

## **St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat**

Communities of Alfredton, Ballarat, Cardigan  
Lake Gardens, Lake Wendouree, Lucas, Newington

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**TWENTY SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**27th SEPTEMBER 2020**

**World Day of Migrants and Refugees**



*St Patrick's Cathedral Parish acknowledges that the Aboriginal people of Australia are our first nation peoples and the traditional owners and custodians of this land.*

*We are a child safe Parish following the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government, implementing procedures and standards as directed by the Professional Standards Office of the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat.*

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3 Lyons St Sth Ballarat

[ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au)  
[stpatscathedral.weebly.com/](http://stpatscathedral.weebly.com/)

Parish Office hours:  
Tuesday - Friday  
10.00am - 5.00pm

On Mondays the Parish Office is closed.

On weekends and after regular office hours,  
the phone will be transferred to the on call priest  
so that the Hospitals, Aged Care facilities, Funeral Directors  
or others seeking the services of a priest may be responded to.

Follow us on Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/patricks.cathedral.9/>

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Mass in the Chapel at St John of God Hospital is live streamed daily at 11.30am. After Mass has been celebrated it is posted onto the Cathedral website.

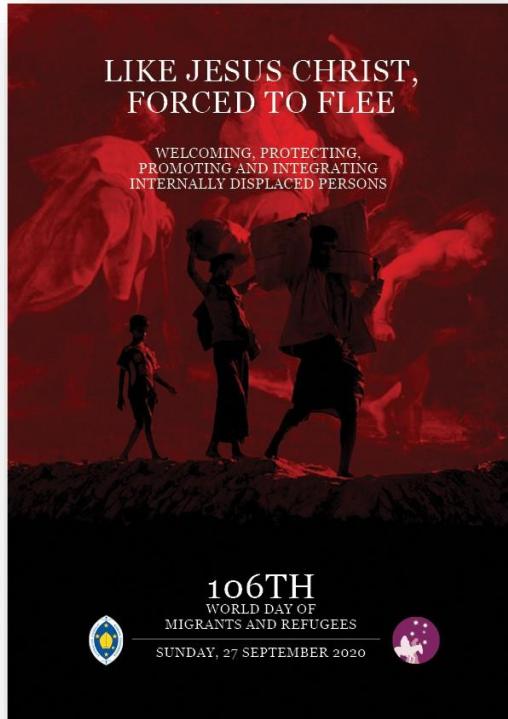
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**Readings for this week: Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**First:** Ezekial 18: 25-28 **Second:** Philippians 2: 1-11  
**Gospel:** Matthew 21: 28-32

**Readings for next week: Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**First:** Isaiah 5:1-7 **Second:** Philippians 4:6-9  
**Gospel:** Matthew 21:33-43

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Archbishop Christopher Prowse, in a letter for this Sunday's World Day of Migrants and Refugees, said the understandable focus on the COVID-19 pandemic must not distract people from another ongoing crisis.

"Global migration is a major challenge for much of today's world and a priority for the Catholic Church," he wrote.

"In words and deeds, Pope Francis repeatedly shows his deep compassion for all who are displaced. Witness his encounters with migrants and refugees on the islands of Lampedusa and Lesbos. Witness his call for their full embrace: to welcome, to protect, to promote and to integrate migrants, refugees and victims of human trafficking."

Those four verbs – welcome, protect, promote and integrate – have been a constant refrain for the past three years, after they formed the basis of Pope Francis' 2018 message for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees.

The theme for this year's message – the 106th the Catholic Church has marked – is "Forced Like Jesus Christ to Flee". Archbishop Prowse said the biblical image of the flight into Egypt of Jesus, Mary and Joseph has been the inspiration of many statements of the Catholic Church on various aspects of migration. "Like an icon of so many of the displaced, the Holy Family represents people 'on the move'," Archbishop Prowse wrote. "The Church stands alongside the fragilities and dangers of the millions attempting to find a dignified home in the world."

