



Parish Priest: Fr Michael O'Toole  
 Phone: 03 52312177  
 Fax: 03 52312189  
 Email: [colac@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:colac@ballarat.catholic.org.au)  
 Secretary Hrs: Mon to Fri 8.30am-112.30pm

## St Mary's Noticesheet

St Mary's Colac is a community of believers, who strive to bring Christ's good news to the people of Colac and district. Through service, caring and love we aim to create an environment of respect and understanding in which every one can grow. We acknowledge the Gulidjan, people, the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years.

### Fourth Sunday of Lent – 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020 – Year A

#### Responsorial Psalm

The Lord is my Shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

#### Gospel Acclamation

Glory and Praise Lord Jesus Christ; Glory and Praise to you.  
 I am the light of the world, says the Lord;  
 whoever follows me will have the light of life.  
 Glory and Praise Lord Jesus Christ; Glory and Praise to you.

#### This Week's Readings

##### Fourth Sunday of Lent

Samuel 16:1.6-7.10-13. Ephesians 5:8-14. John 9:1-41.

#### Next Week's Readings

##### Fifth Sunday of Lent

Ezekiel 37:12-14. Romans 8:8-11. John 11:1-45.

**Deaths:** Vin Foley, Jordan Brewster, Ray McCluskey, Fr Peter Robinson (Melb), Sr. Grace (Ineen) Rogers RSM.

**Anniversaries:** Bernie McGrath, Margaret Delahunty, Jack Delahunty, Chris Burrows, Doris Farrell, Arthur Jenkins, Monsignor McInerney,

\*\*\*\*\*

**Our Parish Church is Opened Daily:**  
**(Personal Prayer and Reflection).**

\* **RECONCILIATION:** Anytime by Appointment.

**CHOIR PRACTICE:** Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March at  
 5.30pm. St Mary's Church

#### PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING 40th Anniversary is on Monday April 27.

Sam Macdonald is working on the plaque to be erected next to the opening plaque. Wording as moved by Parish Leadership Team.

*We welcome all who gather here.  
 We offer a safe and respectful environment making hospitality our special care.  
 We are committed to protect all who enter this place of worship and Gathering Space, especially children and vulnerable adults.  
 We acknowledge the traditional owners, the Gulidjan people, on whose land this church is built.*

#### CENTACARE (Family Counselling)

St Mary's Presbytery Colac.  
 Wendy 5559 3006 'Phone appointments only.'

**Pope's Prayer Intentions for March**  
**Catholics in China** We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity

**R.C.I.A.** Tricia Hook preparing to join us in Easter Faith  
 All welcome to join and support her with Lenten Scripture Reflection each Tue. 3.30pm at the Presbytery.

#### Catholic Women's League:

Activities have all been cancelled to further Notice

#### 25 March 2020 THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

This feast originated in the East during the sixth century and gained universal observance in the West during the eighth century. It is a feast of the Lord, commemorating the announcement to the Virgin the conception of Christ nine months before Christmas. Its occurrence close to Easter links the incarnation with the whole mystery of human redemption in Christ

**Project Compassion Week 4: India** As an unmarried woman with a disability, Sakun was isolated and unable to earn a living until Caritas Australia helped her set up a thriving kiosk. Now involved in village decision-making, Sakun's income is growing, along with her confidence. We pray for our sisters and brother around the world who are living with disability; that together we can work to ensure the God given dignity of all is upheld, removing obstacles and overcoming the structures that exist preventing equality in our communities. *"We have all known the long loneliness, and we have found that the answer is community."*  
 Dorothy Day

*The most wonderful places to be in the world are: In someone's thoughts. Someone's prayers. And in someone's heart.*

Please spread the word - "If you or a Parishioner that you know would like the Parish Bulletin

Emailed. Please Email the Parish Office: [colac@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:colac@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

