

## 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

**SUNDAY – 26th March 2023**  
**Fifth Sunday in Lent - Year A**

### **RECENT DEATHS:**

Sister Sheila Belleville

### **ANNIVERSARIES:**

Ray Larkens, James Hynes, Phyllis Sertori,  
Yolanda Pereira, Sunny Packman, Bill Clarke,  
Joan Carland, Jack Bowd, Monica Bell, Des Frichot,  
Jack Jaensch, Constance Jess, Irene Liston,  
Syd Hannett, Kevin Hynes, Kevin Hains

### **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: John Jess

2nd April: Jim Mahony

#### ***Prayers of the Faithful***

Today: Charlie Franc

2nd April: Genevieve Johnston

#### ***Special Minister***

2 April: Clarrie Johnston

#### ***Music***

Today: Sue Mahony

2nd April: Sue Mahony

#### ***Church Cleaning, Linen, Flowers***

April 2th & 9th: Judy Franc & Carmel Milenkovic

#### ***Church Grounds***

April 2nd & 9th: Charlie Franc & Peter Milenkovic

#### ***Newsletter***

March: Angela Gerrard 0439 565 468

April: Carmel Milenkovic

### **MASS TIMES NEXT WEEK**

March 26th **Mass** 8.30am

### **Beaufort Confirmation Mass:**

#### **Sunday 23rd April**

*We pray for the following five children as they  
Prepare to receive their Sacrament of Confirmation:*

- *Georgie Chamings*
- *Shaelee Hayward*
- *Arabella Jess*
- *Henry Jess*
- *Kaela Palacpac*

### **Project Compassion**

You can donate through Project Compassion  
donation boxes/envelopes available from your parish,  
by visiting <https://www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion> or by calling 1800 024 413.

### **Funeral for Sr Sheila**

The funeral service for Sr Sheila Belleville  
will be held Thursday and will also be live-streamed  
Details will be emailed when confirmed  
Sr Sheila was a member of the Beaufort Parish  
and was loved by us all. We pray for her today.

### **Special Collection on Good Friday for the Holy Places**

In accordance with the desire of the Holy Father that  
Catholics throughout the world should contribute to the  
maintenance of the shrines of the Holy Land, the  
annual collection for the Holy Places should be taken  
up in all Churches of the Diocese on Good Friday.

### **MASS OF THE OILS: MONDAY APRIL 3**

The Mass of the Oils will be celebrated in St Patrick's  
Cathedral, Ballarat at 6.30pm on Monday, April 3.  
This Mass is a celebration of the whole Church of the  
Diocese of Ballarat. We celebrate the unity and ministry  
of the ordained priests in the midst of the entire priestly  
people of God of the Diocese.

**This Mass also has special significance for those  
who will use the blessed oils in 2023, the ordained,  
the sick, those to be baptised and confirmed.**

All members of the Diocese are invited to this  
celebration, which truly expresses the unity of the  
Diocesan Church.

### **Easter Services**

If you are available to help with any ministries  
For the Easter Church Services, please contact  
Bernadette Franc

### **Good Friday Service**

3pm Good Friday 7th April

### **Pope Francis' Prayer for Peace in Ukraine**

I ask you to pray the Our Father for peace in Ukraine,  
now and throughout this day.

Let us ask the Lord to grant that the country may grow  
in the spirit of brotherhood, and that all hurts,  
fears and divisions will be overcome.

We have spoken about the Holocaust. But let us think  
too that [in Ukraine] millions of people were killed  
[1932-1933]. They are a people who have suffered; they  
have suffered from hunger, suffered from much brutality  
and they deserve peace.

May the prayers and supplications that today rise up to  
heaven touch the minds and hearts of world leaders, so  
that dialogue may prevail and the common good be  
placed ahead of partisan interests.

Please, no more war.



and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.

Do you believe this?

‘Yes, Lord,’ she said ‘I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.’

Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, ‘Where have you put him?’ They said, ‘Lord, come and see.’ Jesus wept; and the Jews said, ‘See how much he loved him!’ But there were some who remarked, ‘He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man’s death?’ Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, ‘Take the stone away.’ Martha said to him ‘Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.’ Jesus replied ‘Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?’ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

‘Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.

I knew indeed that you always hear me.

But I speak

for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.’

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, here! Come out!’ The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, ‘Unbind him, let him go free.’

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

## ■ The Gospel of the Lord.

*Longer form, 11:1-45*

### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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## GOD’S PLEDGE TO US

Lent is always an invitation to travel on the path of conversion. We are called to do our part and yet the work is not solely ours. One of the threads uniting today’s readings is the encouragement provided by God’s pledge to work with us as we journey towards the new life of Easter.

Ezekiel wrote to a dispirited and discouraged people far from where they wanted to be. In exile they felt powerless to change their situation and wondered whether God still had the power, or desire, to save them. Ezekiel has no doubts that God will bring them back from the grave to new life.

In writing to the Christians of Rome, Paul is led to reflect on the nature of conversion and the Christian life from two perspectives. From our perspective, we are challenged to open our hearts to what is of spiritual and lasting value. Lest we become disheartened by our weakness, Paul reminds us of the critical role God plays in our coming to spiritual maturity. The gift of the Spirit within us is a sign of God’s pledge to enliven us so that we may share in the new life of Jesus’ resurrection.

The moving story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead is a powerful reminder to us all that just as Jesus commanded, ‘Unbind him, let him go free,’ so it is with us. The Lord is still working with us to liberate what is bound, and to bring to life that which is not fully alive.



Christopher Monaghan CP

## FIRST READING

Ezek 37:12-14

**A reading from the prophet Ezekiel**

*I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.*

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall settle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

## ■ The word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 129. R. v. 7

**R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, / Lord, hear my voice! / O let your ears be attentive / to the voice of my pleading. **R.**
2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, / Lord, who would survive? / But with you is found forgiveness: / for this we revere you. **R.**
3. My soul is waiting for the Lord, / I count on his word. / My soul is longing for the Lord / more than watchman for daybreak. / (Let the watchman count on daybreak / and Israel on the Lord.) **R.**
4. Because with the Lord there is mercy / and fullness of redemption, / Israel indeed he will redeem / from all its iniquity. **R.**

## SECOND READING

Rom 8:8-11

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans**

*If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he will give life to your own mortal bodies.*

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not

belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

## ■ The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 11:25, 26

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! / I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; / whoever believes in me will not die for ever. / Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

## GOSPEL

Jn 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45.

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.**

*I am the resurrection and the life.*

The sisters sent this message to Jesus, ‘Lord, the man you love is ill.’ On receiving the message, Jesus said, ‘This sickness will end not in death but in God’s glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.’

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, ‘Let us go to Judaea.’

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, ‘If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.’ ‘Your brother’ said Jesus to her ‘will rise again.’ Martha said, ‘I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.’ Jesus said:

‘I am the resurrection and the life.

If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live,