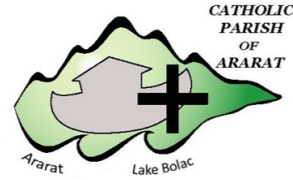


Food for Purchase

Joyce and helpers will again be preparing food for pick up or delivery in Ararat. Proceeds will be used for further outreach.

St. Mary's Cafe

St. Mary's Cafe will look a bit different during this second lockdown. We will have handmade meals to a tried a tested recipe from Fresh Food Fast Company #freshfoodfast. These soups and evening meals will be frozen for your convenience and can be pre-ordered and collected on Thursdays and Fridays in the Parish Centre from 10am to 3pm. Phone ahead. 03 5352 5460 All soups will be gluten free.



MENU

Soups \$5

Tuscan Bean Soup or Pea & Mint (GF) or Tomato (GF)

Evening Meals (Serves 2)

Cottage Pie \$12

Vegetarian Lasagne (GF) \$12

Chicken Fried Rice \$12

Tuna, Tomato & Cheese Pasta Bake \$10

Deserts

Apple Crumble (serves 2) \$8

Biscuit Dough (8 biscuits) \$5

Food Donations

Thank you so much for the food donations. We are stocked up on pasta, tinned apple, tinned Tomato, and UHT milk. Thank you for the lemons too :-)

Profit from the Café

We have donated \$1000 to the Emergency Relief Team. This money will be used for meal & fuel vouchers for individuals and families in need. It may also be needed for emergency accommodation

MASKS

Huge thanks again to Jenny (Ararat Rotary) and her team of ladies for the next batch of masks. We have given another 60 to the Emergency Relief Team. These will be distributed to the homeless and those who can't afford a material mask. We are also working closely with Marilyn and the team

Vinnies.



Rotary Club of Ararat



Arrangements during Stage 3 Restrictions

Masses and Funerals

All public Masses have been cancelled for now. The churches are closed. Funerals in our parishes will be at the cemeteries with a maximum of 10 people

Prayers

Fr Andrew and Srs Maree and John will continue to pray for the intentions of parishioners

The Sunday readings and prayers of the faithful will be on the bulletins

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au has a number of helpful resources

Mass on Television

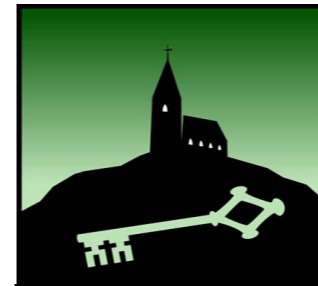
6am Sunday on Channel 10

Bulletins

Some bulletins will be hand delivered

Bulletins will be emailed to those who have given us your addresses. Bulletins can be found on the parish websites

If you miss out on all of those options, bulletins can be collected from the doors of the parish offices.



Sunday 23rd August 2020 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time A

As we celebrate, we acknowledge the Indigenous owners of the land on which our Churches are built, the Tjapwuring people, and we respect the presence of the spirits of their ancestors among us.

Fr. Andrew Hayes

Mask up everybody!

Thanks to all parishioners who have brought in masks for distribution to those who cannot purchase or sew their own. Please keep them coming! No elastic? Look in the backs of cupboards, for old fitted sheets, hair ties, undies ... anywhere. We have a moral obligation to help our neighbours do we not? This week Jesus asked his disciples who people thought he was, and indeed who the disciples themselves thought he was. My question is who we think the Church is, or what we're for, now, in lockdown 2.0. We've been deliberate this time to be more present to those who are struggling, a wider circle than our own parishioners. What's the church for? This time we think our parishes are proclaiming Jesus in the both the feeding and the sewing. Please consider purchasing a meal from St Mary's café. The money we make is being directed towards emergency relief. The more meals the more money the more people we can help. **We've given \$1000 so far!!** Details on the back page.

I liked this from the Mercy sisters: God of Compassion, help us during this time of isolation, fear and uncertainty. Give us the courage to remain faithful and strong. Guide us to the people and tasks neglected by our busyness. Allow this time, gifted to us by staying home, to be used to form stronger relationships and connections with our families, friends, communities and the Earth. Through our physical distance may we find new ways to act in love, solidarity and unity as we journey onwards together in hope and faith. Amen. (Mercy Partners)

I liked this from Sr Dianne Bergant CSA: "The readings highlight two different but related themes: the character of our understanding of Christ, and our understanding of discipleship that flows from it." So what would Jesus be doing were he in the parish just now? I say sewing and cooking!

