd & 4th Sundays @ 8.30 am.

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

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

Access by searching St Patrick's Cathedral in Facebook. If you can't watch then, you can always replay it. <https://www.facebook.com/patricks.cathedral.9>

RECENT DEATHS:

We continue to pray for all the victims to Coronavirus throughout the world. We also pray for Rose Weightman (Rita Treacey's sister) who died recently.

ANNIVERSARIES:

Mick Tansey, Herta Kilm, Mel Naylor, Pam Crick, Brian McCluskey, Hec George, Des Lynch, Thomas & Nora Mulcahy, Kevin O'Loughlan, Laurie Miller, John Byrne, Audrey Cranston, Shirley McKenzie & Olga Parker.

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, and all those in need of prayer.

ROSTERS:

As Anne Beer will soon be preparing our new roster, can people give consideration to volunteering for any roles that may interest them? Anne's mobile number is 0417 369 322 or email:- bigmac09@bigpond.com

If any parishioners wish to contribute anything at all for inclusion in the newsletter, it will be greatly appreciated. This is a great way to keep our little community in touch. Just simply put your contribution in an email.

July: **Bernadette Franc** Phone: 0427678830 Email: bernadette.franc.m@gmail.com

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Sunday 2020 – July 5

The full Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday Resource Booklet is available to view and download at <https://www.natsicc.org.au/2020-atsisunday.html?CFID=13023777&CFTOKEN=f0d55cf2e4117806-4E5E27F4-C06C-53FE-02523E7207FBE5F7>.

With many local events not able to be held on July 5 to mark Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday, a national Mass will be livestreamed from St Francis Xavier's Cathedral in Adelaide to celebrate the occasion. The livestream will be available from the above website.

Novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

We continue to distribute information regarding the coronavirus as it received. All updates are also on the diocesan website "news" section" www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

St Vincent de Paul Society Winter Appeal

As a result of the coronavirus many people have found themselves in the position of having a job one day, and being unemployed the next. This will lead to an increasing number of people reaching out to Vinnies for help for the very first time. Therefore, this year's appeal will focus on addressing the needs of Victorians who have been impacted by COVID-19. Now more than ever, the funds raised during this appeal are critical in ensuring that Vinnies can continue to be there for people when they need us most. You can donate to our appeal via: online at vinnies.org.au or by phone 13 18 12. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible

Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program – Registrations now open

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. The next cycle begins July 12. Study is 5 weeks. Registrations open now until July 8. More information at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or email kim.butler@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 0407 523 424.

Australian Catholic Men's Gathering

See attached flyer. This is a revised online program available from August 15. Go to:- www.catholicmensgathering.com.au

Plenary Council Update

The journey to the Plenary Council 2020 continues. While it's in a context more different than we could have ever expected, the need to pray, discern and listen to the Holy Spirit and each other is more important than ever.

Discernment Papers: The six discernment papers have been released and are available to be read. The National Plenary Facilitation Team will soon release resources to assist parishes and communities to explore each of the papers. Here in the diocese, we will endeavour to look at one paper for a month. For the month of July (you can start in June, of course), we will look at **HOW IS GOD CALLING US TO BE A CHRIST-CENTRED CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA THAT IS Missionary &**

Evangelising? *'Mission' is God's initiative and proceeds from the Trinity, whose love overflows in creation and redemption. The Word and Spirit are present and active in the unfolding of the universe and in all human history, as evidenced in the goodness and truth found in all cultures and societies. The incarnate Son of God through his life, ministry, death and resurrection revealed God to us and redeemed us in a unique and unsurpassable way through his paschal sacrifice. His evangelising activity gave birth to the Church which is the visible manifestation of the Gospel command to "Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations" (Mt 28:19). Have a read of the discernment paper, think about your parish and the diocese in general. We welcome any comments. Please send through to jane.collins@ballarat.catholic.org.au. Read the discernment paper Visit the Missionary and Evangelising theme's page.*

Social Media Guide for Parishes

The Australian Catholic Media Council has launched a resource encouraging parishes to embrace Pope Francis' invitation to share the Gospel story as the Church in Australia - in person or online. The guide can be downloaded from the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au.

ST VINCENT PALLOTTI SCHOLARSHIP TRUST

Scholarships are offered to enable lay people to further their understanding and skills in leadership/ministry or a specialised activity, such as promoting faith enhancement, social justice and pastoral care. More information and applications forms are available at <https://pallottine.org.au/scholarships/st-vincent-pallotti-scholarship-for-lay-ministry.html>. Closing Date : July 31, 2020.

EXPLORING THE WORD

Matthew's community must have been deeply troubled by the fact that the 'learned and clever' religious leaders of the day did not accept the message of Jesus. Surely they, of all people, should have been in a position to recognise the truth. But in this passage, Matthew explains that it is not from a position of knowledge or power that one recognises the truth; rather it is from an attitude of openness and simplicity. Jesus' intimate address of Abba ('Father') is used five times. This intimate relationship is characterised by God's entrusting all things to the Son, and the Son in turn revealing them to those who have faith. Jesus is the perfect teacher, describing himself as gentle and humble in heart. There is an interesting contrast here between the burden of following the restrictive laws of the Pharisees and the 'easy burden' of faith in Christ. The rules and laws of the Pharisees often added to the burden experienced by people of the day, while Jesus tried to lift the burden from people. • In your journey to faith, are there aspects that you find 'burdensome'?

