

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Sandy Watkins: 0409 492 508
Contact: St Columbas Ballarat North: 5331 1012

Fr Marcello Colasante: 0416 194 825
Email: ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Special Parish Events (Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals) Phone: Anne Beer 0417 369 322 / 5349 2168

Parish Support - *If you need help with anything, please phone one of our members:*
Gail Hall: 0412 311 586 Bernadette Franc: 0427 678 830 Anne Beer: 0417 369 322

SUNDAY – 13th, December 2020

3rd Sunday of Advent - Year B

RECENT DEATHS:

ANNIVERSARIES

Tom Mulcahy, Harry Thorpe, Emma Williams, Fred Waugh, Adelaide de Souza, Catherine Collins, Gerald Collins, Fr John Martin, John Jess, Dawn Scrivener, Ian Morrish, Maureen Wilcox, Francis Cullinan, Ivy Crebbin, Merrin Fleay & Tony Hare.

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Pat Byrne, Margaret MacDonald, Roger Molomby, Graeme Dawson, Blake Dridan, Shelagh Mulcahy, Fr Adrian McNerney, Valda Murphy, Michael Wise, and all those in need of prayer

ROSTERS

Introduction & Readings

Today: Jim Mahony

Dec 20: John Jess

Prayers of the Faithful

Today: Genevieve Johnston

Dec 20: Bernadette Franc

Assembly Leaders

Dec 20: Anne Beer & Maurice Barwick

Special Minister

Today: Therese Jess

Dec 20: Genevieve Johnston

Music

Today: Sue Mahony

Dec 20: *Volunteer needed*

Church Cleaning, Linen & Flowers

Dec 20 & 27: Judy Franc & Carmel Milenkovic

Church Grounds

Dec 20 & 27: Charlie Franc & Peter Milenkovic

Newsletter:

December: Bernadette Franc 0427 678830

Christmas Mass Time

Christmas Eve Mass will be at 9 pm on Thurs Dec 24th – our QR code allows us to have 56 inside.

Christmas Box Collection

Our collection of non-perishables will continue up until Sunday 20th December. The Primary School was very happy to learn of this collection.

MASS TIMES

Sunday 20th December

10.00am LLA

Sunday 27th December

Feast of the Holy Family 8.30 am Mass

Covid Safe Measures Apply to all Services
Contact surfaces sanitized - Contact details collected - Hand sanitizing required - Social distancing - If you are unwell stay home - Entry side door & Exit rear door

COLUMBAN CALENDARS

Please see Sue Mahony if you require a calendar.
Cost \$8

Plenary Council Update

The journey to the Plenary Council 2020 continues. The six discernment papers are available to read at

<https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/continuing-the-journey-of-discernment/ead>. Any comments wecolmed at jane.collins@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Prayer for the 3rd Week of Advent

Let us pray: O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing.

Through Our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

WORKING BEE: Cleaning of brass in preparation for Christmas on Saturday Dec 19 at 10.30 am. Thanks Ena for the reminder.

CONGRATULATIONS: Well done Bianca on being awarded the privilege of School Captain of BSC. Congrats to all other School Captains as well.

GOSPEL

Jn 1:6-8,19-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.

A man came, sent by God.

His name was John.

He came as a witness,

as a witness to speak for the light,

so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light,

only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:

Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT / B

13 DECEMBER 2020

JESUS, GOD'S GREATEST GIFT

The build-up to Christmas and the festive season has a way of leaving many people tired and stressed as many tasks call for our attention. It is probably impossible to avoid much of this as the feast of Christmas marks the end of the year and the beginning of the summer break. The readings for today can help each of us to determine more clearly what are our major priorities as Christians in preparing for Christmas.

Within the readings today two dimensions of our preparation are stressed. The first is the call to witness to our faith by sharing in God's life-giving, freeing, and healing love. The second dimension is that of finding time to give thanks and praise to God for the gifts we have received through the presence of Jesus among us.

Isaiah's mission of proclaiming liberty and God's love to those in exile comes out of his own experience of this love. Because of this experience, he is able to be a witness to what God is doing in his own day. John the Baptist provides us with a powerful example of a person of faith who is prepared to stand up and bear witness.

As Paul concludes the letter to the Thessalonians he reminds them that the best way to prepare for the Lord's return is by living at peace with one another and being constant in their prayer. One relationship nourishes the other. Making time for the Lord in prayer enables us to make time for each other.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Isa 61:1-2, 10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I exult for joy in the Lord.

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels. 'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of nations.'

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Lk 1:46-50, 53-54

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

1. My soul glorifies the Lord,/ my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour./ He looks on his servant in her nothingness;/ henceforth all ages will call me blessed. **R.**
2. The Almighty works marvels for me./ Holy his name!/ His mercy is from age to age,/ on those who fear him. **R.**
3. He fills the starving with good things,/ sends the rich away empty./ He protects Israel, his servant,/ remembering his mercy. **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Thess 5:16-24

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Isa 61:1; Lk 4:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

The spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!