

St Mary's Colac is a community of believers, who strive to bring Christ's good news to the people of Colac and district. Through service, caring and love we aim to create an environment of respect and understanding in which every one can grow.

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 3rd October 2021-Year B

Responsorial Psalm:

May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
If we love one another,
God will live in us in perfect love.
Alleluia!

This Week's Readings

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Genesis 2:18-24. Hebrews 2:9-11. Mark 10:2-16 **Next Week's**

Readings

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wisdom 7:7-11, Hebrews 4:12-13, Mark 10:17-30

Deaths: Fr John Keane, Marjory Hose, Bill Rohan (Cobden), Joe (Joseph) Cole.

Anniversaries: Sam (Salvatore) Testa, Kevin Norris,

MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

Tuesday	5.00pm	St Mary's
Wednesday	10.00am	St Mary's
Thursday	10.00am	St Mary's
Friday	10.00am	St Mary's
Friday	6.30pm	St Joseph's Cressy
Saturday	10.00am	St Mary's
Sunday	9.00am	St Peter's Birregurra
<p>PLEASE BOOK IN: Contact 5231 2177 Parish Office: 8.30am to 12.30pm - Please attend One Mass to allow others to attend. Can check on day of Mass if places are available.</p>		
<p>RECONCILIATION: FRIDAY AFTER MASS 10AM - ANY TIME BY APPOINTMENT</p>		

Early Notice Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission

- *Reflection by Zoom in Regional Hubs.
- *Saturday Nov 6th 10am to 3pm.
- *By Zoom St Mary's Gathering Space (Hub)
- *More details closer to the event. (Jim Ryan - Colac Parishioner /Commission Member);
- * Topic Social Justice Statement "Creator: Environment."

Mass online: 'Bishop Paul Bird'

St Patricks Cathedral Ballarat Sunday 11 AM Follow us on
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/patricks.cathedral.9/>
**Mass for you at Home on Sundays 6am of Channel 10 WIN TV

Remembrance Wall Applications St. Mary's Parish Colac has a Remembrance Wall near the entrance to the church. Parishioners are invited to put forth and pay for names to be placed there. Application Forms are available in the Foyer or at Parish Office. Applications close Friday 29th October.

"WITH APPRECIATION TO MANY PARISHIONERS FOR CONTINUED GENEROSITY (IN COVID TIMES) TO BOTH PARISH AND PRESBYTERY ACCOUNTS."

We welcome to our Parish this weekend through the Sacrament of Baptism:

**Aurora Lamanna, Asher Tillack,
Ari Beckett, & Mia Beckett.**

May these children grow in faith with the support of their families and our Catholic Community.

"The Church gives the faith to your children through Baptism and you have the task to make it grow..."

- Pope Francis.

CRAWFORD FAMILY GROUP: Tuesday 5th October
12noon Lunch - At Lake View Cafe -
RSVP Betty: 5232 1695 *please note change of venue.

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY - YEAR B - 3RD OCTOBER 2021

The scriptures this Sunday teach us about the importance and centrality of loving relationships to the expression of our faith.

Click on this: [Link to readings.](#) to view on website.

PENITENTIAL ACT: Lord Jesus, you came that we might learn to live in love. **Lord, have mercy.**
You teach us to love one another. **Christ, have mercy.**
You lead us to the kingdom of heaven. **Lord, have mercy**

GOSPEL: A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK.

He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' 'Moses allowed us,' they said, 'to draw up a writ of dismissal and so to divorce.' Then Jesus said to them, 'It was because you were so unteachable that he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So what God has united, no one must divide.'

People were bringing little children to him, for him to touch them. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' Then he put his arms around them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.

REFLECTION. I recall the truth at the heart of this Sunday's readings: that we were created in love, for love. Jesus came among us not to condemn, but to heal and transform our suffering.

As I imagine being held within the accepting and comforting arms of Jesus, I place before him all my needs, desires and questions. I sit, I remain, I listen, and when I am ready I finish my prayer with my own words of thanks.

