

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Contact: St Patrick's Ballarat: 5331 2933

Email: ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Administrator: Fr Ed Moloney Assistant Priests: Fr Jim McKay & Fr Francis Kureecka

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Sandy Watkins: 0409 492 508

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

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

Special Parish Events (Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals) Phone: Bernadette Franc 0427678830

beaufort@ballarat.catholic.org.au

25th AUGUST 2024 - 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - B

ANNIVERSARIES:

Jack Briody, Jessie Freeman, Gavin Nottle, Mary Collins, James McArthur, Anne Briody, Kaye Turner, Edward Sullivan, Joan Ritchie (Nee Flynn), Dorothy Magony, Aileen Mulcahy, Leo Belleville, Myrtle Elizabeth Cushing, Sarah Fay & Catherine Butler.

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Dennis Davies (Genevieve's brother), Pat Byrne, Blake Dridan, Shelagh Mulcahy, Fr Adrian McInerney, Graeme Trethowan, Mia Hanrahan, Colleen Hains, and all those in need of prayer.

ROSTER:

Introduction & Reading

Today: Bernadette Franc

1st September: John Jess

Prayers of the Faithful

Today: Angela Gerrard

1st September: Therese Jess

Assembly Leaders

1st September: Sue Mahony & Carita Clancy

15th September: Genevieve & Clarrie Johnston

Special Minister

1st September: Gail Hall

15th September: Therese Jess

Music

Sue Mahony

Church Cleaning, Linen, Flowers

18th & 25th: August: Bernadette Franc & Therese Jess

1st & 8th September; Chandler Family

Church Grounds

18th & 25th August; Bill Franc

1st & 8th September; Chandler Family

Newsletter

Month: August - Carmel Milenkovic 0407 320 759

September; Bernadette Franc 0472 678 830

MASS TIMES

1st September: LLA 10.00 am 22nd Sunday in Ordinary

Time

Diocesan e-News see the below link:

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



Ballarat Clergy Support Fund Annual Appeal – next weekend

The BCSF Collection for Retired Priests will be held next weekend. Creating a secure retirement future for the priests of the diocese is a duty and care in which we can

all participate. Seventeen retired priests are currently supported by this Fund. Some live privately, some are retired in units in Ballarat or elsewhere, others live in supported accommodation. A credit card facility is available for your convenience and contributions over \$2.00 are tax-deductible. **Caring for those who cared for us - the Church community's responsibility.**



Social Justice Sunday Today

Today is Social Justice Sunday. The Australian Bishops' have launched the 2024-2025 Social Justice Statement "Truth and Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World." Every year, the bishops seek to make a substantive comment on a key social issue and this year the focus is on the promotion of peace and the need for truth in public life. Bishop Paul has released a video message in relation to the current Social Justice Statement. To watch Bishop Paul's video and to access the statement and liturgy resources, go to the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/social-justice/social-justice-statement/>

You can also download a text copy of Bishop Paul's message from this webpage.

Today's readings focus on faith, commitment, and unity. And show us the importance of choosing to follow God and living according to His teachings.

- **Allegiance to God:** Joshua challenges the people to choose whom they will serve. This is a call to put God first in our lives.
- **Commitment and Renewal:** The Israelites reaffirm their commitment to the Lord. They remember His protection and guidance throughout their history.
- **Marital Unity:** Ephesians speaks of the love and respect in marriage. This mirrors the relationship between Christ and the Church.
- **Christ's Sacrificial Love:** Husbands are called to love their wives as Christ loves the Church. This shows the depth and selflessness of true love.
- **Discipleship's Challenges:** Jesus addresses the difficulty of accepting His teachings. Many disciples leave, showing that following Jesus can be hard.
- **Peter's Confession:** Peter reaffirms his faith in Jesus. He recognizes Jesus as the Holy One of God.

These themes help us understand the importance of choosing to follow God and living out our faith in daily life. They remind us that commitment to God brings unity and strength.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Jn 6:63, 68

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life:
you have the words of everlasting life.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 6:60-69

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Lord, whom shall we go to? You have the words of everlasting life.

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?

'It is the spirit that gives life,
the flesh has nothing to offer.

The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.

'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, whom shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

25 AUGUST 2024

'LORD, TO WHOM SHALL WE GO?'

We come to the end of the five weeks with the Gospel of John', chapter 6. As it concludes we could imagine ourselves standing with the disciples complaining that the teaching was too difficult. The Judeans had twice confronted Jesus on this teaching. Now we hear, 'The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.' If it is hard to understand these words, then for some it would be hard to believe, and that is acknowledged by Jesus.

We are affirmed in that, as the narrator advises, Jesus knew from the beginning that some would not believe, and who would betray him. This is a crisis moment. We can remember that in the first part of this chapter, aligned to Passover and with the miracle of the loaves, the crowd was looking for signs. At this point, we can see that the reinterpretation of the Mosaic law caused upset and division. With many disciples leaving, Jesus challenges the Twelve: 'do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter speaks up as leader and representative of the Twelve. Those, called by Jesus, recognise that his words are 'spirit and life.'

What about us? Do we find believing too hard? Or do we line up with Simon Peter affirming our faith and saying 'Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.' We are in this for the long haul.

Dr Rosemary Canavan

FIRST READING

Josh 24:1-2, 15-18

A reading from the book of Joshua.

We will serve the Lord God, because he is our God. Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people: 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.'

The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESP PSALM

Ps 33:2-3, 16-23. R. v. 9

R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times, / his praise always on my lips; / in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. / The humble shall hear and be glad. **R.**
2. The Lord turns his face against the wicked / to destroy their remembrance from the earth. / The Lord turns his eyes to the just / and his ears to their appeal. **R.**
3. They call and the Lord hears / and rescues them in all their distress. / The Lord is close to the broken-hearted; / those whose spirit is crushed he will save. **R.**
4. Many are the trials of the just man / but from them all the Lord will rescue him. / He will keep guard over all his bones, / not one of his bones shall be broken. **R.**



5. Evil brings death to the wicked; / those who hate the good are doomed. / The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants. / Those who hide in him shall not be condemned. **R.**

SECOND READING

Eph 5:21-32

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.

This is the great mystery, it applies to Christ and the Church.

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

■ **The word of the Lord.**