



St Patrick's Parish Discover Church Stewardship Program

PO BOX 87 Stawell 3380



Stewardship Program Progress Report 1 October 2020

Dear Parishioner,

This brief report is an update on our current Stewardship program. Covid continues to cause chaos around the world and here in Victoria we are still to get through the Second Stage. This of course completely disrupted the move towards opening up of our churches and consequently, has once again stopped parishioners from attending Sunday Mass with no clear indication of when we will be able to return. **Hence, we appreciate the efforts of those parishioners in making the effort to continue to contribute to the Program because our Parish expenses do not stop.**

In the past quarter our parishioners contributed an average of \$672 weekly, considerably down from the \$1146 per week reported in the first quarter of the Stewardship program, partially explained by the fact that the first quarter total is higher because of a few parishioners paying their contributions yearly or half yearly on a lump sum basis.

As you would be aware, the Stewardship Program only covers part of the Parish expenses and the Parish accounts are supplemented through income derived from the Parish Flats, rental from the old presbytery and return from the Op Shop, the latter being still closed because of Covid restrictions.

Yours sincerely,

John Launder (Program Chair)

To celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the canonization of Saint Mary MacKillop We invite you to order your free copy of **Encountering St Mary MacKillop in Prayer**. The Sisters of Saint Joseph have created a commemorative prayer booklet to inspire us all to **"take fresh courage..."** as Mary did so often. These prayers share details of her personal journey, highlighting Mary's values and spirit, and offering prayers and blessings for our modern world.

To order your exclusive copy please go to: www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/prayer-book or call us on Ph: 02 8912 2777



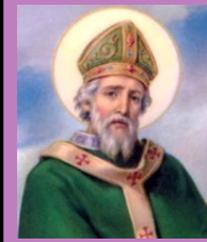
ST PATRICK'S PARISH, STAWELL

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St Patrick's,
Stawell

St Patrick's Parish Newsletter Stawell and Landsborough

Sunday 18 Oct 2020

29th Sunday in Ordinary
Time—Year A

St Francis of Assisi,
Landsborough



Fr. Andrew Hayes

Give to Caesar what Belongs to Caesar

It would be nice to be allowed back into the churches. The bishops have put our case respectfully and constructively. We wait. People are without jobs and missing family. Maybe the restrictions will be eased this weekend. That will be a blessing! In the meantime I watch snippets of the premier's daily briefings and marvel at how well we've stayed out of trouble. The hotel quarantine and aged-care outcomes have been absolutely terrible, and businesses are suffering, but we're still faring better than most. I think somebody in the government (doctors and policy makers) deserves an award for keeping Australia's case numbers somewhere near the lowest in the world. As frustrated as I am at not being allowed into the churches, and as much as I see and hear people hurting, it's been the government's job this year to keep us alive and they have done that brilliantly. I know people with Covid, but I haven't had to bury any. A lot of priests in the world can't say that. Credit where's its due!

"Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar."

Sunday Mass

We're watching the weather and deciding mid-week whether outdoor Masses are on each weekend. Most weeks it won't be. We're not having Mass in wind and rain. Nice day? We'll phone ten people.

Phone Messages

I was asked recently about how to contact me when I'm out or away. When parishioners phone the parish offices in Stawell or Ararat you can be confident that I receive your message instantly regardless of where I am. Please leave your name and number and an indication of the reason for the call. It lets me prioritise. Some calls will wait until the staff are in the office.

Friday October 25th—Change to Deliveries

Dear All, as Friday Oct 25th is a Public Holiday, our volunteers in Ararat will be having a break. The bulletin will still be emailed but if we normally deliver to you—you will now need to pick up your bulleting from the church foyer. Please do not hesitate to contact the office on 5352 5460 if you need to.

Mass Online

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au has a number of helpful resources Some of the links are listed here:

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Ballarat: Mass livestreamed daily from the Cathedral at 10.00am can be viewed here or on facebook.

St Mary Mackillop Parish, Western Border: Mass celebrated on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays can be viewed here. Follow their facebook page

St Joseph's Parish, Warrnambool: Sunday Masses at 8.30am can be viewed here or follow the link on facebook.

St Patrick's Parish, Camperdown: Sunday Mass at 10.30am livestreamed here.

Phone Lines

Victorian Coronavirus Hotline — 1800 675 398

If you suspect you may have the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) call the dedicated hotline – open 24 hours, seven days.

Older persons COVID-19 Support line — 1800 171 866

Translations for Victorian Government coronavirus website - www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/translations

1800RESPECT

Confidential information, counselling and support service for people affected by or experiencing sexual assault, domestic or family violence and abuse.

Relationships Australia — 1300 364 277

Support services for individuals, families and communities.

Australian Red Cross — 1800 RED CROSS

Vinnies Ararat Phone: (03) 5352 5560

Salvation Army Australia — 13 SALVOS

October 18 is Mission Sunday - The joy of the Lord is our Strength! Nehemiah 8:10

World Mission Sunday will be celebrated on October 18 - a special day, called by Pope Francis, when we are called to pray and offer material support to the work of mission around the world. This year we are invited to partner with the Church in Cambodia, which is reaching out to those who have been affected by disability and giving them hope and practical support to live a fulfilling life. You can support online at www.catholicmission.org.au/Cambodia or by texting GIVE to 0488 854 436. Thank you for your prayerful support and generosity.

First Reading Is 45:1.4-6

I have taken the hand of Cyrus to subdue nations before his countenance.

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more: It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, of Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, conferring a title though you do not know me. I am the Lord, unrivalled; there is no other God besides me. Though you do not know me, I arm you that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 95:1. 3-5. 7-10. R. v.7

(R.) Give the Lord glory and honour.

- O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth. Tell among the nations his glory and his wonders among all the peoples. (R.)
- The Lord is great and worthy of praise, to be feared above all gods; the gods of the heathens are naught. It was the Lord who made the heavens. (R.)
- Give the Lord, you families of peoples, give the Lord glory and power, give the Lord the glory of his name. Bring an offering and enter his courts. (R.)
- Worship the Lord in his temple. O earth, tremble before him. Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.' He will judge the peoples in fairness. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Thes 1:1-5

We are mindful of your faith, hope, and love.

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

Gospel Acclamation Phil 2:15. 16

Alleluia, alleluia!
Shine on the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.
Alleluia!



Gospel Mt 22:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and to God the things that are God's.

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'

Gospel Reflection

The gospel writer presents this episode as a deliberate attempt by the Pharisees to trap Jesus and turn the people against him. Their plan was a good one, with no apparent 'safe' answer: is it permissible (within Jewish tradition) to pay taxes to Caesar or not? If Jesus were to answer that it is not permissible to pay taxes then he would be identified as a rebel and a threat to Roman authority – leaving himself open to severe punishment. If he were to answer that it was permissible to pay the taxes he would have alienated a lot of his audience who resented the taxes imposed by Rome.

Instead of falling into the trap set by the Pharisees, Jesus approaches the question in a completely different way. He asks them to show him the money with which they pay the tax. Immediately, he has turned the tables on them. He doesn't appear to carry any of the coin in question and yet the Pharisees' disciples carry them as a matter of habit. They are asking if it is permissible to pay the tax and yet freely carry the coin with which the tax is paid. Jesus shows up the hypocrisy of their question by forcing them to reveal their own position in the simple action of producing one of the Roman coins. Jesus then closes the dispute by instructing them to render (give) to Caesar what belongs to Caesar but, more importantly, render to God what belongs to God. In a very simple way Jesus has shown up the Pharisees' disciples as being collaborators with the Roman authority and placing that authority above the authority of God. He reminds the listeners that regardless of earthly authority, the first duty is owed to God.

ANNIVERSARIES: Oct 19th—Oct 25th

Catherine Mason 1969	Emily Walsh 1945
Francis Gilliland 1990	Fr. Frank Monaghan 2013
Maxwell Yanner 1950	Elizabeth Whitty 1955
Mary Blackham 1988	Corinne Rathgeber 2011
Robert Healy 1972	Mary Ormesher 2001
Dorothy May Hurley 2012	John Pola 1945
Edward Seeary 1945	Gavin Jack 1969
Bridget Pickering 1993	Elsie Mary Dalziel 2008
William Falvey 1966	Mary Atkinson 1993
Bridgit Whelan 1945	Peter Scarsi 1953
Emily Healy 1965	Mollie Rutter 1983

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Please contact the office if you would like your name to be on the sick list. Names are kept on this list for one month—and be put on again.

Anyone in hospital wishing to have communion, please contact the office on 53525460.

Ministry to the Sick:

Please email Fr. Andrew during these difficult times to discuss Ministry to the sick on andrew.hayes@ballarat.catholic.org.au Or phone the office on 5358 1119 Stawell (Thursdays) Or Ararat on 5352 5460

As we celebrate, we acknowledge the Indigenous owners of the land on which our Churches are built, the Tjapwurong people, and we respect the presence of the spirits of their ancestors among us.

Pope Francis—Twitter

Education bears within itself a seed of hope: the hope of peace and justice; the hope of beauty and goodness; the hope of social harmony. [#GlobalCompactOnEducation](https://twitter.com/GlobalCompactOnEducation) <http://vatican.va/>

Prayer for the Moment

We Bring Your Love. *Loving God, Help us to focus on what we have not on what is removed or changed. Strengthen us when we feel discouraged or overwhelmed. Embrace us so that we know your loving presence within us and among us. Walk with us as we bring your love, and carry your light, into our world. Amen.* Sandra Lucas, MDiv., BCC

Readings	Oct 25th 2020
First Reading	Ex 22:20-26
Second Reading	1 Thes 1:5-10

TRUTH AND TRUSTWORTHINESS MUST BE GUARANTEED—

from Ten Steps Towards Genuine Human Relationships in our Digital World

Honesty and trust are fundamental to the operation of our social, economic and political institutions. Half-truths, lies and slander gone viral can harm the solidarity of a people, particularly during important periods like election campaigns. Our right to truthful information and trustworthy broadcasting requires greater regulation of digital platforms, with sanctions for the spread of fake, divisive and offensive content. • Call on leaders in the news industry and our governments to support robust and independent journalism. • Write to your local member about the responsibility of the Federal Government to support and promote the role of the public broadcaster. • Counter half-truths and misinformation by providing accurate information from reputable sources.

From Last Week—but still very relevant:

“This year’s World Mental Health Day, on 10 October, comes at a time when our daily lives have changed considerably as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The past months have brought many challenges: for health-care workers, providing care in difficult circumstances, going to work fearful of bringing COVID-19 home with them; for students, adapting to taking classes from home, with little contact with teachers and friends, and anxious about their futures; for workers whose livelihoods are threatened; for the vast number of people caught in poverty or in fragile humanitarian settings with extremely limited protection from COVID-19; and for people with mental health conditions, many experiencing even greater social isolation than before. And this is to say nothing of managing the grief of losing a loved one, sometimes without being able to say goodbye.”

World Health Organisation, Mental Health Day 2020

Pope Francis' Prayer for Protection from Coronavirus

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.