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## St Mary's Noticesheet

St Mary's Colac is a community of believers, who strive to bring Christ's good news to the people of Colac and district. Through service, caring and love we aim to create an environment of respect and understanding in which everyone can grow. **23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – 6<sup>th</sup> September 2020 – Year A**

**Deaths:** Shirley Beasley, Rose Vavasour, Geraldine Dillon, Br William Bracken, S.S.S., Br John DeBock, c.f.c., Sr. Marie Jones, S.G.S., Peter Driscoll,

**Anniversaries:** Marie Mercuri, Jessica McGuane, Michael Foster, Tim Fischer, Owen Britt, John Griful, Mary Carew, Adele Feeley, Christine Carew, Fr Michael Quigley, Jane Van Es, Joan Casey, Brian Dunn, Anastasia Gleeson, Frs Bob Markey & Peter Taaffe.

### **NO PUBLIC MASSES - SUNDAY & WEEKDAY MASSES**

#### **UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

**Continued Appreciation to Parishioners for Generosity in ongoing support of the Parish. Parish Bank Details for those wanting to assist with Parish Expenses:**

#### **\* For Direct Giving Details:**

**BSB: 083 585 Account: 81 105 1426**

**Planned Giving: REF: Envelope number/surname:**

**Or phone Mandy in the Parish Office 5231 2177**

**STRONG RECOMMENDATION:** If Parishioners (Individual /Families) have members planning hospitalizations and seek any other sacramental ministry contact Parish Office prior to admission to the facilities. Ph: 5231 2177.

**Sympathy To:** (Last Week): Leon & Collen Burley on death of their brother (Murray) in Mt Gambier.  
 \*\*Peter Kodit on death of his younger brother in Sudan.  
 \*\*This Week: Beasley Family on death of Shirley their Sister and Aunt – in Mercy Place Colac (formerly Eurack).  
 \*\*To Michael & Pam Vavasour on the death of their daughter Rose Vavasour.

### **Child Protection Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2020:**

We are proud of the plaque prepared by the Parish Leadership Team for St Mary's Church, Colac on the occasion of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:



This weekend, the Catholic Church in Australia marks Child Protection Sunday, on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise the harm done by people in Church settings. We recommit to practices that support survivors and make the Catholic Church and its ministries the safest possible place for children and vulnerable adults.



### **DOCUMENT REVIEWS CHURCH GOVERNANCE IN AUSTRALIA**

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and Catholic Religious Australia have published a review of diocesan and parish governance and management that could provide important discussion points for the Plenary Council. Bishops Conference president Archbishop Mark Coleridge said "make an important and substantial contribution to the life and mission of the Church in Australia". Equally, many of the issues will be best considered during the upcoming Plenary Council and what will follow from the Council in each diocese," Archbishop Coleridge said "I encourage anyone who wishes to read "The Light from the Southern Cross" to start with the accompanying reading guide. And read the whole report, rather than just the recommendations."

[Click](#) here to access the reading guide and the full report:

#### **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. Next step on Plenary Council journey: As part of the ongoing journey for the Plenary Council, work has commenced on the preparation of the instrumentum laboris, or working document, for the Council. Fr Kevin Lenehan is part of the instrumentum laboris writing team

<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/news/fix-articles.cfm?loadref=102&id=2881&categoryId=101>

### **BLESSING PRAYER FOR FATHERS**

*Lord God, who is Father of all, send your blessing down on these men who are fathers. For those who in the night worry for their child, grant them your comfort.*

*For those who in the day work and struggle to provide for their child, send them your strength.*

*For those who mourn a child, hold them in your love.*

*For those who play, laugh, sing and dance with their child, you share in their joy. Lord God, who is Father of all, walk with these fathers, in the light times and the dark.*

*Bless them, and may they each be a living symbol of your fatherly love; a symbol to their children and all who they encounter.*

*We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



### SEASON OF CREATION AND ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE:

This year's theme is "Jubilee for the Earth" and is an annual celebration of prayer and action to protect creation and is celebrated by Christians of all traditions. In 'Laudato Si' Pope Francis asked us to care for creation and one another.