[Access the Booklet for World Day of Migrants and Refugees here](#)



## **Recent Deaths:**

Sr Tirsa Bale, Ben Duka,  
Ken Russell, Leonie Street

## **Anniversaries:**

Iris Burgess  
Luigi Bomitali  
Tasman Bruce  
Pamela Caine  
Kathleen Callahan  
Noel Cherry  
Sydney Connors  
Ethna Davey  
Ida Faulkner  
Marie Foley  
William E Foley  
Margaret Frawley  
Arthur Vincent Hall  
Ray Harman  
Marilla Hemphill  
William Keen  
Gusta Kuypers  
Benjamin Lopes  
Gabby Mayne  
Anne Louise McDonald  
Maria Merzvinskis  
Maria Morris  
Flora O'Connell  
Josephine O'Hara  
Hugh Ryan  
John Ryan  
Vgo Santucci  
John Strybosch Snr  
Lynette Tann  
George Zehner

# Liturgy, Prayer, Pastoral Care and Pandemics



2020 has unfolded in ways none of us could have imagined. The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted our experiences of liturgy and public prayer as never before. Providing pastoral care to the sick and dying in high-risk environments alongside health professionals engaged in medical care, has necessitated the development of innovative approaches to this vital work.

The ACU Centre for Liturgy will examine this current reality in "Liturgy, Prayer, Pastoral Care and Pandemics," a free public lecture presented live online from New York, USA by Sr Professor Julia Upton rsm of St John's University (New York) on Monday October 12 (Sunday October 11 in the USA) via Zoom.

The ACU Centre for Liturgy welcomes Prof Upton as an expert in both liturgy and public health, to explore the challenge of providing pastoral care in the time of COVID-19. In her lecture, Prof Upton will review lessons learned from the renegotiation of what 'community' and 'worship' mean when gatherings are not permitted or are restricted by social distancing, and what kinds of pastoral care can occur for the sick and dying in hospitals and other settings when families cannot visit. Pastoral care providers, clergy and parishioners will find this free public lecture of great benefit as we consider what has been learned so far amid the pandemic and what the ramifications might be for future modes of pastoral care in the months and years ahead.

[A flyer with information about this lecture can be found here](#)

## Mental Health - Zoom Webinar



The Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission is hosting a zoom webinar for anyone who wants to know more about mental health in Australia and to empower participants to understand mental health, the supports available here in Australia and provide an opportunity to reach out, encourage hope and bring fullness of life to those we love and care for.

The Zoom webinar will be held on Sunday, October 4, 2020 from 2.00pm – 3.00pm.

### **SPEAKERS**

**Bishop Paul Bird** will introduce the 2020-2021 Bishop's Conference Social Justice Statement 'To Live Life to the Full, Mental Health in Australia Today'. The statement offers information on how we can care for our most vulnerable during this time of pandemic. It encourages faith communities, governments and each one of us, to make mental health a priority.

**Graeme Davy-Watts** works as a mental health manager for Centacare. He has almost twenty years of experience in various clinical roles. He holds a specialist postgraduate qualification in low intensity interventions, an honours degree in psychology and has held various leadership positions. Graeme will talk to us about the current reality of mental health in Australia today, what we have to learn from developing countries around the world and what supports are available for preventing mental ill health in Australia.

Please register by sending your name and contact email to Dr. Rachel Smith at [social.justice@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:social.justice@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

[Download the flyer here](#)

# Gay children are 'children of God', Pope tells parents



Pope Francis during his weekly general audience in the San Damaso's courtyard in Vatican.  
Stefano Spaziani/DPA/PA Images

Pope Francis has told the parents of gay children that God loves them "as they are" because they are "the children of God".

His remarks came following the Wednesday General Audience where he had a brief meeting with members of an Italian group *Tenda di Gionata* (Jonathan's Tent), which supports the parents of LGBT children.

