

**OUR COMMUNITY NEWS – 23rd August 2020**  
**Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary time Year A**

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Sandra Watkins: 0409 492 508  
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**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 23rd 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](http://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](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.

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:**

Mary Collins, James McArthur, Edward Sullivan, Joan Ritchie (nee Flynn), Dorothy Mahony, Aileen Mulcahy, Leo Belleville, Myrtle Elizabeth Cushing, Sarah Fay, Catherine Butler, Alex Butler, Doreen Freeman, Bob Pearce, Cobber McGregor

### **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:**

**Please consider volunteering for any roles that may interest you and let Anne Beer know. Anne's mobile number is 0417 369 322 or email: [bigmac09@bigpond.com](mailto:bigmac09@bigpond.com)**

### **NEWSLETTER:**

Any contributions for the newsletter will be greatly appreciated.

This is a great way to keep our little community in touch.

Just simply email to : [colangegeerrard@gmail.com](mailto:colangegeerrard@gmail.com) or phone Angela on 0439 565 468

### **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>

### **CANCELLATION OF THE 2020 KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS ARCHBISHOP'S DINNER FOR THE PRIESTS SUPPORT AND EDUCATION FUND**

This year's KSC Archbishop's Dinner has been cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Donations will continue to be received via the original Dinner Booking Form to support our seminarians. More information is available from the diocesan

website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/news/fx-articles.cfm?loadref=102&id=2873&categoryId=101>

### **NATIONAL EMERGENCY APPEAL FOR LEBANON**

In response to the horrific explosion in Beirut on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August, the Australian office of the international Catholic Charity, *Aid to the Church in Need*, has launched a national emergency appeal to raise funds to support the people of Lebanon. For more information about the appeal, and to make a donation go to: [www.aidtochurch.org/lebanon](http://www.aidtochurch.org/lebanon) or ph: **1800 101 201**.

## **LOW-COST ONLINE STUDY AND FORMATION – REGISTRATIONS EXTENDED**

The Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program in conjunction with Dayton University offer online formation for lay workers in parish and other ministries; employed or volunteers. 3 week e-seminars in Basic Catechist Formation and Catholic Teaching as well as 5 week e-seminars in Catholic, Beliefs, the Gospel, Disabilities and more. Seminars begin August 30. Registrations close August 26.

More Info: [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) or email [djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or ph. 5337 7121

## **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 Inclusive, Participatory & Synodal?** *The Church, founded by Jesus Christ, is a forum of welcome to “the great multitude from every tribe, tongue and nation”. This biblical image invites us to imagine anew the ways in which the diversity of unique gifts can contribute to an organic and authentic common building of the Church. This is especially crucial in Australia, where the Church is manifest in the great multitude of ecclesial expressions from East and West. The words that St John Paul II spoke particularly to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples may be applied to all Catholics in Australia: “the Church herself in Australia will not be fully the Church that Jesus wants her to be until you have made your contribution to her life and until that contribution has been joyfully received by others.”*

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](mailto:jane.collins@ballarat.catholic.org.au).

Read the discernment paper at <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/PC2020-thematic-papers-2.pdf>. Visit the **Inclusive, Participatory & Synodal** theme's page at <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/themes/inclusive/>.

## **PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL FOR TODAY**

**‘From him and through him and to him are all things.’**

**With confidence, we present these petitions before the throne of mercy.**

We pray for Pope Francis and all the bishops of the church. May they always be mindful of the responsibility handed down to them of guiding those entrusted to their care.

We pray for civil and religious leaders of the world. May they share a willingness to enter dialogue in mutual trust and respect for the betterment of their people.

We pray for those struggling with their faith. May they be moved by the Spirit to see in Jesus the Way, the Truth and the Light.

We pray for our faith community. Nourished by the Eucharist, may we put our lives at the service of others, especially those most in need.

**Heavenly Father, your Son, Jesus Christ, has promised us that your church will endure against all evil. Strengthened by this faith, we ask that you hear the prayers of your people, through Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

## **GOSPEL REFLECTION:**

“Be yourself. Everybody else is taken”, sings Melinda Schneider. The lyrics of this song, composed for Melinda’s dying father, affirm some fairly obvious truths. Even though we know that “everybody else is taken”, most of us spend energy trying to measure up to other peoples’ expectations and fail to be truly ourselves. In our self-absorption, we can also misread others and fail to know them as they are. Being accepted as we are is among the most precious of gifts. Jesus knew this. He was utterly true to himself and he allowed others time to discover for themselves his real identity and the nature of his mission. If the mission was to succeed, then his followers needed to look beyond their preconceptions about him and accept him as God’s anointed one, as the revelation of the living God.

Jesus’ true identity is a key issue for Matthew’s community as it is for us. From the outset, he is presented as the anointed one of God, the Messiah or Christ. Before his birth, the reader knows him as “Emmanuel”, God with us. What the narrator asserts at the outset, certain characters in the story come to understand. Jesus’ fearless teaching and his healing ministry bring the crowd to recognise him as a prophet in the tradition of Elijah or Jeremiah or John the Baptist, and as the incarnate Wisdom of God. The power of God at work in Peter leads him to a deeper understanding of Jesus’ identity. Peter has faltered in the past and will falter again, even to the point of denying any knowledge of or association with Jesus. He finally arrives at deep insight, however, and proclaims his faith in Jesus as both Christ or Messiah and son of the living God. Insight is a gift, and God can work wherever there is openness and goodwill. Peter has both in abundance. He is declared “blessed” on account of this gift of insight, and entrusted with the “keys” of God’s empire.

The specific power of binding and loosing that is given to Peter is subsequently given to the community of disciples (18:18) where the saying is framed on the one hand by instructions about dealing with transgressors and on the other by the assertion that where two or three are gathered in the name of Jesus, he is there in their midst. “Binding and loosing” belongs to all who gather in the name of Jesus whom Matthew presents as God-with-us, as prophet and Wisdom, as the Christ and as the revelation of the living God. The exercise of the power “to bind and to loose” demands the same wisdom and insight as does the capacity to recognise and affirm the true identity of Jesus. Gathering in the name of Jesus is a challenge right now as we face the restrictions required to deal with pandemic.

We pray for the wisdom to find new ways of being church and of truly dealing with transgression.

*Sr Veronica Lawson rsm*

