

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.

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Sunday 26th September 2021-Year B

Responsorial Psalm:

The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Your word, O Lord, is truth:
Make us holy in the truth.
Alleluia!

This Week's Readings

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Numbers 11:25-29, St James 5:1-6, Mark 9:38-43. 45. 47-48

Next Week's Readings

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Genesis 2:18-24. Hebrews 2:9-11. Mark 10:2-16.

Deaths: Frances Hehir, Philip Callahan, Ian Dobson, Rosemary Barger-Bos.

Anniversaries: Daniel Delahunty, Hugh Delahunty, Sr Olive Buckley, S.G.S., Sr. Kathleen Finnigan, S.G.S., Frs Kevin O'Brien & Jim Conway, Ed Carmody (Snr), Jack and Marie Ryles.

MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

Tuesday	5.00pm	St Mary's
Wednesday	10.00am	St Mary's
Thursday	10.00am	St Mary's
Friday	10.00am	St Mary's
Saturday	10.00am	St Mary's

PLEASE BOOK IN: Contact 5231 2177
Parish Office: 8.30am to 12.30pm - Please attend
One Mass to allow others to attend.
Can check on day of Mass if places are available.

RECONCILIATION: FRIDAY AFTER MASS 10AM
- ANY TIME BY APPOINTMENT



Early Notice Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission

- *Reflection by Zoom in Regional Hubs.
- *Saturday Nov 6th 10am to 3pm.
- *By Zoom St Mary's Gathering Space (Hub)
- *More details closer to the event. (Jim Ryan - Colac Parishioner /Commission Member);
- * Topic Social Justice Statement "Creator: Environment."

Mass online: 'Bishop Paul Bird'

St Patricks Cathedral Ballarat Sunday 11 AM Follow us on
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/patricks.cathedral.9/>
**Mass for you at Home on Sundays 6am of Channel 10 WIN TV

FEAST DAYS:

September 27th St Vincent de Paul
September 28th St Michael Gabriel Raphael
September 29th St Jerome
October 1st St. Therese of the Child Jesus
October 2nd The Holy Guardian Angels

*CWL Afternoon Tea: Tuesday 2pm Nu Deli. If unable to attend, please phone Winsome.

*Finance Committee Meeting: Thursday 30th Sept – 5.30pm

SAMOAN WORKERS: As reported in the local media several Samoan Workers are now employed at Australian Lamb Company Colac. Neighbourhood House have endeavoured to organise hospitality, support and care. The Ministers Association was asked if each local Colac Church Community would be 'hospitable' to, two of the houses. I have made a 'Pastoral Visit' to both houses assigned to St. Mary's. If parishioners would be interested in such 'reach out' they could contact our parish office. Father Michael. (2 responses) Phone:52 312177

Remembrance Wall Applications St. Mary's Parish Colac has a Remembrance Wall near the entrance to the church. Parishioners are invited to put forth and pay for names to be placed there. Application Forms are available in the Foyer or at Parish Office. Applications close Friday 29th October.

Mercy Day (24th Sept). We remember; we thank God & Our Lady of Mercy for the presence, ministry and prayerful support of the Mercy Sisters in our Colac Parish since 1888.
(This presence ended 18months ago).

"WITH APPRECIATION TO MANY PARISHIONERS FOR CONTINUED GENEROSITY (IN COVID TIMES) TO BOTH PARISH AND PRESBYTERY ACCOUNTS."

MIGRANT AND REFUGEE SUNDAY

On 26 September, we commemorate Migrant and Refugee Sunday.

It is an opportunity to reflect upon and delve deeper into the lives of migrants and those seeking refuge among us. It is so worthwhile reading. It reminds me of the generous contributions which parishioners have made to Iranian, Afghanistan, South Sudanese, India, Vietnamese, Chinese, Filipino – Migrant Families in recent times (Also too Dutch Italian, Polish and others in previous times), As we reflected on last week Newsletter: We may never know the impact we have – we repeat:

- 1. we cannot always tell what positive impacts we have on others. The effects may be much delayed. The effects may never be clear.**
- 2. The impact might be from a kind word or a good deed at the right time.**
- 3. We may never know the impact we have. We may never perform in front of adoring fans. But we may be able to look back and think, I did my best, under the circumstances, to have a positive impact.**

“To mark this day, Thach Ly shares his inspirational story of how the greatest lesson he learnt in life is that of love, shown by way of an almost-90-year-old Christian man who gave his time each week to teach English to a young, unknown refugee boy.