I am starting to wonder, what if the lockdown goes for months or a year? It's been nearly six months to date. The AFL is wondering whether it won't start next year's season until May. What if we're restricted to our 10's and 20's until Christmas or May or 2023? Just wondering. Meantime, make sure you survive that long. **Mask up!**

Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement

This year Social Justice Sunday will be observed on August 30. This year's statement is "To Live Life to the Full: Mental health in Australia today." It encourages faith communities and governments to make mental health a priority. It is a timely message in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Follow this link <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Social-Justice-Statement-2020-WEB.pdf> or find the statement at socialjustice.catholic.org.au More to come.

Mass Online

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au has a number of helpful resources. Some of the links are listed here:

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Ballarat: Mass livestreamed daily from the Cathedral at 10.00am can be viewed [here](#) or on [facebook](#).

St Mary Mackillop Parish, Western Border: Mass celebrated on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays can be viewed [here](#). Follow their [facebook](#) page

St Joseph's Parish, Warrnambool: Sunday Masses at 8.30am can be viewed [here](#) or follow the link on [facebook](#).

St Patrick's Parish, Camperdown: Sunday Mass at 10.30am livestreamed [here](#).

Phone Lines

Victorian Coronavirus Hotline — 1800 675 398

If you suspect you may have the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) call the dedicated hotline – open 24 hours, seven days.

Older persons COVID-19 Support line — 1800 171 866

Translations for Victorian Government coronavirus website - www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/translations

1800RESPECT

Confidential information, counselling and support service for people affected by or experiencing sexual assault, domestic or family violence and abuse.

Relationships Australia — 1300 364 277

Support services for individuals, families and communities.

Australian Red Cross — 1800 RED CROSS

Vinnies Ararat Phone: (03) 5352 5560

Salvation Army Australia — 13 SALVOS

Recent Deaths

Georgiana Davis (Ararat)

Linda Powell (Stawell)

Angelo Bulness Caso (Ararat)



First Reading Is 22:19-23

I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder.
Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office,
I remove you from your post,
and the same day I call on my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiah.
I invest him with your robe,
gird him with your sash,
entrust him with your authority;
and he shall be a father
to the inhabitants of Jerusalem
and to the House of Judah.
I place the key of the House of David
on his shoulder;
should he open, no one shall close,
should he close, no one shall open.
I drive him like a peg
into a firm place;
he will become a throne of glory
for his father's house.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 137:1-3. 6. 8. R. v.8

**(R.) Lord, your love is eternal;
do not forsake the work of your hands.**

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple. **(R.)**
2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul. **(R.)**
3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands. **(R.)**

Second Reading Rom 11:33-36

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
From him, through him, and in him are all things.
How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom
and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his
motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know
the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor?
Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything?
All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him.
To him be glory for ever! Amen.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 16:18

Alleluia, alleluia!
You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church;
the gates of hell will not hold out against it.
Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 16:13-20

You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven.
When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

Gospel Reflection

Like last week's gospel, this week's story takes place in a region that was outside predominantly Jewish territory. Caesarea Philippi (north of Galilee and in the region of modern day Syria) had long been a centre of pagan worship. It was used originally by the Canaanites as a site of worship; the Greeks built a temple to one of their gods there; in 20 BCE Herod the Great built a temple to Caesar Augustus; and after his death, Herod's son, Phillip, renamed the city Caesarea Philippi after Tiberius Caesar and himself. It is intriguing that Matthew's gospel chooses such a site as the location for such a significant revelation of faith.

Jesus asks the disciples who people say he is. They report that people associate Jesus with one of the great prophets of Jewish tradition. By people identifying Jesus with other great prophets they were projecting Jesus into the same mould as that prophet. What they were saying was that Jesus will be a great leader in the style of John the Baptist, or Elijah or even Jeremiah. The expectation of a messiah was running very high at the time of Jesus and everyone had their own idea about what that messiah would be like – usually aligned with some previous leader. They didn't seem to understand that Jesus was breaking the mould and was not going to fit in with any of those expectations. To see him as one of the great prophets come again is always going to be an inadequate understanding of Jesus as messiah.