**EXCERPT: FROM VICTORIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS:** Wednesday 18 March 2020

Prayerful greetings to the people of God across Victoria,

This morning, the Prime Minister announced that non-essential indoor gatherings will be limited to 100 people, and outdoor events of more than 500 people will be disallowed, effective today. Given the seriousness of COVID-19, we support this measure as being responsible and sensible, and we encourage everyone to follow public safety guidelines respectfully. The Bishops of the Province of Victoria have given this prayerful and considered reflection, and have determined the following actions: **\*Immediate suspension of public liturgies, celebrations of the Mass, until further notice. \* All other gatherings are suspended. For clarification of any concerns, please contact your local diocesan authority.** We are very aware that this restriction will be particularly difficult for families who are planning liturgies such as funerals, weddings and baptisms. At this time, so long as appropriate precautions are able to be put in place (such as distancing between participants), it may be possible for these liturgies to proceed with a carefully limited congregation. Deferring these liturgies may also be an option that is offered to families. In light of this, all Catholics in Victoria are dispensed from their Sunday obligation until further notice (canon 1248). We encourage you to continue active participation in the life of the Church, through activities such as time in personal and family prayer, reflecting on the Scriptures, making a spiritual communion, or participating in a Mass online (<http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand> or <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass> or [www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass](http://www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass)). We encourage our priests to continue to celebrate Mass for the spiritual good of God's people, the intentions of the faithful and the alleviation of the present crisis. We assure our people that the Mass is being offered for you in our parishes and that while you are not physically present, you still participate spiritually and that you are close to the hearts of your pastors in the Eucharist. All of this is happening during the Season of Lent, a time of preparation for the Easter mysteries. While we are invited to be self-sacrificial at this time, we must remember the words of Jesus upon appearing before his disciples after his resurrection: Again and again he said 'peace be with you.' (Jn 20:19) Let us not panic, nor be anxious, nor reduce ourselves to caring only for ourselves. This is a time to be sensible, practical, prayerful, and to share Christ's peace with those who are struggling to feel calm and safe.

**Further letter from Bishop Paul Bird: 19th March 2020. - Included:**

Dear Friends. While there will be no publicly advertised liturgies until further notice, the faithful are still able together for prayer in small groups, keeping some physical distance between participants. This might be for example for small gatherings for morning or evening prayer. Earlier this week, a parishioner asked if I could compose a short prayer that would touch on some of the needs we see in the current crisis. On this feast of St Joseph, I offer the following: **"We pray for all those affected by the coronavirus pandemic in Australia and around the world. We pray for those who have died and for their families and friends who are grieving. We pray for those who are sick and for the doctors and nurses and all who are caring for them. May Mary and Joseph and all the saints pray for us that we may have health of body and peace of heart and a spirit of kindness to one another.**

**CONSEQUENCES:** Yes, Our Parish Church will remain Open for personal, private prayer. \* Private Masses will be celebrated as the Bishops suggested.

**Phone Calls – on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March.** \***Colac Area Health** (including **Corangmarah Aged Care**). No Visitation from St Mary's Parish \***Barongarook Gardens Aged Care:** No Visitation from St Mary's Parish.

\* **Mercy Place Aged Care** \* No Public/Communal Liturgies; \*Fr Michael – welcome as usual to 'attend' to residents (with attention to the appropriate cleansing regulations).

**Strong Recommendation:** If Parishioners (Individual /Families) have members planning hospitalizations and seek sacramental ministry contact Parish Office Ph:5231 2177, prior to admission to facilities.



PRAYER OF FAITHFUL  
– ST PATRICK

May the strength of God pilot us.  
May the power of God preserve us.  
May the wisdom of God instruct us.  
May the hand of God protect us.  
May the way of God direct us.  
May the shield of God defend us.  
May the host of God guard us  
against the snares of evil  
and the temptations of the world.  
May Christ be with us, Christ before us,  
Christ in us, Christ over us.  
May thy Salvation, O Lord, be always  
ours this day and for evermore. Amen.

