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WE ARE A CHILD SAFE PARISH.

Two common images presented to us in the Scriptures are those of shepherds and banquets. First and foremost, God shepherds his people Israel by caring for them like sheep, keeping them from danger, and preparing a banquet for them.

Many key biblical figures were originally shepherds such as the prophets Moses and Amos, patriarchs Abraham and Jacob, and it was the young shepherd, David, whom God called to be king of his people Israel. Moreover, it was this same King David who wrote today's wonderful psalm acclaiming "The Lord is my shepherd".

Unfortunately, the rulers of Israel ceased to act like shepherds turning to idolatry and resulting in all kinds of hostility among the different tribes. Eventually, this led to the annihilation of Israel by the Assyrians and the captivity of the people of Judah by the Babylonians. The prophet Micah laments that he saw "Israel scattered on the hills like sheep without a shepherd" (I Kings 22:17). Today, we hear God speaking through the prophet Jeremiah pronouncing "doom for the shepherds who allow the flock of my pasture to be destroyed and scattered" (Jer. 23:1).

Two further promises are made: God will punish the misdeeds of the unfaithful leaders who do not act like shepherds; and God will bring back the scattered flock under the guidance of new shepherds who will feed and care for them (Jer. 23:3-4). God also goes a step further announcing He will shepherd Israel by "gathering the lambs in his arms and carrying them close to his heart" (Isaiah 40:11).

It is Jesus who most perfectly enacts this prophecy of the shepherd leader through his ministry of teaching and healing, his call to discipleship and communion, sharing bread with the hungry, dining with sinners and being the "Good Shepherd (who) lays down his life for his sheep" (Jn. 10:11). So, Jesus the Good Shepherd is also "the Lamb of God" giving his very life that we may live.

Much of Jesus' ministry is expressed through parables and events that emphasise table-fellowship: God's reign is likened to a great banquet where all are invited; Jesus feeds the five-thousand through the miracle of loaves and fish, and the Prodigal Son is greeted on his return with a mighty feast. We also know that Jesus provides his disciples at the Last Supper with a ritual of remembrance and thanksgiving that we re-enact when we celebrate the Eucharist.

Pope Francis consistently speaks of Christ the Good Shepherd as the model of Christian service and leadership. In particular, he calls on priests and pastors to be "shepherds living with the smell of the sheep". We need to heed St Paul who warned Christians to overcome division and hostility, repent of sinfulness, and receive the Good News of grace and peace.

All Christians are called to be shepherds of God's mercy.

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Our Sick: Fran Evans, Pat Thornton, Hugo Reidl, Damian Brick, Peter Brick.



Anniversaries in July: : Tom Dundon. Teresa Heyden, Veronica Keegan, Michael Parsons, Emily Parsons, Edward O'Donnel, Tom Delaney, Perc Dwyer, Alice Craven, Mary Mc.Dowel, Jayne McMeel, Gaye Arnold, Louis Reinen, Peter Reinen, Bridgie Allan, Ann Dodd, Olive Savage, Margaret Savage



Recently Deceased: Noreen O' Connor, Rikki Hintum.

"Our Parish Community wishes to respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Giraiwurrung lands on which we live, work and worship Our God."

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Sunday 21st July 2024

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

First Reading:

Jeremiah 23:1-6

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

The remnant of the flock I will gather to me, and bring them back to their pastures.

'Doom for the shepherds who allow the flock of my pasture to be destroyed and scattered – it is the Lord who speaks! This, therefore, is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says about the shepherds in charge of my people: You have let my flock be scattered and go wandering and have not taken care of them. Right, I will take care of you for your misdeeds – it is the Lord who speaks! But the remnant of my flock I myself will gather from all the countries where I have dispersed them, and will bring them back to their pastures: they shall be fruitful and increase in numbers. I will raise up shepherds to look after them and pasture them; no fear, no terror for them any more; not one shall be lost – it is the Lord who speaks!

'See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will raise a virtuous Branch for David, who will reign as true king and be wise, practising honesty and integrity in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel dwell in confidence. And this is the name he will be called: The Lord-our-integrity.'

The Word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 22 R v 2

(R.) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

- The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. (R.)
- He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name.
 If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear.
 You are there with your crook and your staff, with these you give me comfort. (R.)
- You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes.
 My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. (R.)
- Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life.
 In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. (R.)

Second Reading:

Ephesians 2:13-18

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

Christ, our peace, has made us one.

In Christ Jesus, you that used to be so far from us have been brought very close, by the blood of Christ. For he is the peace between us, and has made the two into one and broken down the barrier which used to keep them



apart, actually destroying in his own person the hostility caused by the rules and decrees of the Law. This was to create one single New Man in himself out of the two of them and by restoring peace through the cross, to unite them both in a single Body and reconcile them with God. In his own person he killed the hostility. Later he came to bring the good news of peace, peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near at hand. Through him, both of us have in the one Spirit our way to come to the Father.

