

# OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

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Parish Support - If you need help with anything, please phone one of our members:  
Gail Hall: 0412 311 586 Bernadette Franc: 0427 678 830 Anne Beer: 0417 369 322

## SUNDAY – 14th February 2021

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

### *Novel coronavirus (COVID-19)*

The latest COVISAfe updates are on the diocesan website “news” section [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au).

### **Due to the current regulations – No church services can be held**

**A letter from Bishop Paul is attached regarding the current lockdown is attached**

### **RECENT DEATHS:**

Mary Cox, June Lofts

### **ANNIVERSARIES:**

Bill Alexander, John Liston, Martin Molloy,  
Lionel Buncle, Olive Allen, Graeme Tucker,  
Michael George, Andrew Pretty, Frank Duke,  
Laurel Stewart, Warren Giri, Paddy Duke,  
Bill George, Sylvia Stewart, Alan (Tige) Baulch,  
Merle Smith

### **PRAY FOR THE SICK**

Pat Byrne, Margaret MacDonald, Roger Molomby,  
Graeme Dawson, Blake Dridan, Shelagh Mulcahy  
Fr Adrian McInerney, Valda Murphy,  
Jack Carland, Margaret Brennan,  
and all those in need of prayer

### **ROSTERS**

#### ***Introduction & Readings***

Feb 21: Jim Mahony

#### ***Prayers of the Faithful***

Feb 21: Bernadette Franc

#### ***Assembly Leaders***

Feb 21: Maurice Barwick & Anne Beer

#### ***Special Minister***

Feb 21: Genevieve Johnston

#### ***Music***

Feb 21: Sue Mahony

#### ***Church Cleaning, Linen & Flowers***

Feb 21: Therese Jess & Bernadette Franc

#### ***Church Grounds***

Feb 21: John Jess & Bill Franc

#### ***Newsletter:***

February: Angela Gerrard 0439 565 468

### **MASS TIMES - Only if restrictions allow**

**Sunday 21 February (1st Sunday of Lent)**

10:00am LLA

### **Upcoming dates**

Fri 4 March 10am - World Day of Prayer – Cathedral

Sun 28 March - Palm Sunday

- *Please bring your own palm*

Mon 29 March - Mass of the Oils – Cathedral

### **Lenten Booklets**

This year there will be no Lenten meetings.

The Lenten books are currently available for individual reflection. The booklets are called Look to Jesus: 52 Daily Reflections for Lent and Easter and are \$7 each. If you would like a copy, please contact Bernadette Franc or Gail Hall

### **Praying with Pope Francis**

#### **February Universal intention**

#### **- Violence against women:**

*We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.*

### **Year of St Joseph – Monthly Reflection**

The February reflection, explores the many ways in which St Joseph was “Attentive to the Word of God” <https://catholic.org.au/yearofstjoseph>

### **Project Compassion 2021**

Each week during this Lenten season, Caritas Australia is holding Virtual Immersion via Zoom, allowing focus on prayer and reflection. Sessions are 1 hour Tuesdays & Thursdays across Australia. Register a <https://lent.caritas.org.au/virtualimmersions>

### **Prayer for the Coronavirus Pandemic**

We pray for all those who have been affected by the Coronavirus Pandemic and those who are currently suffering with the virus or the loss of a loved one. Please see attached a prayer from Pope Francis for use during the COVID 19 Coronavirus Pandemic.

Hello Everyone,

As you may have seen on the news today, in response to recent coronavirus infections, the Victorian government has introduced a 5-day lockdown for the whole state. This will come into effect at midnight tonight, Friday, February 12, and continue until midnight on Wednesday, February 17.

During these days, no public gatherings are permitted. This includes gatherings for religious ceremonies. Under the “Ceremonies and religious gatherings” heading, the government’s summary says: “No in-person gatherings permitted. Broadcast permitted.” The major gatherings affected will be the Sunday Masses that would have been celebrated this weekend and the Ash Wednesday services that would have been celebrated next Wednesday.

In relation to funerals, the government summary indicates that funerals (either indoor or outdoor) may involve no more than 10 people, plus those necessary to conduct the funeral.

For the coming five days, we will not be able to gather in our churches for Masses or other ceremonies. However, we will still be able to pray at home and there are resources available to help us in this.

I note in particular the page on our diocesan website that provides a list of links to Masses online and links to Scripture and prayer resources. There are also links to sites with ideas for family activities during lockdown. The page on our diocesan website is <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/coronavirus-the-churchs-information-and-advice-2/>

People occasionally take time out for a “retreat”, some days of quiet and reflection and prayer. With the requirement to generally stay at home, the coming days will be something of a five-day retreat for everyone in Victoria. While it will involve restrictions, I hope it can be a fruitful time with some extra moments of quiet and reflection and prayer. In this sense, we might count these days as an early start to Lent.

God bless you all.

Bishop Paul

**Paul Bird CSsR**

Bishop of the Diocese of Ballarat

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[www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*The leprosy left him and he was cured.*

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**



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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

14 FEBRUARY 2021

## COMPASSION FINDS A WAY

One of the painful learnings we have had from COVID 19 is just how difficult it is to deal with contagious diseases. In Ancient Israel they had learned that quarantining people suffering from skin diseases was necessary until they could be declared by priests ready to safely return to the community. For lepers and those who loved them, it was a brutally painful experience of fear, isolation, and rejection.

In the Gospel today a leper has heard about Jesus and in his desperation risks his life, and the health of others, by entering the city. Falling to his knees he pleads with Jesus to be healed. In his boundless compassion for the man, Jesus reaches out and touches him. In doing this Jesus takes the extraordinary step of making himself an outsider. Healed by Jesus, the man can now be declared fit to return safely to the community. His life has been returned to him and while Jesus has commanded him to be silent, he simply cannot hold it in – the good news of Jesus cannot be contained. At the end of the episode, an outsider has been brought back home and now Jesus has become an outsider himself, and that's where everyone can find him.

Not seeking our own good, but the good of others by not causing them scandal or harm was a lesson Paul was trying to teach the community of Christians in Corinth. Jesus' compassion leads him to reach out to all those in need. Paul hopes that his Christians will live their lives in the same way.

**Christopher Monaghan CP**

## FIRST READING

Lev 13: 1-2, 44-46

A reading from the book of Leviticus

*As long as he is unclean, he must live alone, outside the camp.*

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons.

'The man is leprous: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, "Unclean, unclean." As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart; he must live outside the camp.'

■ **The word of the Lord.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 31: 1-2, 5, 11. R. v. 5

**R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.**

1. Happy the man whose offence is forgiven, / whose sin is remitted. / O happy the man to whom the Lord / imputes no guilt, / in whose spirit is no guile. **R.**

2. But now I have acknowledged my sins; / my guilt I did not hide. / I said: 'I will confess / my offence to the Lord.' / And you, Lord, have forgiven / the guilt of my sin. **R.**

3. Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord, / exult, you just! / O come, ring out your joy, / all you upright of heart. **R.**



## SECOND READING

1 Cor 10: 31-11: 1

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

*Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.*

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone — to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved.

Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Lk 7: 16

**Alleluia, alleluia! / A great prophet has appeared among us; / God has visited his people. / Alleluia!**

# *Pope Francis prayer to Our Lady, Health of the Sick, to implore her protection during the Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic*

**O** Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain,  
with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

