

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Sandy Watkins: 0409 492 508 Fr Marcello Colasante: 0416 194 825
Contact: St Columbas Ballarat North: 5331 1012 Email: ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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 – JANUARY 28TH THE FORTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - B

RECENT DEATHS

Wilma Tiley, Antanene Wise (Ena's sister-in-law)

ANNIVERSARIES

Sarah Daniels, Arthur Crick, Cyril Wall,
Patrick Francis Cushing, Bridgette Cushing,
Ces Keays, John Norris, Tom Johnston, Flora Biggs,
Rene Miles, Sherrill Alexander (Naylor),
Stuart Johnston, John Fraser, Chris Tweddle

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Pat Byrne, Blake Dridan, Shelagh Mulcahy,
Fr Adrian McInerney, Graeme Trethowan,
Tony Collins, and Jim Mahony
and all those in need of prayer.

ROSTER

Introduction & Reading

Today: Bernadette Franc
Jan 28th: Genevieve Johnston

Prayers of the Faithful

Today: Charlie Franc
Jan 28th: Clarrie Johnston

Assembly Leaders

Feb 4th: Angela Gerrard & Carita Clancy
Feb 18th: Genevieve & Clarrie Johnston

Special Minister

Feb 4th & 18th: Gail Hall

Music

Sue Mahony

Church Cleaning, Linen, Flowers

Feb 4th & 11th: Chandler Family
Feb 18th & 25th: Judy Franc & Carmel Milenkovic

Church Grounds

Feb 4th & 11th: Chandler Family
Feb 18th & 25th: Charlie Franc & Peter Milenkovic

Newsletter

February: Carmel Milenkovic 0407 320 759

MASS TIMES

Feb 4th: LLA 10.00 am

DIOCESE NEWSLETTER

Diocesan e-News - see the below link

<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/news-events/e-news/>

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

World Day of Prayer is on
March 1st for Beaufort Faith Communities
To be held in Uniting Church – more info to follow

UPCOMING DATES for 2024

Today

Sacrament of Reconciliation preparation commences
We pray for all those involved

Tuesday 13th February

Shrove Tuesday Event – Uniting Church 10:30am

Monday March 25th

150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat
March 1st

World Day of Prayer – Uniting Church
(Preparations have begun)

LENTEN REFLECTION BOOKS

Lenten Reflection Books will be ordered now.
Anyone interested please let Bernadette know asap.
A minimum order of ten is needed.

150 YEARS OF DIOCESE OF BALLARAT

This year the Diocese of Ballarat will be celebrating the
150th Anniversary of the formation of the Diocese.
The celebrations will begin with the Mass of the Oils on
Monday, March 25th, 11.30am, St Patrick's Cathedral
with lunch and displays.

CALLIGRAPHY EXHIBITION

12th -23rd February 9am-4pm at Beeripmo Centre
'Beautiful Words Beautifully Crafted '
by the artist Stuart Slater
Some works are of ecclesiastical nature
Various works in Illuminated versals, several of the
'Desiderata' and 'The Lords Prayer'. Hee has works
exhibited in several countries and was commissioned to
write an entire Bible which is on display in a County
Church in England.

AN URGENT PRAYER FOR PEACE

by Michael McGirr

God of compassion, we turn to you with heavy hearts,
as we consider the needs of your family.

Israelis and Palestinians, we are all your people,
each of us loved by You and called to live in peace
and justice.

We lament the dreadful loss of life, destruction of
property and loss of human dignity.

We are pained by so much suffering.

We beg you to bring healing to this ancient place.
Help your people find a way forward.

Enable everyone to look each other in the eye,
and embrace each other as sisters and brothers,
as they find Your image in every face.

We ask that courage and grace will help create a wiser
and more gentle future, where everyone has a home.
God of wisdom, come to our aid. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia! / A people in darkness have seen a great light: / a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death. / Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

This is a new kind of teaching that speaks with authority.

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

28 JANUARY 2024

LISTEN

Listening is a central part of being a follower of Christ: listening to the Holy Spirit, to the Word, and to each other. Today we are called to listen and give undivided attention to the Lord, to a prophet like Moses, and to Jesus in the Gospel.

Moses reveals that "God will raise up a prophet like myself from among yourselves, from your own people ... to him you must listen" (Deut 18:15). He reminds the people that this is what they have asked for. In the letter to the Corinthians Paul addresses the anxieties of the community as "the present form of the world is passing away" (1 Cor 7:31). Paul expresses his wish that they be free from anxieties by giving attention to the Lord.

The Gospel continues the beginning of Jesus ministry in what I call "Jesus Central" – Capernaum (Kefar Nahum). It is where Jesus made his home during his Galilean ministry. We notice it is Shabbat, the sabbath, and Jesus is in the synagogue teaching. "They" (those in the synagogue) are astounded by his teaching. "They" are listening as he teaches with authority. Juxtaposed with this is the exorcism of an unclean spirit which brings both amazement and the question: "what is this? A new teaching with authority" (v. 27). We hear that his fame spreads, but are they truly listening, and do they recognise who he is? Jesus proclaims the good news in word and deed and expects a change of heart. How are we listening today?

Dr Rosemary Canavan

FIRST READING

Deut 18: 15-20

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

I will put my words into the prophet's mouth, and he will tell them all I command.

Moses said to the people: 'Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. "Do not let me hear again" you said "the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die"; and the Lord said to me, "All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die."'

■ The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 94: 1-2, 6-9. R. v. 9

R. If today you hear his voice harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; / hail the rock who saves us. / Let us come before him, giving thanks, / with songs let us hail the Lord. **R.**

2. Come in; let us kneel and bend low; / let us kneel before the God who made us / for he is our God and we / the people who belong to his pasture, / the flock that is led by his hand. **R.**

3. O that today you would listen to his voice! / 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, / as on that day at Massah in the desert / when your fathers put me to the test; / when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Cor 7: 32-35

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

The unmarried woman dedicates herself to the things of the Lord, that she might be holy.

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

■ The word of the Lord.