

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS – 6th September 2020

Twenty-Third 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 6th September 2020

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

September 8th." The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

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

Attached below is the latest information from Bishop Paul Bird CSsR.

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

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/> *(We recommend this link may work best Beaufort Parish)*

RECENT DEATHS:

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

ANNIVERSARIES:

James Hewitt, Nell Colins, Jim Doyle, Pat Davies, Jean McManus, Belinda Horsley, Marie Huska (Franc), Bob Cockerell and Ron Pretty.

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

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: carmelmilen@hotmail.com or phone Carmel on 0407320759

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>

CATHEDRAL CHRISM MASS CANCELLED

Bishop Paul has advised that the Chrism Mass has been cancelled for 2020 due to Coronavirus restrictions which do not allow for large gatherings. We look forward to celebrating this mass on the Monday of Holy Week 2021.

CATHOLIC EARTHCARE CONVOCATION IS NOW OPEN FOR REGISTRATIONS!

Catholic Earthcare is a place and platform where the many, diverse voices within our church community come together, in dialogue, to help and co-create our future.

Join digitally to celebrate and Care for our Common Home!

<https://catholicearthcare.org.au/2020-convocation/>

DOING MINISTRY SAFELY ONLINE

A 90-minute online workshop for those working with children and young people in church communities. Thursday 10th September 5pm-6.30pm. More info and free registration at: www.trybooking.com/BKZSO

SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT 2020-2021

The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting the mental health of many members of our parishes, schools and communities. Understanding mental health will help us to be aware of those who need our support. In the Social Justice Statement 2020-2021, *To Live Life to the Full: Mental health in Australia today*, the Bishops invite us all to reject stigmatisation, to work for the transformation of social determinants of mental ill-health, and to call for policies and service provision that meet the needs of the poorest and most marginalised members of our community. More information at the diocesan website

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or http://bit.ly/SocialJustice_2020

DAMASCUS COLLEGE INFORMATION WEBINARS & VIRTUAL TOURS FOR 2022

Damascus College warmly invites all families to attend Information Webinars on Wednesday, September 9 at 5.00pm and Tuesday, October 20 at 6.30pm.

Guided Virtual Tours are held fortnightly on a Thursday at 9.00am. To register, please go to <https://www.damascus.vic.edu.au/prospective-visit-us>

SUPPORT FOR SCHOLARSHIP

The Pontifical University of the Holy Cross Foundation grants two scholarships each year – to seminarians and priests from emerging dioceses of Africa and Asia to study in Rome. At present, the Bishops of the dioceses of Trivandrum (India) and of Homa Bay (Kenya) would like to send two priests to study Theology at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, but they lack the resources, which amount to \$A38,000. Please consider contributing to this cause. You can send donations to: Foundation in

the Commonwealth Bank, BSB: 062 173 Acct: 2800 8038 or to PO Box 176
GORDON NSW 2072 or through our website www.pontifoundation.org.au

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. Here in the diocese, we will look at one paper for a month.

For the month of September we will look at **HOW IS GOD CALLING US TO BE A CHRIST-CENTRED CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA THAT IS Prayerful and Eucharistic?**

The listening and dialogue responses revealed the deep faith, integrity and sincerity of all the people who gave of themselves in their offerings. The responses included divergent opinions in various topics. At the same time, they showed a common faith in Christ and a common desire to follow his teaching in love of God and love of neighbour. They demonstrated a commitment to living the gospel of Christ and sharing the gospel with others, even in the midst of a largely secular culture. They expressed a love for the community of the Church, despite the well-documented failings of members of the community. They showed a desire to be a christ-centered church that is prayerful and Eucharistic.

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 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/.](https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/themes/inclusive/)

SHARING THE TRADITION

A closer look at the Scripture of the day, to see how it makes more explicit God's word to us through the teachings of Jesus Christ

The Church has had an 'up-and-down' history in the way it has dealt with conflict, and in how it has balanced the exercise of its legitimate authority with the call to announce God's forgiveness to the world. There have been low points, like the Inquisition of the Middle Ages, and high points, like the papal apologies of the Jubilee Year.

In recent years, the scandal of sexual abuse by members of the clergy and religious has caused the Church to re-examine appropriate processes for dealing with such wrongdoing by its members. Various statements from Pope Francis have highlighted this.

Why isn't it acceptable to turn a 'blind eye' to wrongdoing within the Church? In what ways do you think this may have undermined the credibility of the Church in the modern world? What role have the media played in this?