The Word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: (Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation)

John 10:27

Alleluia, alleluia! My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me. Alleluia!

Gospel:

Mark 6:30-34

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

They were as sheep without a shepherd.

The apostles rejoined Jesus and told him all they had done and taught. Then he said to them, 'You must come away to some lonely place all by yourselves and rest for a while'; for there were so many coming and going that the apostles had no time even to eat. So they went off in a boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But people saw them going, and many could guess where; and from every town they all hurried to the place on foot and reached it before them. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he set himself to teach them at some length.

The Gospel of the Lord...All: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.



Bishops welcome release of key Synod document

Australia's Catholic bishops have welcomed the release of the working tool for members of the Second Session of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops. The document, known in Latin as the *Instrumentum laboris*, originated from over 100 reports provided to the General Secretariat of the Synod including one submitted by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. The General Secretariat also considered reports submitted by parish priests who attended a three-day working session, which involved Australian clergy. And more than

200 comments were received from universities, associations of the faithful and other international entities. The *Instrumentum laboris* is not a magisterial document or a catechism, but a way to encourage prayer, dialogue, discernment and the "maturing of a consensus", according to an explanatory paper. It was written by a group of theologians as well as members and consultors of the XV Ordinary Council of the General Secretariat of the Synod. To read the *Instrumentum laboris*, go to the diocesan website https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/for-a-synodal-church-communion-participation-and-mission/



<u>WINTER APPEAL</u> – Dear parishioners, your conference is proud to represent Catholics in caring for the needy. To donate go to https://donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-vic . Take care to write Cobden Simpson in the Comments/Conference Name box. Thank you. Pat



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150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat - Formation



In preparation for the Diocesan Assembly in November 2024, there will be formation sessions held around the diocese with a focus on leadership and governance. In 2023, Bishop Paul asked parishes to focus on leadership in their local communities, either by forming or developing further a parish council or leadership team according to local circumstances. The Diocesan Assembly will bring together clergy, representatives of the leadership teams in parishes, schools and Catholic organisations to consider how we might develop leadership and governance in our communities in the future. The formation opportunity is for Clergy in parishes, Parish Leadership Team/Parish Councils, School Leadership Teams/School Advisory Councils, Catholic Organisations Leaders. An invitation is also extended to people who have leadership potential and who would like to participate. Leadership teams are invited to nominate others who might benefit from this experience. Dates are: Horsham - July 28 – 10.30am – 4.00pm – Ss Michael & Johns Church, Horsham; Colac – July 30 – 10.00am – 3.00pm – St Mary's Parish, Colac; Ballarat - August 4 – 10.30am – 4.00pm – Ss Peter and Paul Church, Buninyong; Ballarat – August 13 – 5.00pm – 8.30pm – Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Wendouree; Warrnambool - August 25 – 10.30am – 4.00pm – St Joseph's Church, Warrnambool.



This week we celebrate Sea Sunday, when the Church prays for all who live and work at sea. Without them, we would not have most of the items we rely on for daily living. Even during a pandemic, seafarers continue to bring into our ports products that sustain our population and economy. The Appeal today is for Stella Maris, Apostleship of the Sea, the official maritime welfare agency of the Catholic Church. It supports seafarers both practically and spiritually. To assist this Catholic ministry, please send your donations to: https://www.stellamarisaustralia.org/sea-sunday-appeal

Prayer for Sea Seafarers from Pope John Paul II

Mary, Star of the Sea, light of every ocean, guide seafarers across all dark and stormy seas that they may reach the haven of peace and light prepared in Him who calmed the sea.

As we set forth upon the oceans of the world and cross the deserts of our time, show us, O Mary, the fruit of your womb, for without your Son we are lost.

Pray that we will never fail on life's journey, that in heart and mind, work and deed, in days of turmoil and in days of calm, we will always look to Christ and say, "Who is this that even wind and sea obey him?"

Our Lady of Peace, pray for us!

Bright Star of the Sea, guide us!

Our Lady, Star of the Sea, pray for seafarers, pray for us.



Fourth World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly - Sunday, July 28, 2024

Resources are available from the diocesan website for the celebration of the Fourth World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly, to be held on Sunday, July 28, 2024 https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/world-day-for-grandparents-and-the-elderly-sunday-july-28-2024/.

Timboon 21st July 9:00 a.m. 28th July 9:00 a.m. 4th August 9:00 a.m. 2024 Mass Assembly of W&C Mass Welcome A McMeel L Tregea K Currell J McInerney R Hoffmann Leaders K Currell G Townsend Statue G Delaney G Swierczek Reader N McKinnon L McInerney P.O.F. E O'Connor T O'Connor R Hoffmann E.M.H.C. L McInerney **Bulletin** G Swierczek G Swierczek P Nicholson Slides P Nicholson P Nicholson A McMeel Assembly W&C 9:00am Closed Simpson Closed