Note: *It may help, when reading this Gospel, to know that in Jesus's time, the Law of Moses concerning divorce was being interpreted to allow a man to divorce his wife for quite trivial reasons, perhaps leaving her destitute without support. Jesus invokes an older tradition that made women and men equal in marriage, thus showing his support of women, and disapproval of their abuse.*

Any pastor would be aware that no Sunday Gospel read out through the year that will require more sensitive handling than this one. Any congregation today will include a considerable number of people in second marriages or people with family members in that situation. In many, if not most cases, the situation will have come about through circumstances beyond their control or from which they cannot now responsibly free themselves. To simply read out the rulings of Jesus in the Gospel without comment or nuance would be to turn Gospel into Law and simply add to a burden of guilt that may already be oppressive.

The "exceptive clause" in the version of Jesus' rulings on divorce in Matthew's Gospel (5:32; 19:9) shows some accommodation to new situations in which believers found themselves. Moreover, the reality is that people make mistakes and relationships fail – something which longer life span and the high premium currently placed upon personal freedom and development make more prevalent. The Church has to find a way to help people grow through failure and find in it an experience of grace and deepened knowledge of God. – Fr Brendan Byrne

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

1. Let us pray for Pope Francis on this the feast day of his patron saint, Francis of Assisi. (Pause) May his call to recognize the interconnection of all life on our planet be heard by all peoples. **Lord, hear us.**
2. Let us pray for leaders of nations. (Pause) May they usher in a new era of mutual respect and collaboration between nations so that all people may enjoy peace and a just share of the world's resources. **Lord, hear us.**
3. Let us pray about the Plenary Council which begins this weekend. (Pause) May the outcomes of the Plenary Council bring about the sowing of seeds of renewal, reform and revitalization in every parish and diocese of Australia. **Lord, hear us.**
4. Let us pray for members of the Plenary Council. (Pause). May they speak out boldly in faith and listen to the Spirit which inspired the prophets of old. **Lord, hear us.**
5. Let us pray for the staffs, teachers and children in our parish schools. (Pause) May they be blessed with a peaceful transition back to a normal school life in Term Four. **Lord, hear us.**
6. Let us pray for those in the forefront of fighting the battle of the Covid 19 pandemic. (Pause) May doctors, nurses, paramedics and hospital staffs be shown the love, gratitude and blessings they so richly deserve. **Lord, hear us.**
7. Let us pray for one another. (Pause) May we nurture the relationships we have as being expressions of our faith and continue to develop harmonious relationships with all of creation. **Lord, hear us.**
8. Let us pray for those who have died and for those whose anniversary occurs at this time. (Pause). We remember especially..... May they know eternal peace and joy with their God who is kind and full of compassion. **Lord, hear us.**

LORD'S PRAYER ... "Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come;"

A Prayer for the Plenary Council

Blessed are you, God of all creation.
You have given us life and light
and all the wonders of the world.
You have sent your Son Jesus
to be our Saviour
and your Holy Spirit to be our guide.
As we prepare for the plenary council,
we ask you to come into our hearts
with your Son and Holy Spirit.
Come to us and make your home in us.
We pray for our local community,
for the people of our diocese
and for the Church throughout Australia.
May your wisdom show us the way,
for your word is a lamp for our feet
and a light for our path.
Come and fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in us the fire of your love,
that we may live by your gospel
and share your good news with all we meet.
Holy Mary, Mother of our Saviour, pray for us.
St Mary MacKillop, pray for us.

REPRESENTATIVES:

*Bishop Paul Bird, Fr Kevin Maloney, V.G., Ms Felicity Knobel,
Mrs Marie Shaddock (Ouyen).*

**Here are some highlights from the livestream schedule, please
access via - The Ballarat Diocesan Plenary Council Website:**

October 3: Opening Mass of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia, 2pm AEDT from St Mary's Cathedral in Perth.

October 4-9: Daily Mass broadcast at 9.30am AEDT and on demand afterwards.

October 4-6 and October 8-9: Plenary session livestream starts at 11am AEDT and runs until approximately 12.15pm AEDT.

October 7: Plenary session livestream starts at 12 noon AEDT and runs until approximately 12.45pm AEDT.

