

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 – May 5th 2024
6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER B

For the 6th Sunday of Easter Year B, the readings offer rich insights into love, inclusion, and divine friendship. Each theme is closely connected with how believers are called to live and interact in light of God's love.

DEATHS:

Ian Chandler, Elizabeth George, Jim Mahony

ANNIVERSARIES:

Therese Anderson, Joy Crouch, Pastor Peter Font, Pat Armstrong, Francis(Hugh) Briody, Kath Martin, Max Naylor, Dulcie Crick, Eugene Grigg, Roma Briody, Anne Jess, Ellen Flanagan, Brian Flanagan.

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

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

ROSTER:

Introduction & Reading

Today: Clarrie Johnston
May 12th: John Jess

Prayers of the Faithful

Today: Bernadette Franc
May 12th: Genevieve Johnston

Assembly Leaders

May 5th: Angela Gerrard & Genevieve Johnston
May 19: Genevieve & Clarrie Johnston

Special Minister

May 5: Gail Hall
May 19: Therese Jess

Music

Sue Mahony

Church Cleaning, Linen, Flowers

April 28 & May 5: Judy Franc & Carmel Milenkovic
May 12 & 19: Genevieve Johnston

Church Grounds

April 28 & May 5: Peter Milenkovic
May 12 & 19: Clarrie Johnston

Newsletter May: Carmel Milenkovic 0407 320 759

MASS TIMESNext week:

May 12th Mass 8.30 am

SUNDAY MAY 26

Baptism will be celebrated for Edward Robertson

WELCOME FR. ED MOLONEY.

We welcome the new Parish Priest for Beaufort Fr. Ed Moloney who will be celebrating mass for us from now on.
.We are grateful to have his support of our Beaufort Parish Community.

MASS COUNTS START ON WEEKEND MAY 4-5

The Annual Diocesan Mass Counts will take place over 4 weekends in May.

ANNIVERSARY of the BALLARAT DIOCESE:

Please note we will be lighting our Anniversary Candle during our Lay Led Assemblies.
May this anniversary year be a season of renewal for our diocese, our community of communities from the Murray to the sea.

Celebration of Life service for Ian Chandler will take place at Cave Hill Creek on Tuesday May 7th at 3.00 pm
and for Jim Mahony at St Johns Catholic Church Beaufort on Friday May 10th at 2.00 pm

CHURCH PREPARATIONS

A meeting regarding church preparation for Jims funeral will be at the church on Thursday 9th May at 10.00am

Pope's intention for May – for the formation of men and women religious and seminarians: Let us pray that men and women religious, and seminarians, grow in their vocational journey through human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, that leads them to be credible witnesses of the Gospel. Lord, hear us.

Love that comes from God is without cost, of course, but to really possess such a great thing as God's love, we are asked to fulfill God's commandments, which are summed up in the beautiful words of our Lord, "Love one another as I have loved you."

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘As the Father has loved me,
so have I loved you.
Remain in my love.
If you keep my commandments
you will remain in my love,
just as I have kept my Father’s commandments
and remain in his love.
I have told you this
so that my own joy may be in you
and your joy be complete.
This is my commandment:
love one another,
as I have loved you.
A man can have no greater love
than to lay down his life for his friends.
You are my friends,
if you do what I command you.
I shall not call you servants any more,
because a servant does not know
his master’s business;
I call you friends,
because I have made known to you
everything I have learnt from my Father.
You did not choose me,
no, I chose you;
and I commissioned you
to go out and to bear fruit,
fruit that will last;
and then the Father will give you
anything you ask him in my name.
What I command you
is to love one another.’

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / B

5 MAY 2024

THE INCLUSIVENESS OF GOD

Our first reading from Acts today is an edited story of the encounter of Peter and Cornelius. It is worth reading the full episode of Chapter 10. What we have is enough to relate the momentous occasion when Peter, a Jew, enters the house of Cornelius, a Gentile. This is significant of itself, laying aside any impropriety. More than this, Peter declares that God shows no partiality. It doesn't matter whether Jew or Gentile, anyone who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to God. Simultaneously with Peter speaking, the Holy Spirit came upon all the audience, Jews and Gentiles alike.

In John's Gospel, Jesus begins: 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you, remain in my love.' This invitation to abide or remain in God's love opens the command to love one another which is ever more poignant in light of the inclusivity of God. In this passage Jesus calls his disciples 'friends' and no longer servants, indicating the closeness of their relationship, their walking together and their collaboration in the work of Jesus. Yet we know even today there are barriers or hurdles that Pope Francis also acknowledges but urges us to find a way forward as a Church. 'Abide in my love' could be our mantra so the love of God is enacted to everyone we meet. How can we seek to be inclusive of all who seek God? How do we develop our ecumenical relationships and outreach to all those whom God desires to be welcomed?

Dr Rosemary Canavan

FIRST READING Acts 10: 25-26, 34-35, 44-48

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the gentiles also.

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up,' he said 'I am only a man after all!'

Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.'

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 97: 1-4. R. cf. v. 2

R. The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power. (or Alleluia!)

1. Sing a new song to the Lord / for he has worked wonders. / His right hand and his holy arm / have brought salvation. **R.**

2. The Lord has made known his salvation; / has shown his justice to the nations. / He has remembered his truth and love / for the house of Israel. **R.**

3. All the ends of the earth have seen / the salvation of our God. / Shout to the Lord all the earth, / ring out your joy. **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Jn 4: 7-10

A reading from the first letter of St John

God is love.

My dear people,
let us love one another
since love comes from God
and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.
Anyone who fails to love can never have known God,
because God is love.
God's love for us was revealed
when God sent into the world his only Son
so that we could have life through him;
this is the love I mean:
not our love for God,
but God's love for us when he sent his Son
to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 14: 23

Alleluia, alleluia! / All who love me will keep my words, / and my Father will love them and we will come to them. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 15: 9-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

No one can have greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.