MAKING CONNECTIONS

Pray the blessing from the first verse of Psalm 144 throughout the week.

'I will give you glory, O God, my king. I will bless your name forever. I will bless you day after day.'

SHARING THE TRADITION – Learn some more about Mary MacKillop – a great example of humility.

A closer look at the Scripture of the day, to see how it makes more explicit God's word to us through the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Throughout the history of the church, there have been people who have taken up the 'burden' of faith and experienced it as a double-edged sword of both great joy and blessing as well as an awesome responsibility leading to hardship and persecution. Australia's Saint Mary of the Cross (Mary MacKillop) is one example. Born in Fitzroy in 1842, Mary was fifteen when she felt called to be a nun. Unable to find a religious order that suited her call, Mary began her own—the Sisters of St Joseph—in 1867, dedicated to the education of the poor, particularly the rural poor. Her independence and determination to live under her own rule and not that of the Bishop led her into conflict with church authorities. At the centre of the difficulty was Mary's insistence that her sisters live in absolute poverty and rely on God to provide for their needs. This meant begging, which the bishops thought unseemly. Mary was excommunicated in 1871, only to be reinstated in 1872, although opposition by some continued. Despite the setbacks and disappointments, the Josephite order continued to

expand in both membership and ministry. Her struggle was worth the effort, and Mary was canonised a saint in Rome in 2010 by Pope Benedict XVI.

*Mary MacKillop was not 'learned', but she knew God through experience.

*Likewise, Mother Teresa found God in the poor of Calcutta.

SYMBOLS AND IMAGE

The word ***humility*** comes from the Latin for 'soil'. Humility is not about being shy or quiet or taking a back seat; it is about recognising our origins and not becoming so 'learned and clever' that we get too big for our boots.

To be like 'mere children' is to have that child-like sense of wonder and awe at things bigger than ourselves.

Ponder what produces a response of awe in you.

THANK YOU TO ALL THE FOLK WHO HAVE GIVEN POSITIVE FEEDBACK ABOUT OUR NEWSLETTER
DURING THIS PERIOD OF RESTRICTIONS.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Mt 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia! / Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, / you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 11:25-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

I am gentle and humble of heart.

Jesus exclaimed, 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**



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Reflections on the Gospel



THE SAVING WORD

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

05 JULY 2020

TRUE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

Today's Gospel records a moment of joyful intimacy between Jesus and his heavenly Father. Jesus rejoices because he senses that he has managed to share with his disciples something of his own knowledge of God.

The 'knowledge' of which Jesus speaks goes well beyond knowing a great deal *about* another person. He has in mind the Semitic sense of 'knowing' that flows from deep intimacy. Such knowledge is not gained by learning or study about God. It is a gift that comes to those who set aside any claim to expertise and adopt before God the simplicity of a child.

Jesus goes on to present himself as one who has come to lift humanity's burdens, including but not confined to the burden of sin. In contrast to the interpretations of the Mosaic law given by the scribes and Pharisees (cf. Matt 23:4), his yoke is 'easy' and his burden 'light'. The ease and lightness do not stem from a lowering of standards but from the fact that mercy and love, rather than precise legal perfection, have become the supreme criterion. Twice in Matthew's Gospel Jesus quotes the prophet Hosea to this effect: 'What I (God) want is mercy, not sacrifice' (Hos 6:6; see Matt 9:13; 12:7; also 23:23).

The heart of that ease and lightness is the knowledge of which he spoke earlier. To those who worship God as a distant and fearful potentate religious rules and requirements can indeed appear burdensome. This ought not be the case for those who truly know the God Jesus reveals.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

FIRST READING

Zech 9:9-10

A reading from the prophet Zechariah
See how humbly your king comes to you!

The Lord says this:

'Rejoice heart and soul, daughter of Zion!
Shout with gladness, daughter of Jerusalem!
See now, your king comes to you;
he is victorious, he is triumphant,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
He will banish chariots from Ephraim
and horses from Jerusalem;
the bow of war will be banished.
He will proclaim peace for the nations.
His empire shall stretch from sea to sea,
from the River to the ends of the earth.'

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESP PSALM

Ps 144:1-2, 8-11, 13-14. R. v. 1

R. I will praise your name for ever,
my king and my God. (*or Alleluia!*)

1. I will give you glory, O God my King, / I will bless your name for ever. / I will bless you day after day / and praise your name for ever. **R.**

2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion, / slow to anger, abounding in love. / How good is the Lord to all, / compassionate to all his creatures. **R.**

3. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord, / and your friends shall repeat their blessing. / They shall speak of the glory of your reign / and declare your might, O God. **R.**

4. The Lord is faithful in all his words / and loving in all his deeds. / The Lord supports all who fall / and raises all who are bowed down. **R.**



SECOND READING

Rom 8:9, 11-13

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

If by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

Your interests are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him, and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

So then, my brothers, there is no necessity for us to obey our unspiritual selves or to live unspiritual lives. If you do live in that way, you are doomed to die; but if by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body you will live.

■ **The word of the Lord.**