

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 – 29th November 2020

1st Sunday of Advent - Year A

A welcome return to Beaufort Church Services

Welcome back to Beaufort Mass services.

Mass will be held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays with a maximum of 28 people

Lay Led Assembly will begin next Sunday 6th December at 10am for 28 people

At this stage the next Mass will be held next Sunday, 13th December for first 28 people

All the necessary preparations and procedures for a Covid Safe return will continue to 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.

Reminders:

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

Church Service Rosters Return

Beginning next Sunday, December 6th the Beaufort Church Service Roster will return

Mass – 2nd and 4th Sundays at 8.30am

LLA – 1st and 3rd Sundays at 10.00am

LLA – Extra on 5th Sundays

Christmas Mass Time

Beaufort will have a Christmas Mass, but at this stage we do not know what time/day this will be.

Fr Marcello will advise when arranged and it will be published in the Pyrenees Advocate.

Christmas Box Collection

A collection of non-perishables will begin next Sunday 6th December

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>

After the Mass has concluded those who don't have a Facebook can go to <https://stpatrcathedral.weebly.com/>

Recent Deaths:

Nola Wheeler, and we continue to pray for all victims of Coronavirus throughout the world.

Anniversaries:

Frances Herbertson, Jim Davis, Brian Lane, Rita Waugh, Sharon Barker, Agnes & Perc Lunn, Mary McMahon, Mary Agnes Doyle, Michael McCluskey, John Pearce

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, Dal McErvale and all those in need of prayer.

Prayers

Charlie Franc is coming along well after his operation and we keep him in our prayers.

Rosters:

A new Roster will begin Sunday 6th December. Thanks to Anne Beer for doing up our new roster which will take effect for Sunday Dec 6. A reminder again that if you are available to help, please let Anne or Bernadette know and we can make any adjustments. Thanks also to all who have offered their help for the various ministries.

Please find the new roster attached.

(For those who don't have access to a printer, there will be spare copies at the rear of the Church)

Newsletter:

Any contributions for the newsletter will be greatly appreciated. This is a great way to keep our little community in touch.

Just email: beaufort@ballarat.catholic.org.au or for the month of December call Bernadette: 0427 678 830

Caritas Australia Asia Emergency Appeal:

Typhoon Vamco has caused devastating unprecedented flooding in the regions of the Philippines, Vietnam and Cambodia, followed only weeks after being hit by Super Typhoon Goni. If you are able to assist, donations are being accepted at www.caritas.org.au or by calling toll free 1800 024 413. Flyer attached.

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.

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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>.

For the month of November we 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*

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/>

Prayer for the 1st Week of Advent

Let us pray: Almighty and loving God,

we have searched our hearts and reviewed our love for your people

Some relationships overflow with love while others have been found wanting.

Yet it is our desire that you be a part of every human experience.

We beg you now to fill our hearts with your love

and sharpen our awareness of your Presence in every moment

so that wherever we go and whatever we do, we will always stand secure before you. Amen

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mk 13:33-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

WELCOME AND THANK YOU

Today we welcome Fr Chris Monaghan CP as our reflection writer. Fr Chris is President of Yarra Theological Union, University of Divinity, where he teaches both Old and New Testament. In his reflection, he will consider briefly each of the Scripture readings set down for the Sunday.

We are very grateful and thank Fr Brendan Byrne SJ, of the Jesuit College of Spirituality, University of Divinity, for his insightful reflections on the Gospels over the past three years.

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT / B

29 NOVEMBER 2020

THE CALL TO CONVERSION

As Advent begins, we set out once again to prepare our hearts for the great feast of God's humble presence among us. Expectation and complacency, longing and listlessness, can all be found in our hearts as we prepare for Christmas. Today's readings speak of our need for God's presence and our thankful response of faithfulness.

The reading from Isaiah is a passionate plea for renewal and change. The people have been left to their own devices for too long. If God would only tear open the heavens and come down, the mountains would melt before God's presence. Isaiah hopes that the hearts of the people of Israel should also melt so that God the great potter, could once more mould, shape, and breathe life into their hearts.

Paul's perspective is one of thanksgiving for the gifts that have already been given as the community waits for the Lord's return. Such gifts are given to sustain us as we wait for the moment when Jesus will finally be revealed in glory.

It is one thing to be grateful for blessings and gifts received but the Gospel calls us to take the next step of using these gifts faithfully. The parable of the master who leaves his servants in charge during his absence is as relevant today as in the days of Mark. It is important to note that each of the servants is entrusted with a task to be faithfully completed. As Advent begins each one of us is given the task of preparing our hearts and lives to welcome the Lord.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Isa 63:16-17; 64:1, 3-8

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Oh, that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,
Our Redeemer is your ancient name.
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways
and harden our hearts against fearing you?
Return, for the sake of your servants,
the tribes of your inheritance.
Oh, that you would tear the heavens open
and come down — at your Presence the mountains
would melt.

No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but
you act like this for those who trust him.

You guide those who act with integrity
and keep your ways in mind.

You were angry when we were sinners;
we had long been rebels against you.
We were all like men unclean,
all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.
We have all withered like leaves
and our sins blew us away like the wind.
No one invoked your name
or roused himself to catch hold of you.
For you hid your face from us
and gave us up to the power of our sins.
And yet, Lord, you are our Father;
we the clay, you the potter,
we are all the work of your hand.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 79:2-3, 15-19. R. v. 4

R. Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,/ shine forth from your cherubim throne./ O Lord, rouse up your might,/ O Lord, come to our help. **R.**

2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,/ look down from heaven and see./ Visit this vine and protect it,/ the vine your right hand has planted. **R.**



3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen,/ the man you have given your strength./ And we shall never forsake you again:/ give us life that we may call upon your name. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Cor 1:3-9

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

■ **The word of the Lord.**