

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS – 25 th October, 2020

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary time Year A

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Sandra Watkins: 0409 492 508

Fr Marcello Colasante 0416 194 825 Contact: St Columba's, Ballarat North 53 311 012

email: ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Information for special parish events (Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals)

Please contact Anne Beer on 5349 2168 or 0417 369 322

Parish Support:

A reminder that if anyone needs help with anything, please get in touch with one of our members below:

Gail Hall 0412 311 586 Bernadette Franc 0427 678 830 Anne Beer 0417 369 322

Welcome to 'Our Community News' for 25th October, 2020

Note: Today's Community News email has one other attachment: copy of 'The Saving Word'

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

All updates are on the diocesan website "news" section www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

We have a new Diocesan website, so by following the above link, you can check out the updates as well as familiarise yourself with the many features of the website.

FATHER JUSTIN'S ONLINE MASSES FROM ST JOHN OF GOD HOSPITAL:

Reminder: Daily Mass at 11.30 am from St John of God Hospital Chapel.

The Cathedral Facebook page is Patrick's Cathedral

<https://www.facebook.com/patricks.cathedral.9> but the Masses can also be reached via the Cathedral website where the Masses are posted each day after the Mass has concluded so for those who don't have a Facebook account they can go to <https://stpatscathedral.weebly.com/>

(We recommend this link may work best Beaufort Parish)

RECENT DEATHS:

We continue to pray for all victims of Coronavirus throughout the world.

ANNIVERSARIES:

Edward Sullivan, Annie Briody, Bernie Collins, Lorn Jackman, John Doyle, Norma Hobson, Mac Bradley, Pat & Margaret Ryan, Alex Henderson, Maurice Fay & Mons Henry Nolan.

PRAY FOR ALL THESE FRIENDS OF OURS WHO ARE ILL:

Pat Byrne, Margaret MacDonald, Roger Molomby, Graeme Dawson, Blake Dridan, Fr. Adrian McInerney, Shelagh Mulcahy, Valda Murphy and all those in need of prayer.

ROSTERS:

Please consider volunteering for any roles that may interest you and let Anne Beer know.

Anne's mobile number is 0417 369 322 or email: bigmac09@bigpond.com

NEWSLETTER:

Any contributions for the newsletter will be greatly appreciated. This is a great way to keep our little community in touch.

Just simply email: beaufort@ballarat.catholic.org.au or for the month of October call Bernadette on 0427 678830

Diocesan eNews

Please check out the link below to access the latest edition of e-News.

<https://mailchi.mp/7f15ce35c51c/edition-93-october-8-2020?e=7abc235d4c>

It's St Mary's 10th Anniversary and you're invited!

To mark the 10th anniversary of the canonisation of Mary MacKillop, Australia's first Saint, the Sisters of Saint Joseph invite you to celebrate the wonderful life and inspirational legacy of Saint Mary of the Cross. The Sisters have created commemorative prayers, videos and a global vigil in of honour Mary throughout September and October <https://www.sosj.org.au/10th-anniversary>

On-line Lay Pastoral Ministry Program – Registrations now open

The Ballarat Diocese in partnership with Dayton University offer low-cost online study and formation. Subjects include Sacraments, Scripture, Youth Ministry, Liturgy, Leadership and more. There are a small number of subjects on offer in Cycle 8 which begins November 29. The first study cycle for 2021 begins January 3. Registration for both cycles is now open. More information at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or email djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7121

Pastoral Care Education

The South West Victoria CPE Centre is offering the opportunity for education and formation in Pastoral Care, with the option to have a CPE unit recognised as 30 points should you wish to enrol in theological studies with the University of Divinity. The Centre is registered through the Association for Supervised and Clinical Pastoral Education Victoria (ASACPEV Inc.). CPE is offered online presently and will be this way for at least the first semester in 2021, after which it will be reassessed. For further information ph. 0455 033 321 or email bernadette@bernadettewurlod.com.au. Information is also available at <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/pastoral-care-education-3/>

