

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 – 9th May, 2021

6th Sunday of Easter

Novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

The latest COVIDSafe updates are on the diocesan website "news" section www.ballarat.catholic.org.au.

RECENT DEATHS:

We continue to remember those who have died throughout the world of Covid19.

ANNIVERSARIES:

Eugene Grigg, Roma Briody, Anne Jess, Ellen Flanagan, Brian Flanagan, Patricia Kinsman, Thomas Murphy, Catherine Briody, Fr Kevin Smith, Fr Dennis McCarthy, Brian Molloy, Lorna Pearce, Michael O'Connor & Barry Torney.

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: Sue Mahony

May 16: Anne Beer

May 23: Jim Mahony

Prayers of the Faithful

Today: Charlie Franc

May 16: John Jess

May 23: Gerrard Family

Assembly Leader

May 23: Angela Gerrard, Sue Mahony

Special Minister

May 23: Gail Hall

Music

Today: Sue Mahony

May 16: Sue Mahony

May 23: Naomi Gerrard

Church Cleaning, Linen & Flowers

May 16: Chandler Family

Church Grounds

May 16: Chandler Family

Newsletter

May: Bernadette Franc 0427 678830

Mass Counts Continue today for the rest of May.

**MASS TIMES – May 16th MASS 8.30 a m
May 23rd LLA 10.00 am**

Wishing all the women in our lives a special day and remembering fondly those gone before us.

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity:
May 16-23, 2021**

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Australia will be observed from May 16 – 23, 2021 in the week between Ascension and Pentecost. The 2021 resources have been prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp. The theme that was chosen, "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit", is based on John 15:1-17 and expresses Grandchamp Community's vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the church and the human family. Resources are available from

<https://www.ncca.org.au/faith-and-unity-resources/2021-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity>

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>

Vinnies launches 2021 Winter Appeal to support homelessness

The Society provides vital services and support for individuals and families facing financial hardship. With generous support from the public, Vinnies aims to maintain the dignity of those on the edge and restore hope to people who have fallen on hard times. To donate go to

<https://donate.vinnies.org.au/winter-appeal>

Get vaccinated for the common good – from the Diocese.

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

Jesus said to his disciples:

'As the Father has loved me,
so have I loved you.
Remain in my love.
If you keep my commandments
you will remain in my love,
just as I have kept my Father's commandments
and remain in his love.
I have told you this
so that my own joy may be in you
and your joy be complete.
This is my commandment:
love one another,
as I have loved you.
A man can have no greater love
than to lay down his life for his friends.
You are my friends,
if you do what I command you.
I shall not call you servants any more,
because a servant does not know
his master's business;
I call you friends,
because I have made known to you
everything I have learnt from my Father.
You did not choose me,
no, I chose you;
and I commissioned you
to go out and to bear fruit,
fruit that will last;
and then the Father will give you
anything you ask him in my name.
What I command you
is to love one another.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SIXTH WEEK OF EASTER / B

09 MAY 2021

LOVING ONE ANOTHER AS JESUS LOVED

We can only start to imagine the surprise and unsettling effect on Peter when Cornelius, a Roman centurion, prostrated himself before him. Cornelius was a representative of a hated and oppressive foreign government and here he publicly humiliates himself in front of a Galilean fisherman! Peter's own response is as generous and spontaneous as that of Cornelius: 'God has no favourites!' In saying this the barrier separating Jews and Gentiles is in the process of being shattered. When the gift of the Spirit is poured out so obviously on this Gentile household Peter can no longer see any reason to maintain long-held prejudices and instructs his companions to baptise them.

Breaking down barriers is at the heart of the readings for today as the Gospel invites us to no longer see God as a distant master to be feared. God loves us with that same love which leads Jesus to give his life for us. Changing our perception of God is one barrier to be overcome, but there is another, our perception of ourselves. Fear can keep us from God, from ourselves, and others. Invited to see ourselves as God's friends we are also invited to respond by sharing in Jesus' mission. To use the Gospel's words, we are commissioned to bear fruit, to overcome our reserve, and join in the task of loving one another as Jesus has already loved us. In Jesus' resurrection, we are not just saved from death, perhaps even more importantly, we are shown how to live.

FIRST READING

Acts 10: 25-26, 34-35, 44-48

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the gentiles also.

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up,' he said 'I am only a man after all!'

Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 97: 1-4. R. cf. v. 2

R. The Lord has revealed to the nations
his saving power. (*or Alleluia!*)

1. Sing a new song to the Lord / for he has worked wonders. / His right hand and his holy arm / have brought salvation. R.
2. The Lord has made known his salvation; / has shown his justice to the nations. / He has remembered his truth and love / for the house of Israel. R.
3. All the ends of the earth have seen / the salvation of our God. / Shout to the Lord all the earth, / ring out your joy. R.



SECOND READING

1 Jn 4: 7-10

A reading from the first letter of St John
God is love.

My dear people,
let us love one another
since love comes from God
and everyone who loves is begotten by God and
knows God.

Anyone who fails to love can never have known
God,
because God is love.
God's love for us was revealed
when God sent into the world his only Son
so that we could have life through him;
this is the love I mean:
not our love for God,
but God's love for us when he sent his Son
to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 14: 23

Alleluia, alleluia! / All who love me will keep my
words, / and my Father will love them and we
will come to them. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 15: 9-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according
to John

*No one can have greater love than to lay down his
life for his friends.*