



Parish Priest: Fr Michael O'Toole
 Phone: 03 52312177
 Fax: 03 52312189
 Email: colac@ballarat.catholic.org.au
 Secretary Hrs: Mon to Fri 8.30am -12.30pm

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 **26th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 27th September 2020 - Year A**

Deaths: Peta Van De Wouw (C'down), Sr. Tirsa (Philippines), Matthew Jagodic, Dean Jones, Peter Harrington, Ron Campbell.
Anniversaries: Daniel & Hugh Delahunty, John & Mary Moloney, Doreen Ryan, Don McKay. Fathers Kevin O'Brien, Dunworth, Luby and Mercovich,

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: 811051426

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 Sr Manuela (Horsham) on the death of her Baptistine Sister (Sr. Tirsa) Srs Manuela & Tirsa (Filipino Sister) came to the Ballarat Diocese three years ago. Early this year Sr Tirsa returned to the Philippines for health reasons. Sr Manuela will also complete her Ballarat Ministry this year.



*May you meet mercy
 each day:
 in the light of your own heart,
 at the hands of your loved ones,
 in the eyes of the stranger and the needy.
 And if by chance you do not at first meet it,
 then search your heart for it,
 listen patiently for word of it,
 and it will tap you on the shoulder,
 a quiet surprise,
 a small gesture
 the tender look,
 given and received
 in the encounters of your day.*

~ Mary Wickham RSM~

106th World Day of Migrants and Refugees – this Sunday, September 27, 2020

The Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office has prepared a Migrant and Refugee Kit, which includes stories from local communities, reflections and prayers https://www.acmro.catholic.org.au/resources/migrant-refugee-kit?fbclid=IwAR00HRtrkYbmKFV4Tjyo9SqFOMYSEeUVn3dUN-aWote00KR2-jArGmZS8_8

Catholic Social Services Victoria would like to draw particular focus, especially in the light of COVID-19, to remember, pray for and commit to working to change the horrible reality of many migrants, refugees and people seeking asylum 'in our own backyard':

Remembering, working and praying for migrants and refugees: On this 106th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, we remember, pray for, and commit to working to change the horrible reality of many in 'our own backyard'. We acknowledge and give thanks for the many parish communities across the state, along with those working within our Catholic social services and other organisations and community groups, who are making considerable efforts to assist people seeking asylum, refugees, and other migrants who hold temporary visas—many remain in harsh circumstances in detention centres, and the majority of the 115,000 living in the Australian community have been deemed ineligible for any federal government support payments during COVID-19, making many at risk of homelessness and despair. In his message for World Day for Migrants and Refugees, Pope Francis tells us, "You have to know in order to understand" and "It is necessary to be close, in order to serve". Only when different elements of the community work together — individuals, parishes, schools, universities and organisations — can we effectively advocate for systemic change and provide for people's immediate necessities and other spiritual and social needs. We encourage you to read more at <http://www.css.org.au/Article-View/Article/23727/Remembering-working-and-praying-for-migrants-and-refugees#.X2qklGgzaCh>

Sisters of Mercy: This is the first time since 1888 that we do not have a Sister of Mercy in St Mary's Parish, Colac as we celebrate: **September 24th Feast of Our Lady of Mercy.** We do so in appreciation of the Mercy Sisters who resided in and ministered to Parishioners of St Mary's Colac.



There will be no return to a pre-COVID world; it has changed forever.

Victorians have been in exile from the homeland of our humanity for six months now. Throughout this exile, hope has been hard to come by as fear, fatigue and frustration have taken hold. Now, a way out of captivity has been set before us. Every Victorian has an interest in the government's road map towards a "COVID-normal" destination. But what do we actually want that destination to look like, and how might it shape the road ahead?

There will be no return to a pre-COVID world; it has changed forever. Rather than lament this loss, might we be facing a great opportunity? What is the world we want to build? Is our objective a society that is fair, truthful and merciful; prosperous and generous; democratic and transparent? Or one that is anxious and argumentative; uncivil and individualistic; competitive and selfish? Will every life matter? What are our priorities as we take the next steps?

People of faith have deep resources to share here. While the voice of religious communities has gone largely unheeded in recent years, at this time of great fear it turns out religious people are motivated by something positive and inspirational. In the middle of lockdown and cut off from all kinds of human sources of inspiration, people of faith draw on something that does not depend entirely on other people. It might be unfashionable to say, but God has been helpful to lots of Victorians in 2020.

All God's people – whether believers or not – are my friends and fellow pilgrims on the journey ahead. From my Christian faith, this is a road that offers a horizon of hope and wellness. Some friends on this road have been lonely and isolated this year. Some of them have had a hard time stuck in high-rise public housing. Some have faced death and sickness apart from loved ones and cried at a funeral without the tender presence of their nearest and dearest. Talking with our friends on the phone and via Zoom has been helpful. But all of them tell me that it's God who has made all the difference.

Right now, we can't physically gather in our churches, synagogues, mosques or temples. I want our doors to be open; they should be open for the life-giving nourishment and healing offered there. We will do so safely and carefully, but we need to be open so as to gather as friends with the God who loves us.

The great challenge emerging is not how to keep people at home, but how to encourage them to interact fruitfully in the new context. Restoring social contact and connection, especially for the elderly and vulnerable, while practising physical distancing, is a key part of any path ahead. Finding the balance between protecting lives and livelihoods is also a measure of the treatment of every human life. Reaching for a "COVID-normal" must mean reaching for the common good, where no one is left behind and a place is found for everyone.

Both prayer and play are deeply humanising realities. Work and the care of others are good for humans. Families, who have had to work, live and be schooled at the kitchen table for months, have had to rediscover the best and the worst of themselves. The family – in all its nuances and challenges, griefs and joys – remains the fundamental pillar and source of order in human society. We neglect the family at our peril.

Family, religion, work, education, care and leisure: these should be our first and foundational priorities, the human measures upon which our pathway forward ought to be framed. The humanity behind the data cannot be neglected as we emerge from captivity. Each step along our path from exile must be taken in personal and civilising ways.

If these good things aren't part of the horizon before us, then we are creating much trouble for ourselves. I, for one, will work so that our journey out of exile is oriented towards this humanising horizon. And like many of my friends facing the hard realities of this year, I'll be placing my hope in the tender closeness of God who is accompanying us on the road ahead.

Archbishop Peter Comensoli (Archbishop of Melbourne)

NOTICES:

Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission Mental Health Webinar

For more information, <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/social-justice/>

Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program Online Study: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

It's St Mary's 10th Anniversary and you're invited! <https://www.sosj.org.au/10th-anniversary>

Next step on Plenary Council journey: <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/next-step-on-plenary-council-journey/>

Catholic Earthcare Convocation is digital during September <https://catholicearthcare.org.au/2020-convocation/>

Popes Intention for September

Respect for the Planets Resources

We pray that the planet's resources will not be plundered but shared in a just and respectful manner.

- The new diocesan website is now live www.ballarat.catholic.org.au.