

## OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

**Contact:** St Patrick's Ballarat: 5331 2933

**Email:** [ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

**Administrator:** Fr Ed Moloney **Assistant Priests:** Fr Jim McKay & Fr Francis Kureeckal

**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](mailto:beaufort@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

**MARCH 30TH 2025 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT.**

**YEAR OF HOPE**

### **ANNIVERSARIES:**

Thelma Barwick, Kevin Buckle, Tom Reagan, Nicole Braybrook, Les Trengove, Gwen Williams, Kevin Collins, Clifford Joseph, Melican, Gwen Soc, Frank Liston, James Fay, John Wildenberg, Hedley Cook, Molly Dixon, Fr Luke Fay, Phillip Russell, Dorothy Davis, Pope John Paul 11 & Carl Gustus.

### **PRAY FOR THE SICK:**

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

### **ROSTER:**

#### ***Introduction & Reading***

Today: Bernadette Franc

April 6<sup>th</sup>: Sue Mahony

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

Today: John Jess

April 6<sup>th</sup>: Therese Jess

#### ***Assembly Leaders***

April 6<sup>th</sup>: Genevieve & Clarrie Johnston.

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

April 6<sup>th</sup>: Gail Hall

#### ***Music***

Sue Mahony

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

March 30<sup>th</sup> & April 6<sup>th</sup> Clarrie Johnston

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

March 30<sup>th</sup> & April 6<sup>th</sup> Clarrie Johnston

#### ***Newsletter***

April – Bernadette Franc 0427678830

### **MASS TIMES**

April 6<sup>th</sup> LLA 10.00 am 5th Sunday of Lent

### **DATES TO REMEMBER;**

**MASS OF THE OILS:** Monday, April 14, 2025 at

Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 1.00pm.

Afternoon tea will follow in the Hall. The Mass will

also be livestreamed at <https://youtube.com/live/qUVA7OFoZ9c?feature=share>

Thanks to Genevieve & Clarrie for volunteering to collect our oils.

**GOOD FRIDAY :** TBA.

**EASTER SUNDAY;** Mass 8.30 am

Requesting help for roles over the Easter Period.

Please feel free to put your name down on the sheet at the back of the Church.

### **Sunday May 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Parish Picnic proposed date., more information to follow, Thanks Angela for organizing this after the last Parish Council meeting.**

**THANK YOU:** To those that helped with preparation etc for Jennifer Verberne's funeral.

To those who were able to attend the working bee ,at short notice, to tidy up/ clean up the Sacristy.

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Sr Helen sends her greeting and blessings for this Holy Season. Please keep her in your Prayers also.

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### **DIOCESAN NEWS**

For the Diocesan E-News see the link below:

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



***In this Jubilee year, dedicated to becoming Pilgrims of Hope, pilgrims are invited to experience the world of the early Christian communities. The Acts of the Apostles will come alive as we go out with St Paul and his companions to rediscover the faith and struggles of the early Christian communities. The proposed itinerary departs Melbourne on Sunday, September 21st 2025 with the pilgrims arriving in Istanbul and proceeding to Adana, Tarsus, Antioch, Ephesus, Troas, Kavala, Philippi, Thessalonica and Athens with the possibility of an extension to Rome. For further information please contact Lifestyle Travel, 11 Armstrong Street North (PO Box 740), Ballarat, 3350, ph. 03 5331 8077, email [info@lifestyletravel.com.au](mailto:info@lifestyletravel.com.au) or Fr Justin Driscoll [justin.driscoll@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:justin.driscoll@ballarat.catholic.org.au)***

### ***Pope Francis message for Lent***



"Let Us Journey Together in Hope" is Pope Francis' message for Lent 2025. He reminds us that we cannot stay where it is comfortable, that we must always accompany others, and that we must always do everything with the hope that never disappoints.

## **THE JUBILEE PRAYER**

*Father in heaven, may the faith you have  
given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,  
and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts  
by the Holy Spirit, Reawaken in us the blessed hope  
for the coming of your Kingdom.*

*May your grace transform us  
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.*

*May those seeds transform  
from within both humanity  
and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation  
of a new heaven and a new earth, when,  
with the powers of Evil vanquished,  
your glory will shine eternally.*

*May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us,  
Pilgrims of Hope,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.*

*May that same grace spread the joy and peace  
of our Redeemer throughout the earth.*

*To you our God, eternally blessed,  
be glory and praise for ever. Amen*

servants.” So he left the place and went back to his father.

‘While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.” But the father said to his servants, “Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found.” And they began to celebrate.

‘Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. “Your brother has come” replied the servant “and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound.” He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, “Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening.”

‘The father said, “My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.”’

#### ■ The Gospel of the Lord.

#### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAULS

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# Breaking Open the Word

## GOD’S LAVISH DELIGHT

This Sunday’s Gospel brings us to the very heart of Luke’s teaching—forgiveness and God’s delight in the return of the sinner. The Gospel’s introduction sets the scene: Jesus attracts and dines with moral reprobates. Is this mirroring what’s happening with Luke’s householders as they gather for the Lord’s Supper? Like Jesus, are they too being criticised by religious legislators?

Three parables follow. Our focus is on the third, the parable of two lost sons. Preachers often exclusively focus on the young son who demands his inheritance to leave the farm for a life of pleasure. The son is virtually treating his father as though dead when inheritances were usually bequeathed. He wants to completely cut family ties. We know what follows. The son’s need to address his chronic hunger and loneliness sitting with Earth’s most unclean creature, the pig, brings him to acknowledge his wrongdoing. He wants to return to his father’s farm not as a son but as a hired hand.

The father’s longing for his son’s return is palpable and completely upturns social expectation. It reflects God’s visceral response to the lost one who returns. The second older son is also lost. His adamant rejection of his younger brother’s behaviour and his unwillingness to join the celebration of the brother’s return flags an attitude circulating in Luke’s world. The father’s plea to this son for a change of heart is also a plea to the Gospel audience: Are we able to celebrate the joy of God’s lavish delight over those we would prefer to exclude?



Fr Michael Trainor

# THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT / C

30 MARCH 2025

## FIRST READING

Josh 5: 9-12

**A reading from the book of Joshua**

*The people of God went to the promised land and there kept the passover.*

The Lord said to Joshua, ‘Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.’

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

#### ■ The word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 33: 2-7. 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. Glorify the Lord with me. / Together let us praise his name. / I sought the Lord and he answered me; / from all my terrors he set me free. **R.**
3. Look towards him and be radiant; / let your faces not be abashed. / This poor man called; the Lord heard him / and rescued him from all his distress. **R.**

## SECOND READING

2 Cor 5: 17-21

**A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians**

*God reconciled us to himself through Christ.*

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God’s work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men’s faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we

are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ’s name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

#### ■ The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 15: 18

**Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I will rise and go to my father and tell him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.**

**Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

## GOSPEL

Lk 15: 1-3, 11-32

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

*Your brother here was dead and has come to life.*

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. ‘This man’ they said ‘welcomes sinners and eats with them.’ So he spoke this parable to them:

‘A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, “Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me.” So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

‘When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, “How many of my father’s paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid