

# ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

## Information for Special Parish Events (Baptisms, Wedding, Funerals)

Please contact Anne Beer

Phone: 5349 2168 or 0417 369 322

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Sandy 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

## 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**

## OUR COMMUNITY NEWS – 1st November 2020

### All Saints Day - Year A

### Welcome to 'Our Community News' for 1st November 2020

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

### Novel Coronavirus (Covid-19)

All updates are on the diocesan website "news" section [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)

We have a new Diocesan website, so by following the above link, you can check out the updates as well as familiarise yourself with the many features of the website.

#### Please Note:

Attached is a letter from Fr Marcello outlines the details for the raising of latest restrictions.

### Beaufort Church Services Return

**Mass will be held next Sunday Nov 8 at 8.30 am at Beaufort Catholic Church – for 20 people**

*See next page for further details*

### 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/>

### Recent Deaths:

Glens Williams and we continue to pray for all victims of Coronavirus throughout the world.

### Anniversaries:

Charles Martin Cushing, Mary Bridget Cushing, Mary Jaensch, Sr Rita Hayes, Kitty Grose, Joy Martin, Nora Simpson, William Lindsay, June Crosby (nee Mackie), Mary Cullinan, Kevin O'Brien, James Norbury, Verna Loader, Tom Liston, Cissy deSouza, Colin Williams, Betty Preston

## **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 and all those in need of prayer.

## **Church Services Return**

**Mass will be held next Sunday Nov 8 at 8.30 am at Beaufort Catholic Church – for 20 people**

Good News everyone....

Firstly, a BIG THANK YOU to everyone for your feedback, as requested, in my email earlier this week. It is quite clear that our little community are all keen to get back to celebrating together. It is also obvious that people are happy to help in any way they can. This is much appreciated. There have been suggestions that we can further address as time goes by, eg perhaps having Mass outside for 50 etc.

I have spoken to Fr Marcello and he has advised that he will be able to come and celebrate Mass next Sunday Nov 8 at 8.30 am. This will be our usual 2nd Sunday of the month Mass. That roster will continue on the 22nd Nov, which will be the 4th Sunday also at 8.30 am. For the time being we won't be having Lay Led Assemblies.

In the meantime, all the necessary preparations and procedures for a Covid Safe return will be attended to... ie: contact details to be collected, contact surfaces sanitised, social distancing, hand sanitiser provided and the wearing of face masks. Our Covid Safe Plan will be displayed and adhered to.

At this stage our numbers for attending Mass is limited to 20. So, following discussion and feedback, we have decided that we will regulate our numbers determined by those actually turning up on the day. Several members of our community have already indicated that if we reach the target of 20, they are happy to step away. This makes it easier to manage rather than people having to text or call to organise a spot.

Hopefully, it won't be long, and the number allocation will be increased. Just a couple of reminders that have been highlighted by the Diocese and Parish Council .....

- \* Masks to be worn in the church
- \* If you are at all unwell, please do not attend
- \* People are to feel free not to come along if they prefer... (no pressure)

Hopefully these arrangements meet everyone's expectations. I am happy to hear any further feedback. As a reminder, our Mass time will be advertised in next week's Pyrenees Advocate.

Finally, can I take this opportunity to thank all of our parishioners for their patience during this time? I also want to thank all those who have kept an 'eye' out for our little church on the hill, which always looks a picture. A spring clean both, inside and out, commences on this coming Monday (Nov 2). This will be a great achievement to help us to get up and running again.

St John the Baptist Catholic Community is looking forward to being back in action soon.  
Regards, Bernadette. (Chairperson on behalf of Parish Council)

## **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](mailto: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: [beaufort@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:beaufort@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or for the month of November call Angela on 0439 565 468

## **On-Line Lay Pastoral Ministry Program – Registrations Now Open**

The Ballarat Diocese in partnership with Dayton University offer low-cost online study and formation. Subjects include Sacraments, Scripture, Youth Ministry, Liturgy, Leadership and more. There are a small number of subjects on offer in Cycle 8 which begins November 29. The first study cycle for 2021 begins January 3. Registration for both cycles is now open. More information at [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) or email [djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or ph. 5337 7121

## **Pastoral Care Education**

The South West Victoria CPE Centre is offering the opportunity for education and formation in Pastoral Care, with the option to have a CPE unit recognised as 30 points should you wish to enrol in theological studies with the University of Divinity. The Centre is registered through the Association for Supervised and Clinical Pastoral Education Victoria (ASACPEV Inc.). CPE is offered online presently and will be this way for at least the first semester in 2021, after which it will be reassessed.