[According to reports](#) of [the encounter](#) Francis said "God loves your children as they are." He also said: "The Pope loves your children as they are, because they are children of God."

Mara Grassi, the vice-president of the support group, relayed details of what the Pope said following the audience, and that she had presented Francis with a book *Genitori Fortunati* (Blessed Parents). [A copy of the book](#) will soon be available in English.

Speaking to *Avvenire*, the newspaper owned by the Italian Bishops' Conference, she said: "I explained [to the Pope] that we consider ourselves lucky because we have been forced to change the way we have always looked at our children.

[Read this article by Christopher Lamb published in the UK Tablet here](#)

## **Cardinal likens fading Christian presence in Middle East to a sinking ship**

Lebanese Cardinal Bechara Rai warned that the Christian presence in the Middle East is shrinking and church leaders "are called to face the winds that blow in our homelands."

The assessment by the patriarch of Maronite Catholics during a meeting of the Middle East Council of Churches executive committee Sept. 18 underscored the dire reality facing Christians in the tumultuous region.

"The ship threatened by strong winds and waves" that is sinking symbolizes "the witnessing church in the sea of our Middle Eastern countries troubled by the winds of conflicts and wars, political, economic, financial and livelihood crises, and the corona epidemic," Rai said.

[Read this article in Crux here](#)



*Lebanese Cardinal Bechara Rai (image above), patriarch of the Maronite Catholic Church, is pictured in a 2017 file photo speaking at the In Defense of Christians Summit in Washington.*

*He described the shrinking presence of Christians in the Middle East as a sinking ship to leaders of the Middle East Council of Churches Sept. 18, 2020.*

*(Credit: Jaclyn Lippelmann/Catholic Standard via CNS.)*



## **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?

### *What is the world we want to build?*

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?

[Read this opinion piece by  
Archbishop Peter Comensoli in the Melbourne Age here](#)



## ATTENDING MASS

From midnight 16th September, in regional Victoria, including our Diocese of Ballarat, the following restrictions will apply:

### **Churches, worship, sacraments and the easing of restrictions**

Bishop Paul has communicated to the people of the Ballarat Diocese informing us that together with the other bishops of Victoria, he has been making representations to government for an easing of the restrictions in relation to places of worship. He has proposed that places of worship should at least be treated in the same way as other places where people can gather socially. In the coming week, bishops and other religious leaders will have further meetings with government. It is hoped these meetings will bear fruit so that we will be able to gather again in our churches.

We do need to safeguard the community's health, yet we have shown that we can observe the necessary precautions for physical health at the same time as we celebrate the liturgy, which contributes so much to the spiritual and mental health of the community. Bishop Paul prays particularly that we will soon be able to share the Eucharist, source and summit of the Christian life, but at this time **it is not possible for us to gather for Mass.**

It is still possible for parishes to live-stream Mass, however this can only involve up to five people. The provisions do not allow us to gather in our churches to celebrate Mass as we would dearly wish to.

**Funerals** will be able to have up to 20 people gathered, plus those required to conduct the funeral.

**Weddings** will be able to have up to 10 people gathered (including the couple and two witnesses), plus the celebrant.

**Baptisms** cannot be celebrated until there is a further easing of restrictions. For those seeking to celebrate the sacrament of **Reconciliation**, this can be done by contacting the priest directly to make an appointment.

**Anointing** of the Sick remains possible in Hospitals and Aged Care facilities. Priests are permitted to visit these institutions when a person's condition has been designated 'end of life.' The priests will continue to be available to offer pastoral and sacramental care for the sick and the dying in their own homes.

The seriousness of the potential health risks and the penalties for breaching the law demand a very considered approach and a workable system. In the meantime, the mission of Christ that we have been given to **serve, reach out, care for each other** and **pray** continues.

