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 Secretary Hrs: Mon - Fri 8.30am-12.30pm

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.

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time – 10th October 2021–Year B

Responsorial Psalm:

Fill us with your love, o Lord, and we will sing for joy.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
 Happy the poor in spirit:
 the kingdom of heave is theirs!
 Alleluia!

This Week's Readings

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wisdom 7:7-11, Hebrews 4:12-13, Mark 10:17-30

Next Week's Readings

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 53:10-11, Hebrews 4:14-16, Mark 10:35-45

Deaths: Jean McGeary, Patricia McCarter (Nee McGrath), Marcia Glynn.

Anniversaries: Antonino LoRicco, David Kirkpatrick, Rod Collins, Ray Russell, Claire Hando, Alice Burke, John Lourey, Sr. Rose Pekin, S.G.S.,

MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

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|-----------|---------|-----------|
| 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 |
| Sunday | | |

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."



As the Pope's international mission agency, we respond to the call to love God and to love our neighbour by forming individuals and communities as missionary disciples of Jesus who share their faith in action and through prayer. We share in God's mission to reach out, give life

by sharing our personal and financial resources to: - proclaim the Gospel, - serve people in need, - act for peace, justice and creation; In partnership with local churches, so that all may have life in Christ. Support of Catholic Mission ensures the Church can grow in even the most remote areas. Your support of this Catholic Mission Church Appeal will help continue vital Church-run mission programs around the world. Thank you for partnering with us today.

Mass online: 'Bishop Paul Bird'

St Patricks Cathedral Ballarat Sunday 10.30 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

ENJOY CHRIST CHURCH BIRREGURRA - OPEN GARDENS

Four of Birregurra's Finest Gardens

Saturday October 30th & Sunday October 31st

10am - 4pm Ticket Sales and Covid QR Check-in at Christ Church Hall. *\$25 for all four gardens plus refreshments or *\$7 per garden +refreshments \$5

Refreshments and Plant Stall in Christ Church Grounds

We welcome to our Parish this weekend through the Sacrament of Baptism: St Peter's Birregurra.

1. Benjamin O'Brien & 2. Isa O'Brien.

"The Church gives the faith to your children through Baptism and you have the task to make it grow..."

- Pope Francis.

- **Diocesan Levies Paid this Month:** (Quarter: July Aug Sept).
- **1. Parish Account** Diocesan Administration: \$ 7,003.00
- BCSF Appeal \$ 905.00
- **Total: \$ 7,908.00**
- **2. Presbytery Account** **Total \$ 4,601.00**

Mehrdad (Francis) our **"Hairdresser"** Iranian Friend will be available for Haircuts'. Women / Men & Children: Next Sunday 17th Oct. From 12 noon – Living in Geelong. No Work for 3 Months: (At the Presbytery).

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

TWENTY-EIGHT SUNDAY - YEAR B - 10TH OCTOBER 2021

This Sunday's scripture readings it invites us to consider what gets in the way of us responding to the call and challenge of discipleship. Family, power, prestige, can all be barriers in our pathway following the risen Jesus.

Click on this: [Link to readings. to view on website.](#)

PENITENTIAL ACT: Lord Jesus, you teach us how to have treasure in heaven. **Lord, have mercy.**

You call us to follow you. **Christ, have mercy.**

You draw us into the kingdom of God. **Lord, have mercy.**

GOSPEL: A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK. (10:17-27)

As Jesus was walking down a road, a man ran up to him. He knelt down, and asked, "Good teacher, what can I do to have eternal life?" Jesus replied, "Why do you call me good? Only God is good. You know the commandments. 'Do not murder. Be faithful in marriage. Do not steal. Do not tell lies about others. Do not cheat. Respect your father and mother.'" The man answered, "Teacher, I have obeyed all these commandments since I was a young man." Jesus looked closely at the man. He liked him and said, "There's one thing you still need to do. Go sell everything you own. Give your money to the poor, and you will have riches in heaven. Then come with me." When the man heard Jesus say this, he went away gloomy and sad because he was very rich. Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "It's hard for rich people to get into God's kingdom!" The disciples were shocked to hear this. So Jesus told them again, "It's terribly hard to get into God's kingdom! In fact, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to get into God's kingdom."

