

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 – 10th October, 2021 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B

Novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

Keep up-to-date with the latest COVID-19 restrictions on the government website
<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/religion-and-ceremony-regional-victoria>. Updates are also be available from the diocesan

RECENT DEATHS:

We pray for all the recently deceased.

ANNIVERSARIES:

Wilma Byrne, Lin Bruty, Shiela O'Brien, Gabrielle Maune, John & Eileen Flannagen, Rosalie Gilbert, Terance McManus, Jim Briody, Rosina Sullivan, Kevin O'Loughlan, William { Bill } Fay, Wendy Perkins, Carmel Mitchell & Jim Harney.

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

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

ROSTER:

Introduction & Readings

Today: Gerrard Family.

Oct 17th: John Jess

Prayers of the Faithful

Today: Gerrard Family.

Oct 17th: Sue Mahony.

Assembly Leader

Oct 17th: Anne Beer & Angela Gerrard.

Special Minister

Oct 17th: Therese Jess.

Music

Oct 17th: Sue Mahony.

Church Cleaning, Linen & Flowers

Oct 10th – 17th Sue Mahony & Angela Gerrard

Church Grounds

Oct 10th & 17th: Jim Mahony & Tom Franc.

Newsletter

October: Carmel Milenkovic 0407 320 759

MASS TIMES – for next week

October 17th LLA 10.00 am

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Diocesan e-News

For recent news of events and celebrations, see the latest Diocesan e-News at this link – <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/news-events/e-news/>. You can

The Plenary Council is underway!

The First General Assembly of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia has opened: To see updates from the diocese go to <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/news-events/e-news/>. Watch the live-streamed Mass and follow the proceedings of the council online at this link: <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/> We continue to extend to people in the diocese an invitation, another opportunity, to engage in the process and to listen deeply to the voice of the Spirit. **PLEASE SEE ATTACHED HANDOUT.** Please feel free to complete this, while the Assembly is still continuing, with thoughts and observations and email to pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au Any submissions will be forwarded to the Diocesan Members to the Plenary Council.

THE ROAD THAT LEADS US TO GOD

In today's gospel, Jesus engages in a series of discussions about the kingdom and eternal life with a stranger he meets on the road, and then, with his disciples. The gist of the two encounters is that one cannot earn eternal reward simply by obeying the commandments or doing good deeds. But one can enter the kingdom now by turning one's life over to God's will and trusting in the divine providence.

The Jesuit, John Powell, wrote that "gentle and caring elderly people have spent their entire lives practicing at being gentle and caring."

As we read today's gospel, we are reminded of Thomas Merton's Prayer of Unknowing: "My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going ... and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you ... I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that, if I do this, you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it."

October is traditionally the month dedicated to the **Holy Rosary**. The Rosary is a familiar form of Marian devotion that can draw us ever closer to God through Mary.



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.

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



Agenda continued next page

Comments on the Agenda can be made here:

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?

You are invited to respond to the following:

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

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

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