

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Sandy Watkins: 0409 492 508
Contact: St Columbas Ballarat North: 5331 1012

Fr Marcello Colasante: 0416 194 825
Email: ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Special Parish Events (Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals) Phone: Anne Beer 0417 369 322 / 5349 2168

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 – 23rd May, 2021

Pentecost Sunday – Year B

Novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

On May 28 there will be further easing of restrictions for Victoria. These are on the diocesan website “news” section www.ballarat.catholic.org.au.

RECENT DEATHS:

We continue to remember all those who have died.

ANNIVERSARIES:

Eileen Kane, Lang Dean, Brian O’Loughlan, Luke Miller, Anne Fitzgerald, Peter Nolan, Lionel Smith & Fr Laurie Gallagher.

PRAY FOR THE SICK

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

ROSTERS

Introduction & Readings

Today: Jim Mahony

May 30: John Jess

Prayers of the Faithful

Today: Gerrard Family

May 30: Maurice Barwick

Assembly Leader

Today: Angela Gerrard & Sue Mahony

May 30: Angela Gerrard & Anne Beer

Special Minister

Today: Gail Hall

May 30: Therese Jess

Music

Today: Naomi Gerrard

May 30: Sue Mahony

Church Cleaning, Linen & Flowers

May 23 – June 13: Therese Jess & Bernadette Franc

Church Grounds

May 23 – June 13: John Jess & Bill Franc

Newsletter

May: Bernadette Franc 0427 678830

Mass Counts Annual Mass Count concludes today.

MASS TIMES –

May 30th LLA 10.00 am - The Most Holy Trinity

Daily Prayer to St Joseph:

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
In you Mary placed her trust.

Blessed Joseph, to us too,
Show yourself a father
And guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage.

Plenary Council Prayer Campaign:

People across the country are invited to participate in the “Fan the Flame” prayer campaign leading up to the first assembly of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia. The assembly starts on October 3. Campaign materials include resources for personal and communal prayer, reflections, musical suggestions and multimedia content. Find the resources at www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fanthefflame/

Prayer for Volunteers

We pray for all those who volunteer in our parishes. May we value the many talents and gifts that God has given to these people. We thank them for generously offering their time to parish ministries. For all these gifts, given out of your love, we thank you, God of all goodness. Amen.

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Get vaccinated for the common good – from the Diocese.

Catholics in Australia are encouraged to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

WHY DO WE CELEBRATE PENTECOST?

At Pentecost we commemorate the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles as tongues of fire. The name 'Pentecost' originally referred to the Jewish Feast of Weeks which fell fifty days after the Passover. This feast celebrated the first fruits of the harvest offered to God and also the giving of the Law to Moses. The early Church gave it Christian significance, rejoicing in the 'first fruits' and the 'new law' heralded by Christ's resurrection. Today we celebrate Pentecost as the conclusion of the Easter season, fifty days after Easter Sunday. Conscious of the missionary zeal which galvanised the apostles as a united body, we often think of Pentecost as the birth of the Church.

You cannot belong to Christ Jesus unless you crucify all self-indulgent passions and desires.

Since the Spirit is our life, let us be directed by the Spirit.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! / Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful / and kindle in them the fire of your love. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL Jn 15: 26-27; 16: 12-15

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The Spirit of truth will guide you into all the truth.

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘When the Advocate comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who issues from the Father, he will be my witness.

And you too will be witnesses, because you have been with me from the outset.

I still have many things to say to you but they would be too much for you now.

But when the Spirit of truth comes he will lead you to the complete truth, since he will not be speaking as from himself but will say only what he has learnt; and he will tell you of the things to come.

He will glorify me,

since all he tells you will be taken from what is mine.

Everything the Father has is mine; that is why I said:

All he tells you will be taken from what is mine.’

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

PENTECOST SUNDAY / B

23 MAY 2021

THE EMPOWERING SPIRIT

If last week spoke of the transition between the time of Jesus’ ministry and the time of the Church, then the feast of Pentecost gives us the opportunity to recognise that we have also been empowered for mission. It is a reminder that we are not alone and that the Spirit is with us to help us by giving us the means to confront the challenges before us. While there is a sense of transition there is a sense of continuity as well. The Gospel for today shows Jesus’ taking great pains to prepare the disciples for the time of the Spirit that will come after his departure. On one level there is loss, and yet they are assured that what the Spirit will bring will be in harmony with what the Father had already entrusted to Jesus, and what Jesus had given them.

