

ST MARY'S PARISH, ROBINVALE

Incorporating St Patrick's Manangatang

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time – 15th & 16th August 2020

Please remember these people in our prayers



Anniversaries:

Mollie Cooke; Marian Frost; John Jackson; Harry Carr; Bert Knight; Marie Wright; Maureen Arentz;

Sick:

Sam Giampaolo; Therese Cummins; Rosa Santos; Kristin Sparto; Debbie Nolen; Jack Hayes; Basilio Alcodia; Gai Trainer; Serena Jenkins; Jeremy Dickson; Carmela Garreffa; Sister Basil; Graham (Ripper) Morris;

MASSES CANCELLED UNTIL 13TH SEPTEMBER

Stage three restrictions are in place in regional Victoria. The regulations require that 'religious ceremonies and private worship be "broadcast only"'. This means that our church will be closed to the general public until 13th September. Let's do what we can to pray for and assist each other during this time 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.

Saturday 15th August:

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Holy Day of Obligation.



Happy Feast Day

Happy Feast Day – St Rocco Sunday 16th August

This mysterious saint, who worked heroically during a plague in Italy, was said to have miraculously survived the disease himself, but then perished in prison falsely accused.



CDF PAY

Have you heard the Good News?

Our CDF (Catholic Development Fund – Ballarat) together with CDF Pay have developed an online thanksgiving portal known as CDF Pay for Parishes.

During this period of time where Masses in the diocese are suspended or reduced, parishes need the financial support of parishioners more than ever. As the vast majority of our parishioners give physically to our parish in the first and second collection plates, we are encouraging all parishioners to use our new electronic parish thanksgiving program. You can now use this portal to support our parish in both/either the first and second collections. Electronic thanksgiving offerings can be made as one off payments or you can set up a regular payment.

You will receive an electronic receipt for any payments made. Payment link can be found by scrolling down on our webpage or using the below link.

<https://bit.ly/CDFpayRobinva>

Reflection on the Gospel

The gospels are written in Greek and much of the language of the gospels has to be understood against a Greek philosophical background. Today's gospel story culminates in the healing of a "daughter" who may be a little girl or even a young woman. Her mother, the main character in the story, is known to Matthew's community simply as a Canaanite woman, or in other words an indigenous woman. To some early Christian communities, she is Justa, so we might reasonably call her daughter Justina. Justa comes to Jesus as he moves from Jewish territory into or close to non-Jewish territory. In the language of liturgy, she laments loudly and persistently for her daughter, for Justina is "severely tormented by a demon". For the ancient Greeks, the antithesis of demonic possession or torment is human flourishing or well-being (eudaimonia). Eudaimonia means having a good guardian spirit as opposed to a malevolent spirit that impairs a person's well-being and sense of self. Justina's well-being is in jeopardy. Her distraught mother is an outsider to the "house of Israel" who is nonetheless familiar with Israel's prayer of lament. She is a woman alone in public space, risking ridicule and rejection to find healing for her daughter. The immediate response to her plea is silence: Jesus "does not answer her a word". Is he ignoring her cry for help? Is he simply stunned, taken aback at the vehemence of her request? Is he rendered speechless by the simple fact that she would cross the boundaries of gender and ethnicity in this way? Is he in awe at her courage and faith from the outset? All we know is that he says nothing and that the disciples tell him to send her away. He responds by defining the limits of his mission rather narrowly: he was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Justa is not deterred from her mission. She begs Jesus to help her and receives an explicit refusal in a confronting image that names his people as "the children" and hers as "the dogs". She accepts his statement as a challenge and bests him in the exchange: "even the dogs eat the crumbs..." Jesus' horizons are expanded by the persistence and insight of this woman. Justa's great faith is affirmed and her daughter is healed. Justa is vindicated and Justina restored to a state of well-being or eudaimonia. Justina has her counterparts across the globe, especially in these troubled times of pandemic. The challenge for us is to be Justa in our times for the sake of all in the Earth community, human and other-than-human, whose well-being or eudaimonia is impaired by illness or fear or lack of access to the means to flourish.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Is 56:1.6-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord:

Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for Soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest. Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 66:2-3 5-6. 8. R. v.4

O God, let all the nations praise you!

O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help.

O God, let all the nations praise you!

Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth.

O God, let all the nations praise you!

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him.

O God, let all the nations praise you!

SECOND READING Rom 11:13-15. 29-32

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice. Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

Please collect a printed copy of this bulletin at the Church entrance door.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Mt 4:23

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

THE HOLY GOSPEL Mt 15:21-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Woman, you have great faith. Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Online Mass:

We are again thankful to Robert Klarich who is able to, once again, setup live streaming of Mildura Parish Mass which will be screened on YouTube from 5pm each Saturday.

Pray at Home

At this time, we cannot receive you, Lord Jesus sacramentally in the Eucharist. Help us to welcome you spiritually as we wait for the day when your saving Sacrifice will be offered and the divine Banquet will be spread in our churches once more. You are the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof. But only say the word and my soul shall be healed. My Jesus, come to me. I long for you; let me always be at one with you.