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**Mass will continue to be celebrated daily at 11.30am from the St John of God Hospital Chapel. This Mass is live streamed.**



## SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

Due to Government restrictions around COVID-19, preparation for the Sacraments of Initiation have been suspended for the rest of the year.

The Sacrament of Baptism also won't be celebrated at this time.

For further information, queries or concerns, please contact the Parish Office.

## PLANNED GIVING

**Thank you for contributing to the Cathedral collections this week:**

Envelopes: \$ 764.00 Presbytery: \$ 140.00

Due to the cancellation of Masses, should you wish to continue your Planned Giving or contribution to the First Collection, please hand your envelope into the Parish Office, phone Finance Officer Kerrie to receive a Direct Debit form, or put your offering in an envelope into the mailbox near the front door.

Any queries or concerns, contact the Parish Office or email  
Finance Officer [Kerrie](#).

## Gospel Reflection

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

As we celebrate the fourth week in the Season of Creation, we might ponder again the ways in which Earth cares for us. Vineyards have provided nourishment for countless families in the ancient Mediterranean world since about 10,000 BCE. It is not surprising then that the biblical record frequently references vines and vineyards and that the vineyard becomes a metaphor for God's "workplace". In today's gospel, Jesus tells the story of a father who sends his sons to work in the vineyard.

One refuses and then reconsiders: he has the courage to change his mind and engage in life. The second son agrees then fails to do as his father requests: he is not prepared to make his contribution to family life and wellbeing.

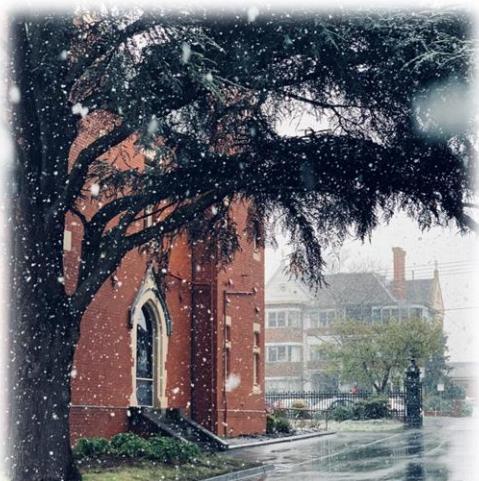
These siblings find their counterparts in every age. There are those who make an art form of saying yes and failing to follow through with action: such people can seriously undermine the most worthy of projects or plans. And then there are the slow starters, those who take time but eventually come on board. Jesus' parable is a response to the Temple authorities who are angered by the "amazing things" he does and by the public recognition he receives from the children in the temple.

Like the second son, the chief priests and elders profess to do the will of God, but their actions belie their words. Jesus spells out the meaning of the parable as it relates to the disjunction between what they say and what they do. They have rejected the prophet John who came to them "in the way of righteousness". The tax collectors and prostitutes, "sinners" from the perspective of the authorities, accepted John's message, albeit belatedly like the first son, and are making their way into God's empire ahead of the guardians of the religious institutions.

Changing one's mind is seen as a sign of weakness in our society. For evidence of this, one has only to listen to the taunts in parliament when a political leader changes course in the light of new information. Changing one's mind or one's course of action can be an act of great courage and humility, even heroism. This is particularly so if it involves abandoning a self-serving direction for the sake of justice or compassion or the "common good". We have the example of those who refused to politicize the pandemic and chose rather to work for the common good across political affiliations: some have paid a heavy price. Voluntary changes in behaviour come from a change of heart, from what the gospel calls "metanoia". There is always a cost in the pursuit of justice, generally less dramatic than the cost to some in public office who challenge the refusal to act on the climate crisis. Today's parable invites us to bring our actions into line with what we profess, no matter the cost. That is what it means to take up the challenge of working in the vineyard.

Veronica Lawson RSM

# **SNOW IN SPRING ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, BALLARAT**



**Our mailing address is:**  
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