Thach Ly was 14 years old when his home city of Saigon, Vietnam, fell to Communism. He and his 11 siblings and mother lived under Communist rule for four years before ‘escaping’ Vietnam by boat in 1978—he was 17 years old (his father had died three years prior to this). About 420 people made the voyage on the 23-metre-long boat, with many suffering dehydration and seasickness.

‘It was my first time on a boat, with seasickness and vomiting causing a problem for many,’ he said.

At the time of interviewing Thach, the Taliban had recently seized power in Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, causing many to flee or attempt to flee the country. ‘When I see the news and the events unfolding in Kabul, I have flashbacks of all of those memories,’ he said. ‘What happened in Kabul recently, with refugees fleeing, that’s exactly what happened to us in Saigon. People are comparing Kabul and Saigon—it was exactly like that for us. I’ve lived through it.’ Recalling the 11-day boat ride and how they survived on little food and water, he said, ‘The last five or six days, I had only a small amount of water in a glass per day. I remember that I’d put my tongue out and I could scratch my tongue and dust would come out. My tongue was so dry, the dust would come off my tongue.’ The boat was intercepted by the Indonesian Navy, and following its landing on an island, Thach and his family were transported and held in a refugee camp in Tanjun Pinang, the capital city of the Indonesian province of the Riau Islands. During the day he’d ‘swim in the sea, go back home to the tent, which was very hot, study English and play music with a group of people.’

After six months, the Ly family was granted a visa for passage to Australia. They arrived in Sydney on 21 June 1979. Thach was 17, and since then he has called Australia home. ‘Life in Australia was unbelievable—so quiet and peaceful and completely different. It was heaven on earth.’

When the family first arrived, they stayed in a hostel and were supported by a local church community. They would offer supplies and necessities for the newly arrived refugees, and also helped them to find accommodation and work. At the time, Thach felt ‘too shy’ to go back to high school to continue his studies. Though he’d been ‘top of the class in Vietnam’, he felt his ‘English was so bad’. ‘I was 17, 18 years old, and I didn’t want to put myself through that,’ he said.

There are a number of people that Thach ‘feels indebted to’ from that church community for the kindness and generosity shown towards ‘the Vietnamese refugees’, but none more so than Mr Charles Spurgeon Boyall, an elderly Christian man who visited Thach and his sister each week to teach English. He was also to be the teacher of one of Thach’s greatest lessons in life—but he wasn’t to realise this until 40 years later!

Mr Boyall drove to Dee Why, a suburb in North Sydney, where Thach was living with his older sister and her family. ‘He was very old—close to 90—and each week he’d drive to us to do the lesson,’ explained Thach.

‘Sometimes he’d bring a bagful of utensils donated by church people, or some money, or a whole plate of food for us or sometimes a piece of cake made by his wife. ‘He would come on his walking stick; he would sit down, and he would have his typed-up lessons on thin paper. Each was a short lesson with an essay of maybe 100 or 200 words, and he would go through it and read it and then get us to read a few words and he’d explain the meaning. There were, perhaps, a total of 20–25 lessons in all. (continues.....next page).....

I can still picture Mr Boyall in my mind, and I remember that I would say something to him, and I'd have to repeat it three, four or five times. Why? Not just because my English was so bad—it was terrible—but because he couldn't hear well; he had a hearing aid! Imagine watching the conversation between us, an old man teaching a young refugee.'

After two years in Sydney, Thach moved to Melbourne where one of his older brothers was living. He enrolled in a 10-week intensive English course, which provided the skills and confidence he needed to enrol in a four-



year Bachelor of Electrical Engineering course at the then Footscray Institute of Technology. Thach kept in contact with Mr Boyall during the first two years of university, with the two of them exchanging letters regularly. Thach would hand write the letters, which Mr Boyall sent back, corrected. Mr Boyall also sent typed letters, which Thach has kept all of these years. Following university, however, Thach completely lost contact with Mr Boyall. After his studies, he was employed by Telstra and worked there for 20 years, embarking on a busy and successful career as an engineer and product manager. In the meantime, he married and had two sons.

Deciding that 'corporate life' wasn't for him anymore, Thach decided to follow his heart to become a teacher, something he'd be 'happy to do for free', and studied for a Diploma of Education at the University of Melbourne. He commenced his role as a teacher in information technology, engineering, physics and maths at St Alban's Secondary School in 2004. He has been there ever since.

