

## **St. Augustine's Parish, Maryborough**

~inc. St. Kevin's, Barnett St. Avoca, St. Mary's, Hardy St. Dunolly,  
St. Patrick's, Pyrenees H'way & Evans St. Amphitheatre,  
St. Patrick's, Main St. Bealiba, St. Patrick's, Barkly-Redbank Rd. Redbank,  
St. Augustine's, Burke St, Maryborough~

**Parish Priest:** Fr. John Monaghan **Parish Secretary:** Jill Morse **Parish Office:** 21 Burns St. Maryborough.

**Office Hours:** 9.00am – 12.00 noon Wednesday and Friday **Parish Child Safety Officer:** Jill Morse.

**Phone:** 0466 451 984. **Email:** maryborough@ballarat.catholic.org.au

**St Augustine's School:** 5460 4440 **Principal:** Mrs. Sonia Turner principal@samaryborough.catholic.edu.au

### **16<sup>th</sup> August 2020 Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time.**

**MASSES CANCELLED FOR NEXT SIX WEEKS:** We've begun another time of having to forgo Masses and Assemblies as together we try to reign in the COVID-19 pandemic. Let's do what we can to pray for and assist each other during the coming weeks and trust in prayer to empower our otherwise risk of succumbing into helplessness. We pray for those elsewhere who are affected much more than us either by the virus itself and/or even severer restrictions. May God bless us throughout this time of more uncharted territory and bring us safely through to what lies on the other side.

#### **Strength for this Challenging Time**

We pray for your love and compassion to abound as we walk through his challenging season.

We ask for wisdom for those who bear the load of making decisions with widespread consequences.

We pray for those who are suffering with sickness and all who are caring for them.

We ask for protection for the elderly and vulnerable to not succumb to the risks of the virus.

We pray for misinformation to be curbed that fear may take no hold in hearts and minds.

As we exercise the good sense that you in your mercy provide, may we also approach each day in faith and peace, trusting in the truth of your goodness towards us.

[www.holyspiritewloe.com](http://www.holyspiritewloe.com)

A young man joins a monastery and takes a vow of silence: he's allowed to say two words every seven years. After the first seven years, the abbot calls him in and asks him for his two words. "Cold floors," he says. Seven more years pass and he's asked for his next two words. He replies: "Bad food." The abbot nods and sends him away. Seven more years pass. His two words this time are: "I quit." The abbot replies: "I'm not surprised; since you've been here you've done nothing but complain."

*Remembering those who have died:*

*We pray for those who died recently and those whose anniversaries are at this time including: Vin Stewart, Mary Rinaldi, Sheila Long, Bill Long, Pat Meagher, Gerald Walsh, Owen Zinko, Anne Nowell, Gladys Chadwick, Bernard and Catherine Lanfranchi, Hilda Hutchinson, William Rafferty, Sheila Graves, Ellen Murphy and Kevin Ellis.*

**LETTER FROM BISHOP PAUL BIRD:**

Hello Everyone, as you would be aware, the Victorian government has introduced further restrictions to counter the renewed spread of COVID-19.

In regional Victoria, including our Diocese of Ballarat, Stage 3 restrictions will apply from midnight on Wednesday August 5 until September 13.

The regulations require that "religious ceremonies and private worship" be "broadcast only". This means that our churches and chapels will be closed to the general public. It will still be possible to live stream Masses or other services from churches or chapels, although this would only involve those necessary to conduct the services and enable the live streaming. For information about Masses online, you could go to our diocesan website at [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)

In regional Victoria, there are exceptions for weddings and funerals, though with limited numbers. For weddings, there may only be 5 people (the couple, two witnesses and the celebrant). For funerals, there may be up to 10 people, plus those conducting the funeral.

It is very sad that we will not be able to gather for Mass in the coming weeks. However, medical advice indicates that the restrictions are necessary for the health of the community. I hope and pray that these steps will be effective in reducing the impact of the pandemic and that we will be able to come together again soon to give thanks to God. In the meantime, we can pray anywhere and anytime in our own heart. Families can pray together at home. We might also pray with others online or simply with a phone call.

Christ promised to be with us always. May we know his presence in the weeks ahead.

Peace be with you.            God bless you all.

+Paul Bird CSsR