When Jesus pushes the disciples for their own ideas, it is Simon Peter who speaks up and identifies Jesus as being the Son of the living God. Making a play on Peter's name (in Greek, petros = Peter and petra = rock), Jesus states that hereafter, Simon Peter will be known as Peter and upon the rock of his profession of faith the church will be built. @gregsunter

ANNIVERSARIES: August 24th—30th

Peter Coughlin, Maria Sobczak, Michael Bond, Ray DeGroot, Stan Gleeson, Brendan Laidlaw, Les Kelly, Gavin Thomas Quilty, Peter Shea, John Thomas, Sarah McKibbin, Ruby Davey, John Leo Thomas (Jack), Cecelia Moran, Ivy Mullins, Claire Miles, Fr. Peter Wood, John Keogh, Lawrence Keogh, Dominic Keogh, Irene Hockley, Kathleen Kennedy, Leo Stevens Jnr, Fr John Shelley, Shirley Billet

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Please contact the office if you would like your name to be on the sick list. Names are kept on this list for one month—and be put on again.

Anyone in hospital wishing to have communion, please contact the office on 53525460.

Margaret Hassall, Sally Rook, Geraldine Mckendrick

We also pray for those affected by Covid 19.

Ministry to the Sick:

Please email Fr. Andrew during these difficult times to discuss Ministry to the sick on
Andrew.hayes@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Or phone the office on 5352 5460

Readings August 30th 2020

First Reading [Is 22:19-23](#)

Second Reading [Rom 11:33-36](#)

A VOCATION VIEW:

Many of us fear people in authority as authority can be used rightly or wrongly. As Christians we are called to see power as service. We shall all be judged on love.

Pope Francis—Twitter

The response to the pandemic is dual: we need to find a cure for this small which has brought the whole world to its knees and we must cure a larger virus, that of social injustice. [#GeneralAudience](#)

Catholic Care Message cont'd

But counsellors can provide coping strategies and other support too. [Learn more about our counselling here.](#)

Beyond Blue have some great resources for coping with isolation too – check them out [here](#).

Message from Catholic Care / Stay in contact as best you can

During a discussion on isolation, my friend told me that connectedness is about the quality of our relationships, not about our proximity to another person. Proximity helps, of course, to reduce feelings of isolation. But proximity on its own cannot cure loneliness. I resonated with this thought, feeling grateful that I could engage in such meaningful conversation while at such a great distance apart. Phone and video calls may not feel nearly as enriching as face-to-face interaction, but they are the closest form of "normal" interaction we have available to us right now. Just as we would schedule time to meet or talk with our loved ones, make time for phone and video calls to keep in touch. Writing letters is another great way to communicate. Letters can help foster deeper or more meaningful conversations, as we take more time in thinking about what we want to say. Post isn't the only way of sending letters either - we can send photos of handwritten letters, or use our texting method of choice (including messaging apps) to have long-length letter-style conversations. **Remember, it won't be like this forever**

There may be a new "Covid normal" in times to come, but no matter what that is, we will eventually be able to see our family and friends again. Life will go on, and we will adapt.

To have hope that things will get better is important too, no matter how bleak it may feel right now.

"Happiness can be found even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light." - Albus Dumbledore, Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban.

Coping with ill loved ones

Our hearts go out to those who have ill loved ones, as we know visiting is often restricted or sometimes completely off limits, and other forms of contact may be limited too.

This can be frustrating and stressful, but focusing on prayer, on hope, or on something that is meaningful for you both can help. Take feelings of fear or anger and use the energy for good – if your loved one is an avid gardener, consider starting a garden project. If knitting is their thing, try your hand at knitting. Or maybe DIY is more their style. This can help strengthen your connection with them in an abstract way, too.

Keep busy and maintain routine

Feelings of isolation can be exacerbated when we're bored. Because when we're bored, sitting alone and pondering the meaning of life, it is never more blatantly obvious that there is no one around us. Sing, dance, learn a new skill or just take more notice of the things around you. In the early stages of lockdown I formed a new friendship with "Garry" – our resident (harmless) house spider. While he was an unexpected visitor, and despite the initial urge to "get him out of the house NOW", we let him stay. And each day we would follow his adventures, playing 'Where's Wally' to spot his new location on the wall. Such a small and seemingly meaningless interaction resulted in appreciation and acceptance of something I may not have given much thought to otherwise. On a more sane note, maintaining a daily or weekly routine can help to create a sense of normality during such an abnormal time. Routine can also give us a sense of control in our lives, increasing feelings of calm and safety. Setting a regular wake up/sleep time is a good place to start!

Remember that no matter how lonely or isolated you feel, help is always available. Speaking to a counsellor can, in itself, reduce feelings of isolation and increase connectedness.