

# 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](mailto: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 – 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2021 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

### *Novel coronavirus (COVID-19)*

The latest COVIDSafe updates are on the diocesan website “news” section [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au).

### RECENT DEATHS:

Audrey Brennan, Betty Miller  
We continue to remember those who have died throughout the world of Covid19.

### ANNIVERSARIES:

Bryan Lynch, Ron Flanagan, Ernie Daniels,  
Geoff Bruty, Heather Machin, Teresa Anderson,  
Joy Crouch, Pastor Peter Font, Pat Armstrong,  
Hughie Ferrari, Kath Martin & Max Naylor.

### PRAY FOR THE SICK

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

### ROSTERS

#### **Introduction & Readings**

Today: John Jess

May 9: Sue Mahony

#### **Prayers of the Faithful**

Today: Sue Mahony

May 9: Charlie Franc

#### **Assembly Leader**

May 2: Anne Beer & Maurice Barwick

#### **Special Minister**

May 2: Therese Jess

#### **Music**

Today: Sue Mahony

May 9: Sue Mahony

#### **Church Cleaning, Linen & Flowers**

May 9 & 16: Chandler Family

#### **Church Grounds**

May 9 & 16: Chandler Family

#### **Newsletter**

May: Angela Gerrard 0439 565 468

### MASS TIMES

**Sunday May 9<sup>th</sup> MASS at 8.30 am**

(6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter)

**Sunday May 16<sup>th</sup> MASS at 8.30 am**

**Temporary Upcoming Alteration to Mass Time**  
**As Father Marcello is celebrating Confirmation on 23<sup>rd</sup> May in Wendouree, he has requested that we swap our Mass time for that weekend. Hence, we will have Mass the previous week May 16<sup>th</sup> at 8.30 am. This means we will have 8.30 am Mass two Sundays in a row (followed by 3 LLA's in a row).**

### **Our Diocesan Community – Issue 1, 2021**

The first edition of ODC for 2021 is available as of now. Please take a copy to the homebound, nursing homes, hospitals etc to spread the good news of the Diocese,

### **May 1<sup>st</sup> Feast of St Joseph the Worker**

**Oh St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in you all my interests and desires.**

Daily Prayers to St Joseph: The ACBC have provided daily prayers and a shorter Litany to St Joseph available from <https://catholic.org.au/yearofstjoseph>

**Mass Counts** Commence today for 4 consecutive Sundays

### **Get vaccinated for the common good – from the Diocese.**

Catholics in Australia are encouraged to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference have released a media statement and FAQs and guidance on COVID-19 vaccinations. These documents are available from the diocesan website. (See last week's newsletter for details.)

### **Praying with Pope Francis**

Month of May universal intention for evangelisation – The world of finance: Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.

## GOSPEL

Jn 15: 1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

*All who live in me, and I in them, bear much fruit.*

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I am the true vine,  
and my Father is the vinedresser.  
Every branch in me that bears no fruit  
he cuts away,  
and every branch that does bear fruit he  
prunes  
to make it bear even more.  
You are pruned already,  
by means of the word that I have spoken to  
you.  
Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.  
As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself,  
but must remain part of the vine,  
neither can you unless you remain in me.  
I am the vine,  
you are the branches.  
Whoever remains in me, with me in him,  
bears fruit in plenty;  
for cut off from me you can do nothing.  
Anyone who does not remain in me  
is like a branch that has been thrown away  
– he withers;  
these branches are collected and thrown on  
the fire,  
and they are burnt.  
If you remain in me  
and my words remain in you,  
you may ask what you will  
and you shall get it.  
It is to the glory of my Father that you  
should bear much fruit,  
and then you will be my disciples.'

### ■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / B

02 MAY 2021

## REMAINING IN JESUS' LOVE

Today's Gospel presents us with the image of the vine and the challenge to bear fruit in our Christian lives. There are some plants that are best left alone but a vine needs to be pruned, to cut away what is not essential so that it can produce a good and abundant crop. For Christians the implement of pruning is the word of Jesus which enters into our hearts and challenges us to take stock of our lives and values.

In the second reading John shares a simple and profound truth with us, that the business of bearing fruit requires more than good intentions and fine words. The new life of Easter is something we can all share in by our belief in Jesus and our love for one another. The principles are simple, and the difficulty has always been that of living our lives day by day open to the word of Jesus and the demands of love.

Six times the theme of remaining is mentioned in the gospel. It is clearly an important and difficult dimension of our bearing fruit as Christians. Remaining faithful to our promises and allowing Jesus' word to enter deeper into our hearts is a constant challenge but the readings also encourage us not to lose heart. The example of Paul in the first reading shows how the Lord can enter into the hardest heart and can turn a feared persecutor into a fearless preacher of the word. Even gnarled vines can bear abundant fruit.

## FIRST READING

Acts 9: 26-31

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

*He explained how the Lord appeared to Saul and spoke to him on his journey.*

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus.

The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

### ■ The word of the Lord.

#### RESP PSALM

Ps 21: 26-28, 30-32. R. v. 26

**R. I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people. (or Alleluia!)**

1. My vows I will pay before those who fear him. / The poor shall eat and shall have their fill. / They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him. / May their hearts live for ever and ever! **R.**
2. All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord, / all families of the nations worship before him. / They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth; / before him shall bow all who go down to the dust. **R.**
3. And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him. / They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come, / declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn: / 'These things the Lord has done.' **R.**



## SECOND READING

1 Jn 3: 18-24

A reading from the first letter of St John.

*His commandments are these: that we believe and that we love one another.*

My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are the children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us, because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

### ■ The word of the Lord.

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 15: 4-5

**Alleluia, alleluia! / Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; / my branches bear much fruit. / Alleluia!**