'For 20 years I was having the "ride of my life" in the corporate world, and then I became a teacher and realised just how much I love this. It's like I have returned to myself,' he said. Now 60 years old, Thach said his career change had provided 'the opportunity to slow down and take time to reflect' on his life. 'I recently started going through old stuff at home and I found all of the letters between Mr Boyall and myself,' he said.'

(Melbourne Catholic Magazine).

PLENARY COUNCIL – CONTINUING THE JOURNEY

The last twelve or so months of our Plenary Council Journey has required many unplanned changes due to the impact of COVID-19 and the restrictions which do not allow people to gather. With the publication of the Plenary Council agenda, we can however reflect and pray with the sixteen questions that form the agenda. With this in mind, we extend to people in the diocese an invitation, another opportunity, to engage in the process and to listen deeply to the voice of the Spirit. **PLEASE SEE ATTACHED HANDOUT. Please feel free to complete this individually or after lockdown as part of a small group depending on COVID restrictions.** It can be printed out, then emailed or posted back in or you can just send answers via email to pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au. Any submissions will be forwarded to the Diocesan Members to the Plenary Council.

As we are not able to gather as a community at this time due to COVID restrictions, this opportunity to respond may be a way for you to spend some quiet time in reflection, thinking about the agenda of the Council and the future of the Church, on your life and prayer life. It may be of comfort to know that others from your faith community may be reflecting on this at a similar time.

Q1. You are invited to share briefly the impact of COVID-19 on your life and your faith life.

Q2. What has changed for you in relation to the Plenary Council since COVID-19?

Q3. Any further comment you would like to share?



TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY - YEAR B 26TH SEPTEMBER 2021

OPENING PRAYER: *Lord God, help us to focus on Jesus and let us remember that true greatness comes from being able to put others first just like Jesus did.*

PENITENTIAL ACT:

Lord Jesus, you are the help of the poor. **Lord, have mercy.**

You save us from our sinfulness. **Christ, have mercy.**

You give us your Spirit. **Lord, have mercy**

GOSPEL: *A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark (9:38-41)*

The disciple John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw a man using your name to force demons out of people. But he was not one of us and we told him to stop."

Jesus said to his disciples: "Don't stop him! No one who works miracles in my name will soon turn and say something bad about me. Anyone who is not against us is for us. And anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name, just because you belong to me, will surely be rewarded."

The gospel of the Lord. All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION AND TIME OF SHARING:

I wonder what the disciples meant by "he was not one of us"...

I wonder how Jesus was feeling when he heard what the disciples said...

I wonder how Jesus knew that people would turn and say something bad about him...

I wonder what kind of reward Jesus is talking about...

I wonder how it feels to be a friend of Jesus...

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL:

Let us now spend some time in prayer asking God to listen to our needs.

1 We pray for Pope Francis, Bishop Paul, all Church and world leaders. That they will aspire to be welcoming of all people. **Lord, hear us.** All: Lord, hear our prayer

2 We pray on this Migrants and Refugees Sunday for all who have left their homelands, that they will summon us to affirm our common humanity. **Lord, hear us.** All: Lord, hear our prayer

3. We pray for all participants in the upcoming Plenary Council, that they will have the freedom to listen faithfully and speak out boldly. **Lord, hear us.** All: Lord, hear our prayer

4. We pray for those members of our Church, that each person will know that they are loved by Jesus. **Lord, hear us.** All: Lord, hear our prayer

5. We continue to pray for those people and families who may feel lost or alone that they may find comfort and healing through Jesus. **Lord, hear us.** All: Lord, hear our prayer

We pray for older persons in our families and communities, that this week's day of honour (1 October) will lead to deeper appreciation of their gifts and dignity. **Lord, hear us.** All: Lord, hear our prayer

Closing prayer: We lift up our hearts and the prayers of our community. We make these prayers through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER ... *"Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come;"*

Better to Light Candles

by Merle Shain

It is better to light candles
than to curse the darkness.

It is better to plant seeds
than to accuse the earth.

The world needs all of our power
and love and energy,
and each of us has something that we
can give.

The trick is to find it and use it,
to find it and give it away.

So there will always be more.

We can be lights for each other,
and through each other's
illumination

we will see the way.

Each of us is a seed,
a silent promise,

and it is always spring.

*"Let us see how through our Baptism:
We can be that 'light.'*

*'Receive the light of Christ. This light has
been given to you to be kept burning
brightly. You have been enlightened by
Christ. Keep the flame of Christ alive in
your heart....' (Baptismal Rite).*