Thank you to Fr Marcello for suggesting that we can use snippets from his Parish's newsletter as follows:-

Focus on the Scriptures

Like last week's gospel, we again have an example of the Pharisees seeking to 'catch Jesus out' in his interpretation of scripture. The Pharisees were regarded as the great interpreters of the Torah – the Law. To them, ALL the commandments were vitally important, not just the Ten Commandments given to Moses with which we are perhaps most familiar, but the 613 mitzvot (commandments) contained within the Torah – the first five books of the Bible. These 613 mitzvot governed all aspects of Jewish life. For the Pharisees to ask Jesus about the 'greatest' commandment was a blatant challenge to him. Perhaps they expected Jesus to name one commandment and then they could challenge him with a whole series of 'What about ...?' questions. Jesus' answer to the Pharisees highlights their preoccupation with the particulars of the Law contained within scripture. In their overemphasis on the details of religious observance, they have forgotten about the most basic element of faith: to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind. Jesus reminds them that being faithful to God isn't about following precise rules but rather it is simply about loving God. With this one sentence, Jesus undermines the power position of the Pharisees. If the Law is as simple as 'Love God', what need is there of Pharisees to interpret the details of the Law? Having pulled the rug out from under them, Jesus follows up with his reminder that the second most important commandment is to love your neighbour as yourself. This is a call to compassion and justice that Jesus practised freely but was sadly lacking in the religious authorities of his time.

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See below the link for Veronica Lawson's reflection:

<https://www.mercyworld.org/newsroom/gospel-reflections-on-video-veronica-lawson-rsm/>

Prayer for the Week:

I love you, Lord, my strength.

and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

■ **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

Mt 22:34-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, ‘Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?’ Jesus said, ‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.’

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

Reflections on the Gospel



THE SAVING WORD

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

25 OCTOBER 2020

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

When faced with the question in today’s Gospel concerning which of the commandments of the law is the greatest, Jesus has no hesitation in uniting two commandments already found in the scriptures of Israel.

The command to love God with all one’s heart and soul and mind comes from Deuteronomy (6:4-5). It is a command that every Israelite is summoned to recite each morning on rising (the ‘Schema’ prayer). So the Christian tradition has inherited from Israel the truth that God is worthy of love, worship and dedication of life simply for God’s sake alone. Love is the supreme factor in the relationship that God desires to have with us.

The second command, ‘to love one’s neighbour as oneself’, occurs in Leviticus 19:18. It is ‘like’ the first because it flows from the nature of Israel’s God, who has identified so intimately with the situation of human beings. To love God with all one’s heart and soul and mind is to love those whom God loves: one’s fellow human beings, especially the vulnerable and the poor.

Down the ages there have been many interpretations as to what loving one’s neighbour as oneself might mean. Primarily it would seem to mean putting oneself—at least imaginatively—in the neighbour’s shoes and asking how I would like to be treated in their situation. Better still, perhaps, it means taking pains to find out from the neighbour what exactly their desire might be. All effective works of charity and justice begin from a similar base: from *com-passion* (‘feeling with’) in the deepest sense of that term.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

FIRST READING

Ex 22:20-26

A reading from the book of Exodus

If you are harsh with the widow or the orphan, my anger will rage against you.

The Lord said to Moses, ‘Tell the sons of Israel this, “You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

“If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

“If you take another’s cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity.”

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 17:2-4, 47, 51. R. v. 2

R. I love you, Lord, my strength.

1. I love you, Lord, my strength, / my rock, my fortress, my saviour. / My God is the rock where I take refuge; / my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold. / The Lord is worthy of all praise: / when I call I am saved from my foes. **R.**

2. Long life to the Lord, my rock! / Praised be the God who saves me. / He has given great victories to his king / and shown his love for his anointed. **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Thess 1:5-10

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

You turned away from idols to serve God and await his Son.

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God

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