The Gospel of the Lord. *Pause All:* Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

REFLECTION. *Today's Gospel Reading is an urgent reminder that our pathway to the Kingdom of Heaven is much easier for us if we are whole-heartedly free from anything and everything which might get in the way of our response, be that riches, be that family, be that power or prestige.*

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

1. Let us pray for Pope Francis and all the bishops and leaders of our church. **(Pause)**

May the Word of God be alive and active in their lives so that they may draw us ever closer to the God who knows and loves us. **Lord, hear us.**

2. Let us pray for leaders of nations. **(Pause)** May the wealthy nations of the world share their resources freely with those who are burdened with poverty and adversity. **Lord, hear us.**

3. Let us continue to pray about the Plenary Council the first session of which comes to a conclusion this weekend. **(Pause)**

May the deliberations of the Plenary Council this week bring about our hopes and dreams of a one, true catholic and apostolic church.

Lord, hear us.

4. Let us pray for our church in Australia, the great south land of the Holy Spirit. **(Pause)**. May we be lead into a hope-filled future that lives and displays the joy and love of the Gospel. **Lord, hear us.**

5. Let us pray with and for each other as we continue our struggle in this time of pandemic. **(Pause)** May we nurture a deep solidarity with one other and pray that the common threat may unite and not divide us. **Lord, hear us.**

6. Let us pray for those who have died and for those whose anniversary occurs at this time. **(Pause)**. We remember especially..... May they enjoy to the full the blessings of eternal life. **Lord, hear us.**

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



A Prayer for the Plenary Council

Blessed are you, God of all creation.
You have given us life and light
and all the wonders of the world.
You have sent your Son Jesus
to be our Saviour
and your Holy Spirit to be our guide.
As we prepare for the plenary council,
we ask you to come into our hearts
with your Son and Holy Spirit.
Come to us and make your home in us.
We pray for our local community,
for the people of our diocese
and for the Church throughout Australia.
May your wisdom show us the way,
for your word is a lamp for our feet
and a light for our path.
Come and fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in us the fire of your love,
that we may live by your gospel
and share your good news with all we meet.
Holy Mary, Mother of our Saviour, pray for us.
St Mary MacKillop, pray for us.

OUR DIOCESAN REPRESENTATIVES:

*Bishop Paul Bird, Fr Kevin Maloney, V.G.,
Ms Felicity Knobel, Mrs Marie Shaddock (Ouyen).*

POPE FRANCIS: REFLECTION ON PLENARY COUNCIL

Pope Francis has sent greetings and blessings from Rome as the program for the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia, the first such event in this country in 84 years.

The Plenary Council "represents a singular 'journeying together' of God's people in Australia along the paths of history towards a renewed encounter with the Risen Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit".

Pope Francis "prays that the Council may be a graced occasion for mutual listening and spiritual discernment, marked by profound Communion with the Successor of Peter".

"In this conciliar process, the Church in Australia is challenged to listen to the voice of the Spirit and to bear witness to the perennial truth of the Gospel and to develop new and creative expressions of evangelical charity,"

The Plenary Council President Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB. Acknowledged the Council's members would likely be coming with "high hopes", "great expectations", but also "conscious of the heavy responsibility we bear".

"In the mysterious ways of God's providence, it is we who have been called together to undertake this historic and grace-filled task on behalf of the whole Catholic community of our nation."