October 10: Closing Mass of the First General Assembly, 11am AEDT from St Stephen's Cathedral, Brisbane

PLENARY COUNCIL – CONTINUING THE JOURNEY

The last twelve or so months of our Plenary Council Journey has required many unplanned changes because of the impact of COVID-19. What hasn't changed is the heart of the journey – the discernment process. We are mindful of all those who have made a significant contribution to the Plenary Council journey so far through the responses submitted during the time of listening, dialogue, and discernment; as well as the work of the members of the Six Discernment and Writing Groups. The other important milestone celebrated recently is the publication of the Agenda for the Plenary Council. It charges the Members with the responsibility of developing "concrete proposals" for the Church in Australia in response to sixteen questions born of the last three years of conversation and discernment. It is important for all of us to remember when reading the Agenda that it is to be addressed over the entirety of the time we "celebrate" the Plenary Council. This includes the first Assembly in October 2021, the months between the two assemblies and the second Assembly in July 2022. We extend an invitation, another opportunity, to engage in the process and to listen deeply to the voice of the Spirit. You can do this by commenting on the agenda below or by responding on the next page. Responses can be made by either individuals or groups in your parish or community (adhering to COVID-19 restrictions). They do not have to be formal - they can be written or in poems or pictures, songs or prayers.

Plenary Council – Its here!

The First General Assembly of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia opens with **Mass at 2.00pm AEDT from St Mary's Cathedral, Perth on Sunday, October 3.** The historic event will develop concrete proposals to create a more missionary, Christ-centred Church in Australia. Watch the live-streamed Mass and access other information on the Plenary Council website at <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/assembly-1/>

Key moments during the First General Assembly will be live-streamed between October 3 and 10. They will include daily Masses, morning prayer for Plenary Council members and sharing of the fruits of discernment. All found at <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/assembly-1/> or through the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

It is anticipated that **the 10.30am Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat celebrated by Bishop Paul Bird** for the start of the Assembly will be livestreamed. A link will be uploaded in due course to <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/plenary-council/>

OUR DIOCESAN



FIFTH PLENARY COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA AGENDA

As children of God, disciples of Jesus Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit, the Members of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia are called to develop concrete proposals to create a more missionary, Christ-centred Church in Australia at this time.

'I dream of a "missionary option", that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelisation of today's world rather than for her self-preservation.'

Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium 27



Conversion

- How might we better accompany one another on the journey of personal and communal conversion which mission in Australia requires?
- How might we heal the wounds of abuse, coming to see through the eyes of those who have been abused?
- How might the Church in Australia open in new ways to Indigenous ways of being Christian in spirituality, theology, liturgy, and missionary discipleship? How might we learn from the First Nations peoples?
- How might the Church in Australia meet the needs of the most vulnerable, go to the peripheries, be missionary in places that may be overlooked or left behind in contemporary Australia? How might we partner with others (Christians, people of other faiths, neighbourhood community groups, government) to do this?
- How might the Church in Australia respond to the call to 'ecological conversion'? How can we express and promote a commitment to an 'integral ecology of life' in all its dimensions, with particular attention to the more vulnerable people and environments in our country and region?

Prayer

- How might we become a more contemplative people, committing more deeply to prayer as a way of life, and celebrating the liturgy of the Church as an encounter with Christ who sends us out to "make disciples of all the nations"?
- How might we better embrace the diverse liturgical traditions of the Churches which make up the Catholic Church and the cultural gifts of immigrant communities to enrich the spirituality and worship of the Church in Australia?

Formation

- How might we better form leaders for mission – adults, children and families, couples and single people?
- How might we better equip ordained ministers to be enablers of missionary discipleship: the Church becoming more a "priestly people" served by the ordained ministry?
- How might formation, both pre- and post-ordination, better foster the development of bishops, priests and deacons as enablers of the universal Christian vocation to holiness lived in missionary discipleship?

Structures

- How might parishes better become local centres for the formation and animation of missionary disciples?
- How might the Church in Australia be better structured for mission, considering the parish, the diocese, religious orders, the PJPs and new communities?

Governance

- How might the People of God, lay and ordained, women and men, approach governance in the spirit of synodality and co-responsibility for more effective proclamation of the Gospel?
- How might we recast governance at every level of the Church in Australia in a more missionary key?

Institutions

- How might we better see the future of Catholic education (primary, secondary and tertiary) through a missionary lens?
- How might we better see the future of Catholic social services, agencies and health and aged care ministries as key missionary and evangelising agencies?

1. You are invited to share briefly the impact of COVID-19 on your life and your faith life.

2. What has changed for you in relation to the Plenary Council since COVID-19?

3. Any further comment you would like to share?

Responses can be submitted: Pastoral Ministry Office, PO Box 576, Ballarat, 3353 or email: pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au