

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS – 16th August 2020
Twentieth 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, please get in touch with one of our members below:
Gail Hall 0412 311 586 Bernadette Franc 0427 678 830 Anne Beer 0417 369 322

Welcome to 'Our Community News' for 16th August 2020

Note: Today's Community News email has one other attachment: copy of 'The Saving Word'

Novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

Stage 3 restrictions have been re-introduced in regional Victoria effective from August 5, 2020.

Attached is the latest information from Bishop Paul Bird CSsR.

All updates are also on the diocesan website "news" section www.ballarat.catholic.org.au



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August 4, 2020

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 August 5. The restrictions will apply 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

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.

Bishop Paul

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.

The Cathedral Facebook page is Patrick's Cathedral <https://www.facebook.com/patricks.cathedral.9> but the Masses can also be reached via the Cathedral website where the Masses are posted each day after the Mass has concluded so for those who don't have a Facebook account they can go to <https://stpatscathedral.weebly.com/>

Note: Recommend the second link above may work best for Beaufort Parish

RECENT DEATHS:

We continue to pray for all victims of Coronavirus in Australia and the world.

ANNIVERSARIES:

Mavis McKeegan, Frank Briody, Neville Tardrew, Betty Macpherson, Doug Impey, Pasquell Montodure, Jack Briody and Jessie Freeman

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, Maria Large (Judy O'Connor's sister), Joan Cushing and all those in need of prayer.

ROSTERS:

As Anne Beer will soon be preparing our new roster.

Please consider volunteering for any roles that may interest you?

Anne's mobile number is 0417 369 322 or email: bigmac09@bigpond.com

NEWSLETTER:

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.

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

ELECTRONIC THANKSGIVING OFFERINGS

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 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.

The payment link is: <https://bit.ly/CDFpayBeaufort>

AN INVITATION TO PRAY, REFLECT, JOURNAL, LISTEN AND CONVERSE USING ST IGNATIUS' FIRST SPIRITUAL EXERCISE

The First Spiritual Exercises Ministry warmly invites you to experience a reflective and quiet time receiving and sharing your experiences in praying the new FSE Field Hospital Exercises.

For three Mondays August 3, 10 and 17 from 7.00pm – 8.30pm via Zoom meeting, we will guide you through this gentle retreat which offers participants the deeper graces of tender love, hope, faith and inner peace in the Service of God.

More information available from https://mailchi.mp/garrattpublishing.com.au/all-fse_field-hospital-exercises_july2020?e=986abfa3fb

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 August 30. Study is 5 weeks. Registrations open now until August 19.

More information at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or email kim.butler@ballarat.catholic.org.au or phone: 0407 523 424.

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 August 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](#).

READINGS

Please find Our Saving Word attached to this email with all today's readings. Scroll down to find a reflection for today.

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

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.

Sr Veronica Lawson rsm