

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

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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 – 29 th August, 2021

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B

Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) COVID restrictions have been eased in regional Victoria as of 11.59 pm on Monday, August 9. <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/religion-and-ceremony-regional-victoria>
Diocese website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/coronavirus-the-churchs-information-and-advice-2/>

RECENT DEATHS:

We pray for all the recently deceased, especially Anne Briody (formerly of Lexton). We pray also for those who have died in Afghanistan in recent days.

ANNIVERSARIES:

Cobber McGregor, Alex Butler, Doreen Freeman, Bob Pearce, Mick Franc, Elizabeth Cushing, Nell Cockerell, Agnes & Edward Brady, Margaret Herbert, Kath Mulcahy, Fr Markey, Jack Briody, Jessie Freeman, Mary Collins, James McArthur, Edward Sullivan, Joan Ritchie, Dorothy Mahony, Aileen Mulcahy, Leo Belleville, Myrtle Cushing, Sarah Fay & Catherine Butler.

PRAY FOR THE SICK

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

Annual Giving – For anyone who would like to make their annual / quarterly contributions (ie the old Planned Giving system) our bank details are as follows:-

Bendigo Bank - Account name: Beaufort Catholic Community BSB: 633 000 Acc no: 122019771

Social Justice Sunday: August 29, 2021

The Bishops' Social Justice Statement 2021-22: *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*, affirms that "we human beings need a change of heart, mind, and behaviour". It draws from Scripture, from the theological tradition, from Catholic Social Teaching and from the wisdom of the world, including the insights of the First Nations. The Statement, liturgy notes and other resources are available from the ACBC Office for Social Justice website <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2021/06/24/social-justice-statement-2021-22/>.

NEWSWORTHY: Congratulations Jim Mahony following his great acknowledgement in the Pyrenees Advocate last week for his years of service to the Beaufort Football Club, in particular in his role as Time-Keeper. This was an excellent article. Congratulations Jim!

Plenary Council – Fan the Flame Prayer Campaign

You are invited to join the national prayer campaign and in a special way support the ongoing journey of the Plenary Council. As the first Assembly in October 2021 draws nearer, all people are invited to become 'Prayer Partners' to accompany the Members and invoke the Holy Spirit on this historic gathering for the Church in Australia. The "Fan the Flame" resources have been designed so they can be used by individuals or by groups of any size and in any setting. Parishes are encouraged to use these in any way that suits. They include material for each week as well as material that can be used at any time to support prayerful preparation for the Plenary Council. Resources can be accessed at <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fantheblade/>

Praying with Pope Francis

The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) is an international movement that is more than 170 years old. Each month, the Pope puts forward a prayer intention and asks Catholics around the world to join him in prayer. These intentions cover all sorts of areas of life, encouraging faith, renewing hope and calling us to loving service. Praying each month 'The Pope Video' forms part of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network – view at www.thepopevideo.org. Pope's intention for August: **Universal intention for evangelisation – the Church:** Let us pray for the Church, that She may receive from the Holy Spirit the grace and strength to reform herself in the light of the Gospel.

BALLARAT CLERGY SUPPORT FUND Collection for Sick and Retired Priests

Creating a secure retirement future for the priests of the diocese is a duty and care in which we can all participate. Seventeen retired priests are currently supported by this Fund. Some live privately, some are retired in units in Ballarat or elsewhere, others live in supported accommodation. This annual collection has allowed the Fund to continue to support our sick and retired clergy. **Contributions may be made by accessing the CDFPAY portal on the website for the Diocese. Contributions over \$2.00 are tax-deductible. CARING FOR THOSE WHO CARED FOR US – THE CHURCH COMMUNITY'S RESPONSIBILITY**



The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture:

This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me.

The worship they offer me is worthless, the doctrines they teach are only human regulations.

You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.'

He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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BE OPEN TO CHANGE

Often there is tension in our lives as we struggle to determine how to be faithful to the past and yet open to the demands of the present and the call of the future. Can what is good and true change and take on new forms? In the area of technology, the matter is often clearer than in the life of faith.

Confronted with Moses' demand that nothing of the law be changed or deleted what options did the Pharisees have for change? Deletion of any of Moses' regulations was tantamount to rejection of God's own word. They dealt with the demands of the present by a rigorous faithfulness to the traditions which they had received. From their perspective who was Jesus to challenge these traditions? What Jesus characterised as hypocrisy they saw as faithfulness to the demands of the living God. The problem was that of discerning that the living God was speaking anew through Jesus who stood before them. Faithfulness to what God has spoken absents none of us from the demand of listening to what God is speaking to us today; *the challenge lies in recognising it and responding with generosity.*

The letter of James also addresses this challenge by reminding us that while God's truth is unchanging, we are called to listen to the word which has been planted in our hearts. It is a word which is dynamic and growing – a word whose clearest demand is to reach out in love to those who cannot defend themselves.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Deut 4:1-2, 6-8

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

You may add nothing to the word which I speak to you – keep the commands of the Lord.

Moses said to the people: 'Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, "No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation." And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 14:2-5. R. v. 1

R. The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

1. Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain? / He who walks without fault; / he who acts with justice / and speaks the truth from his heart. **R.**
2. He who does no wrong to his brother, / who casts no slur on his neighbour, / who holds the godless in disdain, / but honours those who fear the Lord. **R.**
3. He who keeps his pledge, come what may; / who takes no interest on a loan / and accepts no bribes against the innocent. / Such a man will stand firm for ever. **R.**



SECOND READING

James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27

A reading from the letter of St James.

Be doers of the word.

It is all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow of a change. By his own choice he made us his children by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all that he had created.

Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you and can save your souls. But you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves.

Pure unspoilt religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

James 1:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Father gave us birth by his message of truth, that we might be as the first fruits of his creation. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

You forget the commandments of God to hold on to human tradition.