

# ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

## Information for Special Parish Events (Baptisms, Wedding, Funerals)

Please contact Anne Beer

Phone: 5349 2168 or 0417 369 322

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Sandy 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](mailto:ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

## 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**

## OUR COMMUNITY NEWS – 15th November 2020

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

Welcome to 'Our Community News' for 15th November 2020

### Novel Coronavirus (Covid-19)

All updates are on the diocesan website "news" section [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)

### Beaufort Church Services Return

Welcome back to Beaufort Mass services. Thank you to all those who helped celebrate our return to Mass in Beaufort last Sunday, a great roll up of the maximum of 20 people.

Next Mass will be held next Sunday, 22nd November for 20 people

All the necessary preparations and procedures for a Covid Safe return will continue to be attended to ...

ie: contact details to be collected, contact surfaces sanitised, social distancing, hand sanitiser provided and the wearing of face masks. Our Covid Safe Plan will be displayed and adhered to.

A couple of reminders:

- \* Masks to be worn in the church
- \* If you are at all unwell, please do not attend
- \* People are to feel free not to come along if they prefer... (no pressure)
- \* Entry through side door & Exit through back door

### 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/>

### Recent Deaths:

Margaret Briody, Graeme Young (ex Beaufort), Wayne Jerram (Ararat), and we continue to pray for all victims of Coronavirus throughout the world.

### Funeral:

The funeral for Margaret Briody will be webcast live on Thursday 19th November 2020 at 1.30pm.

The service can be viewed from Tobin Brothers website: [www.tobinbrothers.com](http://www.tobinbrothers.com)

### **Anniversaries:**

Thelma Downing, Jo Fitzpatrick, Bill Gordon, Margaret Brady, Sonny Little, William & Evelyn Schafer, Leo & Mary Dean, Len Fay, Florence Righetti, John Dennis Byrne (Snr), Helen Vernon

### **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.

### **Prayers**

We wish Charlie Franc all the best this coming week as he approaches open heart surgery in Melbourne. Good luck Charlie - you will be in our prayers.

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:beaufort@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or for the month of November call Angela on 0439 565 468

### **Beaufort Mass Returns**

Members of the Catholic congregation of St John the Baptist Church, Beaufort, were once again able to attend Mass last Sunday. This follows suspension of liturgical services in late March this year due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Fr. Marcello Colasante was the celebrant with 20 people gathered, abiding by all current Covid-19 safety requirement. The next Mass will be celebrated on Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

Throughout the past seven months, parishioners have received a weekly email containing our Parish Community News, which has been a means of keeping our faith community in touch, updated and supported.

Mass in Beaufort is celebrated on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month, with Lay Led assemblies on the other Sundays. However, we will not be returning to Lay Led assemblies just yet, but hopefully in the near future, and parishioners will be advised of arrangement for December as soon as the information is available.



## Discernment Papers:

### **Plenary Council Update**

The journey to the Plenary Council 2020 continues. While it is in a context more different than we could have ever expected, the need to pray, discern and listen to the Holy Spirit and each other is more important than ever.

**Discernment Papers:** The six discernment papers have been released and are available to read at <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/continuing-the-journey-of-discernment/ead>.

**Visit the thematic page:** <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/themes/servant/>

**Reflections on the papers from the Ballarat Diocese:** Can be read at <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/listen-to-what-the-spirit-is-saying/>

## **Focus on the Scriptures – Gospel Reflection**

### **Trust in our God-given talents**

Different people have different abilities. A person gifted with imagination or creativity may not be good at administration or finance. Someone with a flair for 'do it yourself' around the house may not be musical. A cook who is 'at home' in the kitchen may be completely lost when it comes to anything mechanical. Someone with sporting prowess may find computers and electronics out of their league.

The rich man in today's parable was aware of his servants' abilities. Before departing on his journey, he entrusted his property to each servant *in proportion to their ability*. He only gave as much responsibility as each one could shoulder. The first two servants worked according to their ability, increasing what had been entrusted to them. But the third did not. He simply returned the one talent he had been given. Fear held him back from using his ability to work for the extra he was capable of gaining. *"I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground."*

Fear can paralyse us. It causes us to withdraw, concentrating our attention on ourselves and our security. It freezes our capacity to take risks and to face the unknown. It tempts us to conserve and to obsess about certainties. Fear can strip us of confidence and prevent us from reaching our potential.

