



Parish Priest: Fr Michael O'Toole
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 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

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time – 4th October 2020 – Year A

Deaths: Jan Rix (Gordon), Dorothy McNamara, Sr. Bernadette Greene, I.B.V.M, Colleen Daffey (Dwyer), Fr Anthony Toms, Beth Hose (Cobden) Salvatore (Sam) Testa.

Anniversaries: Bill Maslen, Terrence O'Shannassy, David Gleeson, Police Killed in Action.

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 Mary, Robert, Anthony, David Testa and families on the death of their husband and father (Sam) this week.

'Sunday Mass' On Television: 6am – Channel 10

Catholic Mass online: <http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand> or

- St Joseph's Parish Warrnambool: can be viewed via:

YouTube - www.tiny.cc/joe3280 or Facebook On

<https://www.facebook.com/stjosephswarrnambool>

- Sacred Heart Parish Mildura: Sunday Masses available

on: <http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIHcYcTuk5DivKLWY1bvag>

- St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat: Mass livestreamed

daily at 11.30am can be viewed on St Patrick's Cathedral

Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/patrick'scathedral9>

Popes Intention for October

The Laity's Mission in the Church

We pray that by the virtue of baptism, the laity, especially women, may participate more in areas of responsibility in the Church.

May the strength of the wind and the light of the sun. The softness of the rain and the mystery of the moon reach you and fill you. May beauty delight you and happiness uplift you, may wonder fulfil you and love surround you. May your step be steady and your arm be strong, may your heart be peaceful and your word be true. May you seek to learn, may you learn to live, may you live to love, and may you love—always. Celtic Blessing

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PREMIER FROM THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF VICTORIA

Friday 25 September 2020

The Premier, The Hon Daniel Andrews

Office of the Premier 1 Treasury Place Melbourne VIC 3002

By email: daniel.andrews@parliament.vic.gov.au

Dear Premier,

It has been very encouraging to see COVID---19 numbers dropping so dramatically in recent weeks. We are grateful for the efforts and commitment of the government and health officials in containing the second wave of the pandemic, and for the clear leadership you have provided personally in your daily communication updates for all Victorians. Throughout the various changes in restrictions over the last six months, the Catholic dioceses of Victoria have shown themselves to be resilient, well---managed and safe, carefully communicating each set of restrictions and ensuring their implementation, even when this caused much hardship.

However, people of faith across regional and metropolitan Victoria have raised serious concerns about the unfairness and inconsistency in the numbers allowed for religious gatherings by comparison with other sectors in the current 'third step'. We are being asked what the reason is for this dramatic difference, and we are unable to provide an answer, even after several meetings with DHHS in which we have sought explanations. Over the last two weeks, we have worked cooperatively with members of the government and health authorities and have resolved a number of inconsistencies and communication difficulties. However, a pressing need remains to address the unfairness of the disparity in numbers. In the most simple of measures, the current restrictions in regional Victoria literally fail the 'pub test': if people of faith can gather in a restaurant or bar catering for a particular number of patrons (and remove their face covering), they ought to be able to put on their mask, cross the road and worship in their faith community with the same numbers, provided equivalent COVID---safe practices are in place. We ask that this disparity be rectified urgently and that the principle of fairness be applied for each subsequent step on the roadmap to reopening. Catholic communities have shown their commitment to acting responsibly and cooperatively throughout the pandemic, and they will be greatly encouraged in this if they can see that people of faith are being given the same consideration as other sectors of the community.

You remain in our prayers and we look forward to finding a constructive solution to this issue, which is causing unnecessary pain and distress for people of faith across Victoria.

Yours Sincerely

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli - ARCHBISHOP OF MELBOURNE

Most Rev Paul Bernard Bird CSsR - BISHOP OF BALLARAT

Most Rev Shane Mackinlay - BISHOP OF SANDHURST

Rev Peter Slater - DIOCESAN ADMINISTRATOR, SALE

International Day of Peace September 29th 2020- Sudanese Bishop Speaks to Us.



Bishop in South Sudan Urges Peace –

'All human beings are created in the image of God, no tribe is better than other tribes'

"As the world celebrates International Day for Peace, we in South Sudan are at the forefront because we know the bitterness of the absence of peace. Since the birth of this new republic, we citizens have not known any lasting peace for which God created us", writes His Exc. Mgr. Barani Edwardo Hiiboro Kussala, Bishop of Tombura-Yambio, in the message for the International Day for Peace celebrated yesterday, September 21st. The

International Day of Peace was established by the UN General Assembly on November 30, 1981, and is celebrated every third Tuesday of September, which coincides with the opening day of the sessions of the General Assembly.

"For this reason, I want to join humanity, I want to join the Holy Father, in his desire for peace, in his prayer for peace and in his work for peace for the world and even more for us here in South Sudan", says Bishop Hiiboro.

"Dear brothers and sisters, peace be with you. May God's peace reign in your hearts and let us try to create peace within ourselves, even in the midst of the realities we are facing; hunger, lack of basic services, sickness, isolation, hatred, pain. Let us realize that God knows our difficulties; He is our Creator; let us call the peace of God that exists in our hearts", reads the message sent to Agenzia Fides.

To obtain peace, it is necessary to turn to God, says Mgr. Hiiboro, "because God is the creator of the whole universe and when he created the universe, he made it beautiful to live in. Therefore we must first of all fall in love with God and admire his attention, his heart, his plan, his vision, his dream, and his architectural work in creating such a beautiful world". This is the God we worship, this is the God we follow, and therefore we must develop a love for Him".

Then, continues Mgr. Hiiboro, it is necessary to love human beings, "created by him in his image to inhabit this beautiful world". Therefore the message underlines, also "our ethnicity, our tribes, all the individuals who are part of the tribe, are created in the image of God. So, if you love your tribe, love it and appreciate it, but remember that your ethnic community is a gift from God to you; you must not lose sight of the fact that you are a son and daughter of God, and above all you must give total fidelity to the God who created you".

Mgr. Hiiboro goes on to underline the evils of tribalism: "Regardless of being members of our different ethnic communities, we are all drawn to the fact that God created all of us in his image. God your creator is also the creator of all, this automatically means that all other human beings are in the image of God and that no tribe is better than other tribes".

Consequently, you cannot in the name of your tribe humiliate another tribe, you cannot in the name of your tribe deprive another tribe and you cannot in the name of your tribe oppress other human beings. Therefore we are called by this common denominator, that God is our creator and all human beings are in His image, so we all have the right to respect and we all have the right to live together".

Mgr. Hiiboro launches an appeal to all the more than 64 ethnic communities of South Sudan: since we are all created in the image of God; let this element unite us".

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/>

In the weeks of isolation, gyms, pools, tennis courts, skate parks and bowling greens have all been closed. So many of us have been out walking. I have found a few extra minutes to notice and enjoy the trees in our neighbourhood. As I have stretched my legs each day, they have become a bit like friends, waiting patiently for my visit, standing quietly while the rest of us keep moving. They have drawn me a little deeper into the mystery of life and into prayer.

From Psalm 65:

The ends of the earth stand in awe .

At the sight of your wonders.

The lands of sunrise and sunset

You fill with your joy.

(Michael McGirr)



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