For further information ph. 0455 033 321 or email [bernadette@bernadettewurlod.com.au](mailto:bernadette@bernadettewurlod.com.au).

Information is also available at <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/pastoral-care-education-3/>

## **Clergy Appointments**

Please see letter below from Bishop Paul Bird CSsR regarding recent parish appointments.

## **Plenary Council Update**

The journey to the Plenary Council 2020 continues. While it is 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.

## **Marist House Fitzroy University residence**

Marist House is a residential program for young adults who are studying at one of the many universities in and around Melbourne. Whether from the city or the country, Marist House provides young people with a safe, stable and supportive environment in which to engage with their tertiary studies. Hosted by a resident community of Marist Brothers, Marist House offers a communal setting for young people desiring to live together, open to exploring their Catholic / Christian faith and engaging in service to the wider community. It also serves as a hub for Young Marists in Melbourne. For more information go to <https://maristyouthministry.com/marist-house-fitzroy/>

## **Annual Knox Public Lecture**

Catholic Theological College invites you to participate in the annual Knox Public Lecture on “Safe Church: Commitment, awareness & action for cultural change” to be presented by Sheree Limbrick, Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Professional Standards. The lecture will be held online on Thursday, November 5, 2020 at 7.00pm. For more information and bookings [Click here.](#)

## **Want to stop modern slavery and human trafficking?**

ACRATH (Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans) works tirelessly to inform and empower us to take action against the modern slavery and human trafficking that is occurring right here on home soil. ACRATH supplies free resources to help us make informed decisions about the products we buy, fair trade and ethically sourced materials in our schools. Every year ACRATH works to raise awareness of forced marriage and human trafficking and this year, like many others, ACRATH has had a tough time! ACRATH's 2021 calendar is now available. This calendar is not only handy to have because it outlines all of the important dates for the year, but it also lists practical ways we can get involved and be a part of the solution. To date ACRATH have sold the calendar for \$10.00. However, this year they acknowledge that many are directly affected by COVID-19 and are giving the calendars to us for free. If you wish you can show your support by going to their website ([www.acrath.org.au](http://www.acrath.org.au)) and making a donation. To order a calendar simply email your name and home or work/school address to Dr Rachel Smith at [social.justice@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:social.justice@ballarat.catholic.org.au) and you will be mailed a free calendar. You may wish to order a dozen copies for your workplace – just ask! Please support this important work.

## **Discernment Papers:**

The six discernment papers have been released and are available to read at <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/continuing-the-journey-of-discernment/ead>.

The diocese, we will endeavour to look at one paper for a month. **For the month of November, they will look at HOW IS GOD CALLING US TO BE A CHRIST-CENTRED CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA THAT IS A joyful, hope-filled and servant community?** *This National Theme for Discernment is inspired by the voices of the People of God who expressed a yearning for the Church to be a sign of God's kingdom for all people in Australia – to be able to see the Catholic Church in action and to recognise Jesus. There was an expression of faith-filled hope in the capacity of the Catholic community to celebrate together, to show what it is to be a follower of Christ and to be loved unconditionally by God. There was a call to contemplate the Gospel call to be a servant Church for the good of all people in Australia – particularly for refugees and asylum seekers and other people who are vulnerable or at risk. Many responses called for greater sharing of the story of the good works done by so many people and organisations of the Church. Some responses expressed a hunger for strong witness of faith, especially by priests, young people and female leaders in parish and school ministries.* 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](mailto:jane.collins@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

**Read the discernment paper:** <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/PC2020-thematic-papers-5.pdf>

**Visit the thematic page:** <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/themes/servant/>

**Reflections on the papers from the Ballarat Diocese:** Can be read at <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/listen-to-what-the-spirit-is-saying/>

**Next step on Plenary Council journey:** As part of the ongoing journey for the Plenary Council, work has commenced on the preparation of the *instrumentum laboris*, or working document, for the Council

## **Prayers and Images in the Time of Virus**

Following the success of Michael McGirr's *Trees in Solitude, Prayers and Images for Pentecost*, Garratt Publishing are pleased to present a complimentary second 'Trees' series from Michael – *Trees Without Masks*. Over the coming weeks these beautiful prayers and images will be shared. Download the prayers from the news section of the diocesan website [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au).

