

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Sandy Watkins: 0409 492 508
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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 – 12th September, 2021

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B

Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) COVID restrictions will ease in regional Victoria as of 11.59pm on Thursday, September 9, 2021. More information will be available when updated on the government website <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/religion-and-ceremony-regional-victoria>. Updates are also be available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/coronavirus-the-churches-information-and-advice-2/>.

RECENT DEATHS:

We pray for all the recently deceased.

ANNIVERSARIES:

Lynette Ford, Hugh Cushing, Beatrice Rogers, Gertrude Brennan, Anthony Carbone, Isabelle Meehan, Isabelle McArthur, John Molony, John Fitzpatrick, Patricia Collins, Amy Packman, Margaret Dickman, Elizabeth O'Connor & Mary Watkins.

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

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

ROSTER:

Introduction & Readings

Today: Gerrard Family
Sept 19: Bernadette Franc

Prayers of the Faithful

Today: Gerrard Family
Sept 19: Charlie Franc

Assembly Leader

Sept 19: Angela Gerrard & Sue Mahony

Special Minister

Sept 19: Therese Jess

Music

Today: Naomi Gerrard
Sept 19: Carita Clancy

Church Cleaning, Linen & Flowers

Sept 19: Therese Jess & Bernadette Franc

Church Grounds

Sept 12 & 19: Briody Family

Newsletter

September: Bernadette Franc 0427 678 830

MASS TIMES – for next week

September 19: 10.00 am LLA

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today is Safeguarding Sunday

The Catholic Church in Australia marks Safeguarding Sunday today. This had previously been known as Child Protection Sunday, but the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference approved the change of name to better reflect the Church's policies and protocols to protect and support children and adults at risk. The day seeks to acknowledge the immense damage caused by the sexual abuse of children, including by priests, religious and lay people within Catholic contexts. It makes a commitment to practices and protocols that create and maintain safe environments for all people, especially children and other people who are at risk. It invites people to pray for those harmed by abuse directly and indirectly. A series of resources have been developed and can be found on the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference website <https://www.catholic.org.au/safeguardingsunday>

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. Resources can be accessed at <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fanthefflame/>

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 September:

Universal intention – an environmentally sustainable lifestyle: We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.

BALLARAT CLERGY SUPPORT FUND Collection for Sick and Retired Priests – Contribute via accessing CDFPAY portal on Diocesan website. See envelopes at the back of the church.

Bishops of Victoria stand in solidarity with our Afghani communities across Victoria

The Catholic Bishops of Victoria have expressed their solidarity and support for the local Afghan community and their families back home in a joint statement. Read the statement on the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/cssv-stands-in-solidarity-with-our-afghani-communities-across-victoria/>

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

You are the Christ . . . The Son of Man was destined to suffer much.

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say I am?' And they told him. 'John the Baptist,' they said, 'others Elijah; others again, one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he asked 'who do you say I am?' Peter spoke up and said to him, 'You are the Christ.' And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him.

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. But, turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said to him, 'Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

He called the people and his disciples to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

12 SEPTEMBER 2021

PATHWAY TO LIFE

In Caesarea Philippi as Jesus prepared to take the dark road to Calvary he asked his disciples whether they really understood his mission and the fearful fate that awaited him in Jerusalem. Not surprisingly, their understanding was limited and their vision clouded by hopes and dreams of an earthly kingdom and release from foreign oppression and domination. Peter was correct in identifying Jesus as the Christ, the anointed king, but completely misguided in thinking that Jesus could avoid the passion. It was precisely by this means that he would open a pathway to the glory of the resurrection. After the resurrection the early disciples came to understand that the mystery of the identity of the suffering servant of Isaiah was now revealed. Jesus was the one who was able to endure the shame and suffering of the cross with confidence and courage because he knew that the love of God would always be there to sustain him.

Jesus was clear that those who want to follow him must be prepared to courageously set out on the same path. The mystery of the paradox of losing our lives in order to find them is one that each disciple must embrace. The letter of James reflects on how this can be lived out at the most practical level by giving of oneself and what we have for the good of those less fortunate than ourselves. Acknowledging that Jesus is the Christ is one thing, putting it into practice is another. Our actions will speak louder than our words.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Isa 50:5-9

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

I gave my body to those who struck me.

The Lord has opened my ear.

For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away.

I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle.

The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

My vindicator is here at hand. Does anyone start proceedings against me? Then let us go to court together. Who thinks he has a case against me? Let him approach me. The Lord is coming to my help, who dare condemn me?

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 114:1-6, 8-9. R. v. 9

R. I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living. (or Alleluia!)

1. I love the Lord for he has heard / the cry of my appeal; / for he turned his ear to me / in the day when I called him. **R.**

2. They surrounded me, the snares of death, / with the anguish of the tomb; / they caught me, sorrow and distress. / I called on the Lord's name. / O Lord my God, deliver me! **R.**

3. How gracious is the Lord, and just; / our God has compassion. / The Lord protects the simple hearts; / I was helpless so he saved me. **R.**



4. He has kept my soul from death, / my eyes from tears / and my feet from stumbling. / I will walk in the presence of the Lord / in the land of the living. **R.**

SECOND READING

James 2:14-18

A reading from the letter of St James.

Faith without good works is dead.

Take the case, my brothers, of someone who has never done a single good act but claims that he has faith. Will that faith save him? If one of the brothers or one of the sisters is in need of clothes and has not enough food to live on, and one of you says to them, 'I wish you well; keep yourself warm and eat plenty,' without giving them these bare necessities of life, then what good is that? Faith is like that: if good works do not go with it, it is quite dead.

This is the way to talk to people of that kind: 'You say you have faith and I have good deeds; I will prove to you that I have faith by showing you my good deeds – now you prove to me that you have faith without any good deeds to show.'

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Gal 6:14

Alleluia, alleluia! My only glory is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, which crucifies the world to me and me to the world. Alleluia!