**You are warmly invited to find an oasis of peace and calm for 45 minutes with a guided meditation 'Finding God in Creation'. This Creation Examen will be held via Zoom on**

**Wednesday, September 16 at 7.30pm.**

**Please respond by email and you will be sent a link to Zoom closer to September 16.**

[catholicearthcare@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:catholicearthcare@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

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**BISHOP PAUL OFFERS THE FOLLOWING REFLECTION:** *In 1989, the Patriarch of Constantinople, Dimitrios I, declared the first day of September a day of prayer for all creation, for the protection of the environment. This is in tune with the Orthodox calendar in which September 1 begins the liturgical year with prayer to God the Creator. We find this petition, for example, in one of the hymns for this day. "O Lord, Creator of all things, who by your authority have established times and seasons, bless the beginning of our Church year with your goodness; preserve your people in peace."*

*The practice of having September 1 as a Day of Prayer for Creation spread to other Christian communities around the world. In 2015, Pope Francis formally invited Catholics to join in keeping September 1 as a Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.*

*With the encouragement of the World Council of Churches, the Day of Prayer for Creation grew into a Season of Creation, beginning on September 1 and continuing till October 4, the feast of St Francis of Assisi, patron saint of ecology. St Francis gave us a widely known hymn of praise for creation. Pope Francis quoted this hymn at the start of his encyclical 'Laudato si', on care for our common home. The hymn calls on all creation to give praise to the Creator. "Laudato si, mi Signore", "Be praised, my Lord, through all your creatures".*

*Various groups now celebrate the weeks from September 1 till October 4 as a Season of Creation. While this is not an official liturgical season like Lent or Eastertide in our Catholic liturgical calendar, Pope Francis has encouraged us to make this a special time of prayer and action in caring for our common home.*

*In his message on this day in 2019, Pope Francis wrote, "I strongly encourage the faithful to pray in these days that, as the result of a timely ecumenical initiative, are being celebrated as a Season of Creation. This season of increased prayer and effort on behalf of our common home begins today, September 1, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and ends on October 4, the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi. It is an opportunity to draw closer to our brothers and sisters of the various Christian confessions. I think in particular of the Orthodox faithful, who have celebrated this Day for thirty years. In this ecological crisis affecting everyone, we should also feel close to all other men and women of good will, called to promote stewardship of the network of life of which we are part." The Pope echoes the teaching of Saint Bonaventure, who wrote of creation as the first book that God opens before our eyes. As we marvel at creation's order, variety and beauty, we can come to love and praise its Creator. Pope Francis also encourages us to make this a season for reflecting on our daily decisions about food, consumption, transportation, use of water and energy, so that we might adopt "more simple and respectful lifestyles". Speaking to a gathering of young people, Pope Francis referred to creation as a network of life, a place of encounter with God and one another, "God's own social network". He invites us to take our part in weaving this network. "Each Christian man and woman, every member of the human family, can act as a thin yet unique and indispensable thread in weaving a network of life that embraces everyone. May we feel challenged to assume, with prayer and commitment, our responsibility for the care of creation."*

*Bishop Paul Bird CSsR*

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### FUTURE FOR YOUTH IN NORTH TARAWA

*By Philip Drew & Students of IHC*

Philip Drew began his Palms Australia placement as a Secondary Maths & Science Teacher/Mentor at the beginning of February 2020 at Immaculate Heart College [IHC], Kiribati. **International Youth Day** focuses on the Youth of today's world and celebrates their aspirations for the future of our tiny planet. What follows are a few ideas from Form 5 2020 students at Immaculate Heart College, Taborio, North Tarawa, in the Republic of Kiribati.



*The Republic consists of 32 Atolls and one Island, in the Pacific Ocean. Over half of the Republic's population live on a sliver of an Atoll called South Tarawa. I asked the students to reflect on three questions, namely: 1. Where do they see themselves in ten years from now? 2. What fears and concerns do they have for the future? 3. If they were the President of Kiribati, what would be a priority in their government?*

*For more information visit: <https://palms.org.au/2020/08/10/future-for-youth-in-north-tarawa/>*