You could discuss the modern process employed by the Church in dealing with sexual abuse or other controversial issues like the Stolen Generation of Aboriginal Australians.

Balance this by highlighting some of the truly great works done by priests at a local level—for example, Fr Ernie Smith's establishment of Sacred Heart Mission in St Kilda, or Fr Chris Riley's foundation Youth Off the Streets.

There may be local initiatives in your own community that could be highlighted as examples of the positive action of the Church in the world.

One of the greatest prayers about being a peace maker is the prayer often associated with St Francis of Assisi:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O divine master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and in dying that we are born to eternal life. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

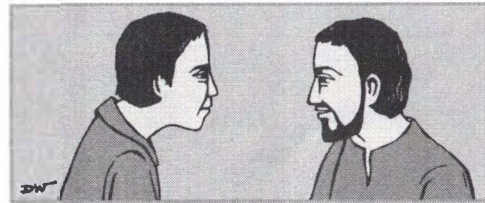
If your brother or sister listens to you, you will have won that person back.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

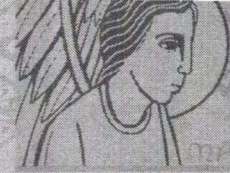
■ The Gospel of the Lord.



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Reflections on the Gospel



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

06 SEPTEMBER 2020

WINNING PEOPLE BACK

The Church is not a community of the perfect. Allowance has to be made for dealing with moral lapses and dissensions that inevitably occur in a community still on the way to the Kingdom.

In today's Gospel the procedure Jesus lays down for dealing with conflict reveals his sense of the Church as the *family* of God. Correction should as far as possible be carried out in private. Only if that proves unsuccessful should a carefully staged progression of increasingly public procedures be set in place. The goal is not simply to win, but rather to 'win back' the 'brother or sister', to preserve as far as possible the dignity of the errant person, and to enhance everyone's sense of being a valued member of the 'family'.

If, despite all, the process fails, there is nothing to be done but to treat the person as an outsider. There comes a point beyond which a community can no longer tolerate members who consistently defy its core values.

To set someone outside the community is no light matter. The Church needs to know that its decisions in this regard enjoy heavenly sanction. Hence Jesus' assurance that the 'binding and loosing' authority conferred personally upon Peter in regard to interpretations of the law (Matthew 16:19), is also enjoyed by the local community with respect to the exclusion or non-exclusion of errant members. As risen Lord, Jesus remains 'Emmanuel', 'God with us', in community life and deliberation (see Matthew 1:23).

The Church's canon law and way of proceeding has developed way beyond this simple instruction. But its fundamental spirit should remain.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

FIRST READING

Ezek 33:7-9

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

If you have not warned the wicked man, then I will hold you responsible for his death.

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 94:1-2, 6-9. R. v. 8

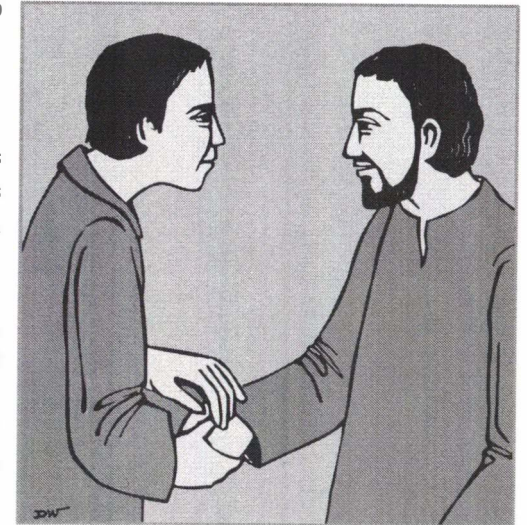
R. O that today you would listen to his voice!

Harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; / hail the rock who saves us. / Let us come before him, giving thanks, / with songs let us hail the Lord. **R.**

2. Come in; let us bow and bend low; / let us kneel before the God who made us / for he is our God and we / the people who belong to his pasture, / the flock that is led by his hand. **R.**

3. O that today you would listen to his voice! / 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, / as on that day at Massah in the desert / when your fathers put me to the test; / when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **R.**



SECOND READING

Rom 13:8-10

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Love is the fulfilment of the Law.

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

2 Cor 5:19

Alleluia, alleluia! / God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; / and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us. / Alleluia!