ARCHBISHOP TIMOTHY COSTELLOE SDB. PERTH, 3RD OCTOBER

The Second Vatican Council was the Church's response to a fundamental question which both the world in which we live, and the Church herself, posed to her: "Church of Christ, what do you say of yourself? Who do you understand yourself to be?" We put the same question to ourselves today as we solemnly inaugurate the Fifth Plenary Council of the Church in Australia. We do so with courage, with humility and with hope as the words of Jesus ring out today: Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you (Jn 14:27). In the midst of the raging winds and crashing waves which

sometimes threaten to overwhelm us we hear again the words of Jesus to His first disciples: "Take courage, I am with you. There is no need to be afraid" (Matt 14:27). Our response to this call will determine the extent to which we become in practice what Lumen Gentium tells us we are in principle: "a kind of sacrament, that is a sign and instrument, of communion with God and unity amongst all people" (LG 1). This is the challenge which lies ahead of us, for surely God is asking us in Australia at this time to rediscover and live more faithfully our vocation to be a Pilgrim People, brothers and sisters in a community of disciples. We are on the way – but we are not there yet. As this week we consider our life together, our pastoral care and our outreach in education, health and aged-care, our social services, our structures and governance, and many others things besides, the Lord is inviting us to reflect deeply and courageously on how we can better, as individuals and as communities of faith, be this living image of the life-giving God who, in Christ, is always seeking to be present and active in our world. He seeks to do so in and through us. As we solemnly inaugurate the first Assembly of the Plenary Council today, I want to be so bold as to say, therefore, that perhaps the most important thing God is asking of us at this time is to return the Church to Christ and return Christ to the Church. What has always been true in theory and in principle urgently needs to become true in the day-to-day experience of everyone who encounters us. We must become, even more than we are already, a community of true disciples. We must become a living icon of Christ who humbled himself, taking the form of a servant. We must learn from the One who is meek and humble of heart. We are being sent by Him just as He was sent by his Father. If we remain in Him, as branches remain part of the vine, we will bear much fruit. Maranatha – Come Lord Jesus, Veni Sancte Spiritus – Come Holy Spirit. [Full Story Link:](#)

BISHOP SHANE MACKINLAY - BENDIGO, 4TH OCTOBER

Today we come together in person and online to celebrate the Eucharist at the beginning of the first working day of the first assembly of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia. As Archbishop Tim reminded us in his homily at the Council's Opening Mass yesterday, much of our work this week needs to "done on our knees," as it were. So, we won't just pray at the beginning and end of the day, but we will establish a rhythm where we stop and pray regularly as part of the process of discernment throughout the day, including at critical times like before significant votes. Those regular pauses will remind us that in all we are doing, we are gathering as the Body of Christ, with Jesus at the centre, and animated by the Holy Spirit, as we seek to respond to the question: 'What is God asking of us in Australia at this time?' During this Plenary Council, we too are seeking to rebuild Christ's Church, responding in a very concrete way to Pope Francis' repeated call for us to become a more synodal church: a Church committed to journeying together in reciprocal listening to one another, listening to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor, and most importantly listening to the Holy Spirit; a Church which gives witness to the Christian vision of community, participation, solidarity and joint responsibility. Our Council agenda makes clear that this rebuilding is our central focus: "As children of God, disciples of Jesus Christ, and guided by the Holy Spirit, the Members of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia are called to develop concrete proposals to create a more missionary, Christ-centred Church in Australia at this time." As St Francis was called to rebuild Christ's Church, may we during this Plenary Council be inspired, encouraged and renewed by his vision and commitment, to turn again towards all our sisters and brothers, as stewards together of God's extraordinary creation. In this way, may we in this time work to "create a more missionary, Christ centred Church in Australia." [Full Story Link:](#)

