

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Sandy Watkins: 0409 492 508 Fr Marcello Colasante: 0416 194 825
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Special Parish Events (Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals) Phone: Bernadette Franc 0427678830

Parish Support - *If you need help with anything, please phone one of our members:*

Gail Hall: 0412 311 586 Bernadette Franc: 0427 678 830

SUNDAY – 12th February 2023

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

RECENT DEATHS:

ANNIVERSARIES: William (Bill) Barwick, Robbie McArthur, Sr. M. Louis Elwood, Beth Jones, Bert Orr, Francis Hinchcliffe, Harry Buncle, Edna Angus, Ray Boyd, George Daniels, Winnie Broadbent, Harold Dawson, Charles (Mick) Broadbent, John Thompson & Maisie Stickland.

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

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

ROSTER:

Introduction & Reading

Today: Sue Mahony

Feb 19th: Angela Gerrard

Prayers of the Faithful

Today: Genevieve Johnston

Feb 19th: Bernadette Franc

Assembly Leader

Feb 19th: Sue & Jim Mahony

March 5th: Genevieve & Clarrie Johnston

Special Minister

Feb 19th: Clarrie Johnston

Music

Today: Sue Mahony

Church Cleaning, Linen, Flowers

Feb 19th & 26th: Colleen Briody & Genevieve Johnston

Church Grounds

Feb 19th & 26th: Gerard Briody & Clarrie Johnston

Newsletter

February: Bernadette Franc 0427 678 830

MASS TIMES NEXT WEEK

February 19th LLA 10.00 am

Project Compassion Sunday: February 19, 2023

Bishop Paul Bird CSSR will launch Project Compassion on Sunday, February 19, 2023 during Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat.

The Mass of the Oils will take place on Monday, April 3rd, 2023 at St Patrick's Cathedral at 6.30 pm. Supper to follow in the hall.

SHROVE TUESDAY – Pancake Day Tues 21st

February at 10.30 am at St Andrew's Uniting Church.

All welcome for a cuppa, pancakes and a chat. \$5

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Prayer for Peace and Justice in Ukraine

God of peace and justice, who change the hardened heart and break the power of violence, we entrust the people of Ukraine to you. Protect them in this time of peril; let them know not death but life, not slavery but freedom. You are Father of all; we are brothers and sisters. Give us the strength to live that truth in love, choosing peace not war. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

Caritas agencies respond to catastrophic earthquake in Turkey and war-torn Syria

Caritas Turkey and other Caritas agencies are responding to a series of powerful earthquakes in southeast Turkey (officially known as Türkiye) and Syria, where thousands of lives have been lost already and the death toll increases by the hour. Our partner Caritas Turkey and other Caritas agencies on the ground are coordinating with local authorities and other organisations to see how they can best assist. Your generous support can help provide emergency relief to help families recover and rebuild from disaster. Visit www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/turkey-and-syria-earthquake/ or call 1800 024 413 toll free to provide much needed support to the Middle East by donating to our Middle East Emergency Appeal.

Exploring the Word

The readings today are all concerned with the law and commandments of Moses. They reflect on the happiness which can be ours if we keep to the spirit of the law and not just its letter.

This week, we might pray for all law makers, ecclesiastical or secular, that they always work for the greater good of all. We also pray that the Spirit will be with all those who have the power to bring greater peace in the world.

[A prayer from this week's Responsorial Psalm:](#)

Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

Praying with Pope Francis for February:

For parishes: We pray that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Such was said to your ancestors; but I say to you.

Jesus said to his disciples: I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

‘You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors; You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court;

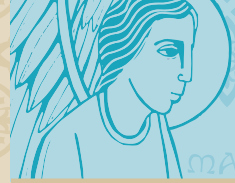
‘You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

‘Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all. All you need say is “Yes” if you mean yes, “No” if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.’

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

Longer form 5:17-37

Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

12 FEBRUARY 2023

CHOICES

Choices are a part of the human experience. Some are minor and of little consequence, others will shape our futures and have lasting ramifications for our lives. Ecclesiasticus places a choice before us: we have the power to choose life or death, that is, whether we will follow the living God or not. While many people are fearful of God’s judgement the point of the first reading is that any judgement on God’s part is only a consequence of our own (cf. John 3:17.12:47).

Jesus invited his hearers to make a decision about the standard they used to live their life of faith. They had grown up with the Jewish law but now the invitation is made to choose a new set of criteria. In the next few weeks, the excerpts from the Sermon on the Mount invite us to choose once again the values that Jesus places before us. Today the challenge is made in terms of our attitude regarding violence, sexual morality and the quality of our speech.

Paul places a choice before the Corinthians – to model their lives on the wisdom of the cross. In Paul’s time, the mystery cults abounded and such groups considered themselves as having been initiated into the elect, those who had knowledge and power denied to those around them. He knew they had been given the gift of the Spirit and wisdom, but it was the misunderstood and paradoxical wisdom of the cross.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Sir 15:15-20

A reading from the book of Sirach

He never commanded anyone to be godless.

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM Ps 118:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34. R. v. 1

R. Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

1. They are happy whose life is blameless, / who follow God’s law! / They are happy those who do his will, / seeking him with all their hearts. **R.**
2. You have laid down your precepts / to be obeyed with care. / May my footsteps be firm / to obey your statutes. **R.**
3. Bless your servant and I shall live / and obey your word. / Open my eyes that I may consider / the wonders of your law. **R.**
4. Teach me the demands of your statutes / and I will keep them to the end. / Train me to observe your law, / to keep it with my heart. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Cor 2:6-10

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

God in his wisdom predestined our glory before the ages began.

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden



wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Mt 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;

you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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