## **Focus on the Scriptures – Gospel Reflection**

We have become so familiar with the beatitudes that there is a danger of our listening only to the mellifluous flow of language and of failing to attend to the extraordinary present and future reversal that they offer to those who suffer injustice and to those who choose non-violent ways of addressing it. With pandemic sweeping the globe and affecting the dispossessed quite disproportionately, it is time to listen anew to these opening words of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Jesus of Nazareth knew in his body the experience of displacement: from Bethlehem to Egypt; from Judaea to Galilee. He shared the experience of Galilean peasant farmers and artisans. His words are grounded in the stories, the music, the poetry, the law and the history of his people. They foreground the qualities of those whom we honour as saints, those who are remembered by name and those who are not.

The mountain setting establishes Jesus as wisdom teacher like Moses of old. God's favour rests on the poor/the humble/the "grounded", on the gentle, on those who grieve for the pain of the world, on serious justice seekers, on those who know how to mercy, on the pure or single-minded of heart, on peacemakers, and on those who suffer in the cause of right. The repetition of 'blessed are...' (a better translation of the Greek *makarioi* than 'happy') provides multiple links with Israel's collection of sacred songs, the Psalms. For Israel's lyricists, God's favour or blessing is on those whose hope is in God, on those whose delight is in God's way, on those who take refuge in God, on the guileless in spirit and on those whom God forgives. The content of the beatitudes echoes the voice of Israel's prophets, especially Isaiah 61. God's spirit is upon Jesus. He brings the good news of God's present and future favour or blessing to the destitute and to those who mourn. The distinguishing mark of God's favoured ones is righteousness or right relationship.

God's favour or blessing comes in diverse forms: the *basileia* or empire of the heavens; comfort in the face of grief; the earth as a heritage to be protected; the joy of being mercied; face to face encounter with God; a great reward "in heaven". If heaven is only a place to be enjoyed in the afterlife, it is little consolation for the desperately poor or for those who are persecuted or misrepresented to know that "the empire of the heavens is theirs" or that their "reward is great in heaven". "Heaven" is better understood as a way of talking about God or God's empire of justice and compassion in contrast with the heartless empire of Rome and its modern equivalents. Maybe the most urgent invitation in our present context is to mourn strategically the displacement of so many of earth's inhabitants who, in these liminal times, long for the blessing of God's kingdom in the form of comfort and mercy and a just share in the earth's resources.

*Sr Veronica Lawson rsm*

## **Prayer for All Saints Day:**

Prayer for All Saints Day Dear God, thank you for the example of the Saints. I desire to join in their company, worshiping you forever in Heaven. Please help me follow their footsteps, and yours, Jesus Christ. Please help me to conform myself to Your image, seeking Your will in all things, as the Saints did. Please help me to devote myself, and all that I do, to Your glory, and to the service of my neighbours. Amen.



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October 27, 2020

Greetings to you all,

The government has announced some easing of restrictions for regional Victoria.

**Ceremonies and Religious Gatherings:  
Provisions for Regional Victoria from Wednesday, October 28, 2020**

- **Indoor religious gatherings:**
  - Allowed for up to 20 people, plus one faith leader;
  - Strict requirements to be contained in a COVIDSafe plan;
  - Can only have one gathering at a time whether indoor or outdoor;
  - \* *Please note this is slightly different from the last round of restrictions we operated under.*
- **Outdoor religious gatherings and ceremonies:**
  - Up to 50 people, plus 1 faith leader, proximate to a place of worship;
  - Can only have one gathering at a time whether indoor or outdoor.
- **Private worship:**
  - Allowed for up to two adults and their dependents, plus a faith leader.
- **Weddings:**
  - Up to 10 people outdoors, including couple and two witnesses. Celebrant and one photographer excluded from cap.
- **Funerals:**
  - Indoors - up to 20 people;
  - Outdoors – up to 50 people;
  - Infants under 12 months and people to conduct funeral not included in the cap.

At all gatherings contact details are to be collected, contact surfaces sanitised, social distancing observed, hand sanitiser provided and face masks must be worn.