Jesus was aware of the power that fear wielded in people's lives. When he was at the end of his public life and soon to be executed, Jesus wanted his followers to continue what he'd begun and to embrace his great commission, *"Go into the whole world and preach the Gospel to every creature."* But Jesus knew that those who would come after him would encounter many problems. Their biggest problem would be their own fear. Yet Jesus was insistent, *"Do not be afraid."*

When Peter fell on his knees saying, *"Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man,"* Jesus responded with compassion and understanding. *"Do not be afraid, from now on you will fish for people."* When fear threatened to hold Peter back, Jesus called him to let go and walk on with faith and trust. Talents are given to bear fruit, not to lie in the bank or be buried in the ground, safe and unused. It may seem prudent not to risk, but in the end God expects otherwise. *"Take the talent from him and give it to the one with ten"*. In other words, *'use it or lose it'*.

All of us have been gifted by God, each in our own way. If fear causes us to hide our God-given talents, then those around us are deprived. Jesus wants us to live our lives to the full, free from fear and always ready to share our abilities and talents for the good of all.

David J Hore CSsR

© Redemptorists 2020

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 15: 4, 5

Alleluia, alleluia! / Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; / my branches bear much fruit. / Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

Mt 25: 14-15, 19-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*Because you have been faithful over a few things, enter into the joy of the Lord.*

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out.

Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made."

## ■ The Gospel of the Lord.

*Longer form, Mt 25: 14-30.*



## A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

Reproduction of this bulletin in any form prohibited. Published with ecclesiastical approval by ST PAULS PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135. Tel 02 9394 3400 Fax 02 9394 3444. Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible, published and © 1966, by Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co, Inc. are used by permission of the publishers. Psalm text from The Psalms, A New Translation, © 1963, The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New translation of the Order of Mass from The Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Artwork by St Dorothy Woodward ISt. Layout, commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 2020. No 1851. Website: www.stpauls.com.au

# Reflections on the Gospel

## RISK TAKING FOR GOD

As we approach the end of the Church's liturgical year, the focus remains upon the second coming of the Lord. Once again, the Gospel provides a parable (the Talents) instructing us how to live in view of that expectation.

The master in the parable is pleased with the enterprising first two servants. Having realised substantial gains on the amounts entrusted to them, they are welcomed 'into the joy of their master'—that is, into the banquet of the Kingdom.

But the third servant, who simply hid his single talent in the ground, displeased his master because he didn't do what was expected, namely, trade with the money so that it would increase. He didn't even put the sum in the bank, where it would have at least accrued some interest. Paralysed by a fearful image that he has of his master (an image of God that the parable does not endorse but actually refutes), he sought security in giving back, in strict justice, the exact sum entrusted to him. This, however, was not what the master wanted. Hence the severe penalty.

The parable challenges believers not to rest content simply with not doing anything wrong so that God will not be able to find anything to punish. Such an attitude mistakes the nature of God and neglects what God really wants, which is an enterprising, even risk-taking, practice of the 'weightier matters of the law': 'justice, mercy and faith' (Matthew 23:23). The gifts God has entrusted to us, like our minds and limbs, need active exercise if they are not to atrophy and wither.

**Brendan Byrne, SJ**



# THE SAVING WORD

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

15 NOVEMBER 2020

## FIRST READING

Prov 31: 10-13, 19-20, 30-31

A reading from the book of Proverbs.

*Give her a share in what she has worked for.*

A perfect wife – who can find her? She is far beyond the price of pearls. Her husband's heart has confidence in her, from her he will derive no little profit. Advantage and not hurt she brings him all the days of her life. She is always busy with wool and with flax, she does her work with eager hands. She sets her hands to the distaff, her fingers grasp the spindle. She holds out her hand to the poor, she opens her arms to the needy. Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty; the woman who is wise is the one to praise. Give her a share in what her hands have worked for,



## SECOND READING

1 Thess 5: 1-6

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

*The day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night.*

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about 'times and seasons', since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and peaceful it is!' that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it.

But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