A great deal of Paul’s energy was taken up with guiding fledgling communities as they learned to give voice, in their daily lives, to the experience of the Spirit. It is an experience that must lead to the bearing of very concrete and tangible fruits; fruits that ripen when we leave behind self-centredness and turn to our brothers and sisters in love. For Paul the gift of the Spirit is not only God’s gift to us, it also contains a dimension of responsibility. In a sense, the invitation and challenge of Pentecost are always whether we can learn to speak in the language of love, a love that goes beyond oneself and reaches out to the other.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Acts 2: 1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak different languages.

When Pentecost day came round, the apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. ‘Surely’ they said ‘all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome – Jews and proselytes alike – Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.’

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESP PSALM Ps 103: 1, 24, 29-31, 34. R. v. 30

R. Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth. (or Alleluia!)

1. Bless the Lord, my soul! / Lord God, how great you are! / How many are your works, O Lord! / The earth is full of your riches. **R.**

2. You take back your spirit, they die, / returning to the dust from which they came. / You send forth your spirit, they are created; / and you renew the face of the earth. **R.**



3. May the glory of the Lord last for ever! / May the Lord rejoice in his works! / May my thoughts be pleasing to him. / I find my joy in the Lord. **R.**

SECOND READING

Gal 5: 16-25

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Galatians

The fruit of the Spirit.

If you are guided by the Spirit you will be in no danger of yielding to self-indulgence, since self-indulgence is the opposite of the Spirit, the Spirit is totally against such a thing, and it is precisely because the two are so opposed that you do not always carry out your good intentions. If you are led by the Spirit, no law can touch you. When self-indulgence is at work the results are obvious: fornication, gross indecency and sexual irresponsibility; idolatry and sorcery; feuds and wrangling, jealousy, bad temper and quarrels; disagreements, factions, envy; drunkenness, orgies and similar things. I warn you now, as I warned you before: those who behave like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. What the Spirit brings is very different: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness and self-control. There can be no law against things like that, of course.

Media Release

The Hon Martin Foley MP
Minister for Health
Minister for Ambulance Services
Minister for Equality



Friday, 7 May 2021

RESTRICTIONS EASE FOR MORE VICTORIAN BUSINESSES

Density quotients of one person per two square metres will soon be lifted for small-to-medium sized venues across the state – but Victorians need to keep playing their part to help us stay safe and stay open by checking in using the Victorian Government QR Code Service through the Service Victoria app.

From 28 May, these venues can have up to 200 people per space (such as a dining room or band room) without any density limit, provided COVID marshals are on site ensuring all patrons are checking in to each space. These changes will apply for spaces that are 400 sqm or below, larger spaces still need to observe density limits.

This means Victoria's live music venues, restaurants, bars and nightclubs, will be able to welcome more patrons in a COVIDSafe way. It's also an important step for places of worship, with people able to register their details and gather in greater numbers within spaces smaller than 400 square metres.

From 28 May, all venues and businesses required to undertake electronic record keeping must use the Victorian Government QR Code Service through the Service Victoria app. This is convenient for Victorians and gives contact tracers access to the best data quickly.

While many Victorians are doing the right thing, public health officials remain concerned about low rates of check-ins. All Victorians are encouraged to download the Service Victoria app to make checking in as fast and easy as possible.

A recent survey showed only 41 per cent of visitors to hospitality venues checked in every time, while 24 per cent of sites visited by Authorised Officers between 30 April and 2 May were warned or received notices due to lack of compliance with electronic record keeping.

The public health advice is clear: in order to ease density quotients at venues, compliance with electronic record keeping among businesses and Victorians has to increase. Moving to a single QR code service through the Service Victoria app will increase compliance and allow restrictions to continue to ease in line with public health advice.

The Victorian Government will communicate with third party providers who engaged with the Visitation API process and ensuring continued strong management of any check-in data held during this three-week transition and implementation period.

Density quotients will also be removed for outdoor non-seated venues such as recreation facilities, community sport, pools, tourism services and non-seated outdoor entertainment (e.g. zoos). Existing COVIDSafe requirements will still apply, supported by use of the Victorian Government QR Code Service.

Quote attributable to Minister for Health Martin Foley

"This change means checking in will be quick and easy and ensure the data is high-quality and easily available to our contract tracers, should any venue be listed as an exposure site."

Quote attributable to Minister for Government Services and Creative Industries Danny Pearson

"This is great news for many live music venues, restaurants and nightclubs who can open the doors to up to 200 people per space – but getting every Victorian to check in using the QR code service is the goal."

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