Please remember that breaking the law is associated with substantial fines for the institutions and the people involved.

With every best wish

Kevin Maloney VG



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October 28, 2020

Hello Everyone,

Following consultations over the past few weeks, I am pleased to be able to announce appointments to the Parish of East Wimmera and the Parishes of Linton, Redan and Sebastopol.

From January 15, 2021, Fr Gerard Prunty, currently Parish Priest of Mortlake and Terang, will become Parish Priest of East Wimmera. I thank Fr Gerry for his years of service to the communities of Mortlake and Terang and pray for blessings upon him as he prepares to join the communities of East Wimmera in the new year.

From January 15, 2021, Fr Eugene McKinnon, currently Parish Priest of East Wimmera, will become Parish Priest of Linton, Redan and Sebastopol. I thank Fr Eugene for his years of service to the communities of East Wimmera and pray for blessings upon him as he prepares to join the communities of Linton, Redan and Sebastopol in the new year.

God bless you all.

Bishop Paul

Alleluia, alleluia! / Come to me, all you that labour and are burdened, / and I will give you rest, says the Lord. / Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.*

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

‘How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy the gentle:

they shall have the earth for their heritage;

Happy those who mourn:

they shall be comforted;

Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:

they shall be satisfied;

Happy the merciful:

they shall have mercy shown them;

Happy the pure in heart:

they shall see God;

Happy the peacemakers:

they shall be called sons of God;

Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:

theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.’

### ■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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# Reflections on the Gospel



# THE SAVING WORD

## THE BEATITUDES

The gospel of the Beatitudes is often read at funerals and weddings. In its own way, it sounds comforting and indeed it is. However, it is also very challenging—which suggests that ‘Blessed’ is a better rendering of the opening word in each case than ‘Happy’.

Jesus is instructing his disciples concerning the kind of people they must be, not just for themselves but for the benefit of the mass of afflicted people down below the mountain, who he has just healed.

To this end, the beatitudes describe ways of living that mean putting oneself in a vulnerable situation quite contrary to the values of the world. To be ‘poor in spirit,’ rather than proud and dominant; to feel compassion (‘mourn’) because other people suffer; to have a passionate commitment (‘thirst’) for justice; to exercise ‘mercy’ rather than taking advantage of those in an inferior position; to actively promote reconciliation (as ‘peacemakers’); and so forth: all these things make one vulnerable here and now, entailing much loss.

But in light of the hope for the kingdom of God, whose values the Beatitudes enshrine, disciples who adopt this way of life are already ‘blessed’. Their future happiness is in the hands of an ever-faithful God.

Moreover, living in this way means that they can be ‘salt’ and ‘light’ for the world, especially for the afflicted. It is those who are prepared to live in the vulnerable way commended by Jesus who make the world a hospitable home for all humanity. This is the legacy of the ‘saints’ who have gone before us.

**Brendan Byrne, SJ**

## FIRST READING

Apoc 7: 2-4, 9-14

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse.

*I saw an immense crowd, beyond hope of counting, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language.*

I, John, saw another angel rising where the sun rises, carrying the seal of the living God; he called in a powerful voice to the four angels whose duty was to devastate land and sea, ‘Wait before you do any damage on land or at sea or to the trees, until we have put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.’ Then I heard how many were sealed: a hundred and forty-four thousand, out of all the tribes of Israel.

After that I saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. They shouted aloud, ‘Victory to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’ And all the angels who were standing in a circle round the throne, surrounding the elders and the four animals, prostrated themselves before the throne, and touched the ground with their foreheads, worshipping God with these words: ‘Amen. Praise and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and strength to our God for ever and ever. Amen.’

One of the elders then spoke, and asked me, ‘Do you know who these people are, dressed in white robes, and where they have come from?’ I answered him, ‘You can tell me, my Lord.’ Then he said, ‘These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb.’

### ■ The word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 23: 1-6. R. cf. v. 6

**R. Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.**

1. The Lord’s is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. **R.**



2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place?

The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. **R.**

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him. Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R.**

## SECOND READING

Jn 3: 1-3

A reading from the first letter of John

*We shall see God as he really is.*

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God’s children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is. Surely everyone who entertains this hope must purify himself, must try to be as pure as Christ.

### ■ The word of the Lord.