ARCHBISHOP FISHER – SYDNEY, 6TH OCTOBER

Celebrating Mass for the third full day of the Council, Archbishop Fisher's homily reflected on Luke's Gospel of the day, when the disciples ask Jesus how to pray. "They knew Christ was the best of teachers," he said. "Of the 90 times people address Jesus in the Gospels, they call Him 'Teacher' in 60 of them, a title He also used for Himself. For our Plenary Council, also, Christ must be our wisdom and guide, and so: 'Lord, teach us how to pray'." Archbishop Fisher said "the first purpose of the Church is the worthy worship of God, and our Plenary Council will surely do all it can to ensure this takes place going forward". Archbishop Fisher's homily also reflected on the musings of the daughter of Karl Marx, the founder of atheistic communism, speaking to a friend after reading the Our Father. Jenny Marx spoke of how wonderful it would be if there were a God like the one spoken about in that prayer. "Well, Ms Marx," Archbishop Fisher said, "we the People of God in Australia respond, 'there is!'" She also spoke of how transformational it would be if God's children made his name holy, made his kingdom come, did his will, fed and forgave others, were fed and forgiven, and were freed from evil. "For all that to be true, we must be Australia's powerhouse of prayer," Archbishop Fisher preached. "Only through prayer can we hear, discern, converse, propose, decide. Only with such inspirations that we can make the decisions we must.

September 22, 2021

Victoria's Roadmap and Vaccination

Hello Everyone.

The state government presented "Victoria's Roadmap", indicating stages on the road that will take us through the COVID pandemic. A key principle of the roadmap is that the more people are vaccinated, the more people will be able to gather in larger groups.

This will include gatherings for worship.

For Regional Victoria, from October 26, people who are fully vaccinated will be able to gather for Mass in greater numbers. There will be a further increase in the numbers from November 5, but again, this will only be for people who can provide evidence that they are fully vaccinated. For gatherings where the vaccination status is unknown, the number will continue to be capped at 20.

This provides an extra incentive to be vaccinated. The basic reasons for vaccination are to protect our own health and the health of people around us. A further reason is so that we might gather in larger groups for liturgy and for the many other events that enrich our lives as communities.

So, I encourage everyone throughout our diocese to be vaccinated. I received my first vaccination in July and I have made my appointment for my second dose. I urge the priests and people of our parishes to be fully vaccinated as soon as possible. This will be good for our own health and the health of our families. It will also hasten the day when we will be able to come together again as local communities to praise God and share with one another in person.

*God bless you all. **Bishop Paul***

POPE SAYS VATICAN II SHAPED HIS THEOLOGY

Pope Francis said the Second Vatican Council so shaped his theological and pastoral vision that perhaps he has not been as explicit as he should have been in highlighting those ties, "In the history of Latin America in which I was immersed, first as a young Jesuit student and then in the exercise of my ministry, we breathed an ecclesial climate that enthusiastically absorbed and made its own the theological, ecclesial and spiritual intuitions of the council and inculturated and implemented them," he wrote in the preface to a new book.

"The council became the horizon of our belief, our language and our praxis, that is, it soon became our ecclesial and pastoral ecosystem," he said. "Quite simply, the council had entered into our way of being Christians and of being Church, and throughout my life, my intuitions, perceptions and spirituality were simply generated by the suggestions of the doctrine of Vatican II."

THE CHURCH MUST BE WELCOMING: POPE

Pope Francis said yesterday the Church must be open and welcoming toward others, warning that division and exclusion come from Satan.

Speaking from a window overlooking St Peter's Square, Francis said sometimes Catholics, instead of having humble and open communities, "can give the impression of being the 'top of the class' and keeping others at a distance."

"Let us ask for the grace to overcome the temptation to judge and categorise," he said, "and may God preserve us from the 'nest' mentality, that of jealously guarding ourselves in the small group of those who consider themselves good."

Pope Francis warned that sometimes there are groups of people, such as a priest and his parishioners, some pastoral workers, or movements and associations with particular charisms which close themselves off to outsiders.

"All this runs the risk of turning Christian communities into places of separation and not of communion," he stated. "The Holy Spirit does not want closedness; He wants openness, and welcoming communities where there is a place for everyone."

The Pope also spoke about yesterday's celebration of the World Day of Migrants and Refugees.

He said "it is necessary to walk together, without prejudice and without fear, placing ourselves next to those who are most vulnerable: migrants, refugees, displaced persons, victims of trafficking and the abandoned. We are called to build an increasingly inclusive world that excludes no one."