

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Sandy Watkins: 0409 492 508 Fr Marcello Colasante: 0416 194 825
Contact: St Columbas Ballarat North: 5331 1012 Email: ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Special Parish Events (Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals) Phone: Bernadette Franc 0427678830

Parish Support - *If you need help with anything, please phone one of our members:*

Gail Hall: 0412 311 586 Bernadette Franc: 0427 678 830

SUNDAY – 5th February 2023

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

RECENT DEATHS: Roger Coburn

ANNIVERSARIES: George Mulcahy, Francis Gallagher, Jean Slater, Manuel Fernandes, Janice Russell, Monica Feruglio and Mary Slater.

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Pat Byrne, Margaret MacDonald, Graeme Dawson, Blake Dridan, Shelagh Mulcahy, Fr Adrian McInerney, Graeme Trethowan, Bernie Duffy and all those in need of prayer.

ROSTER:

Introduction & Reading

Today: Bernadette Franc

Feb 12th: Sue Mahony

Prayers of the Faithful

Today: Bernadette Franc

Feb 12th: **Genevieve Johnston**

Assembly Leader

Today: Sue & Jim Mahony

Feb 19th: Sue & Jim Mahony

Special Minister

Feb 19th: Clarrie Johnston

Music

Today: Sue Mahony

Church Cleaning, Linen, Flowers

Feb 5th & 12th: Sue Mahony & Angela Gerrard

Church Grounds

Feb 5th & 12th: Jim Mahony & Tom Franc

Newsletter

February: Bernadette Franc 0427 678 830

MASS TIMES NEXT WEEK

February 12th MASS 8.30 am

Project Compassion Sunday: February 19, 2023

Bishop Paul Bird CSSR will launch Project Compassion on Sunday, February 19, 2023 during Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat.

The Mass of the Oils will take place on Monday, April 3rd, 2023 at St Patrick's Cathedral at 6.30 pm. Supper to follow in the hall.

SHROVE TUESDAY – Pancake Day

Tues 21st February at 10.30 am at St Andrew's Uniting Church.

All welcome for a cuppa, pancakes and a chat. \$5

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Prayer for Peace and Justice in Ukraine

God of peace and justice, who change the hardened heart and break the power of violence, we entrust the people of Ukraine to you. Protect them in this time of peril; let them know not death but life, not slavery but freedom. You are Father of all; we are brothers and sisters. Give us the strength to live that truth in love, choosing peace not war. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

Exploring the Word

To understand this text, it is important to place it alongside the Beatitudes that immediately precede it. In that text, the virtues to be cultivated by followers of Jesus are outlined, but the danger with taking the Beatitudes on their own is that faith can become contented peacefulness and somewhat inward-looking. To avoid this risk, Matthew follows the Beatitudes with this text, which teaches disciples about the task of Christians in the world. They have been given the gifts; they are the salt of the earth. But if they just see their blessedness and rest there, they risk becoming 'tasteless' and good only to be 'trampled underfoot'. Instead, the disciples are urged to place their light high on a hill and to let it shine for all to see. They are witnesses to God's living presence, not just for the nation of Israel but for all the world. In seeing the way that Christians live and act—their 'good works'—others will be drawn to God through their active witness to faith. Others will come to give praise to God in heaven. This is an amazing responsibility, and Jesus acknowledges that some salt may lose its taste and some lights be hidden. The challenge for Christians, new and old, is not to take the gift of faith for granted and let it become tasteless; not to keep the light confined to private moments but to allow others to see the difference faith makes so that they can know the presence and power of God.

- How is this a challenge to you?
- How can you let your faith shine forth?

A prayer for this week from the Gospel Acclamation:

*I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
the one who follows me
will have the light of life.
Alleluia!*

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
the man who follows me
will have the light of life.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 5:13-16

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

You are the light of the world.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



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 Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj. Layout, commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 2023. No 1969. Website: www.stpauls.com.au

Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

5 FEBRUARY 2023

FIRM FOUNDATIONS

When the people of Israel returned from exile it was a time of great hope and rejoicing. God's promises had proved true and their persistence in faith had been rewarded. Now was the time to rebuild and people set about re-establishing their lives, homes and businesses. During the exile, they had been united in their suffering but now there was the danger of people looking after themselves at the cost of others. Isaiah was concerned to nip this in the bud showing that the best foundation on which to rebuild was their concern for others, especially the poor and the disadvantaged. In this way, their lives would be a shining example. In the gospel, Jesus calls each of us to examine the quality of our care for our brothers and sisters. It is by means of our practical concern that we can be salt for the earth and light for our world.

Paul was concerned that the faith of some of the Corinthian Christians was not built on a firm foundation. They had been overly impressed by the quality of the preaching and rhetoric of the various preachers who had worked among them. He knew that while their response was understandable, it was nonetheless misguided. At the end of the day, he knew that rhetoric and philosophy would never build a foundation that could challenge the one built on the self-giving love of Jesus. With their eyes fixed on the crucified one, they could learn true wisdom and the meaning of love.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Isa 58:7-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Your light will shine like the dawn.

Thus says the Lord:

Share your bread with the hungry,
and shelter the homeless poor;
clothe the man you see to be naked
and turn not from your own kin.
Then your light will shine like the dawn
and your wound be quickly healed over.

Your integrity will go before you
and the glory of the Lord behind you.
Cry, and the Lord will answer;
call, and he will say, 'I am here.'

If you do away with the yoke,
the clenched fist, the wicked word,
if you give your bread to the hungry,
and relief to the oppressed,
your light will rise in the darkness,
and your shadows become like noon.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 111:4-9. R. v. 4

R. A light rises in the darkness for the upright. (or Alleluia!)

1. He is light in the darkness for the upright: / he is generous, merciful and just. / The good man takes pity and lends, / he conducts his affairs with honour. R.
2. The just man will never waver: / he will be remembered for ever. / He has no fear of evil news; / with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord. R.
3. With a steadfast heart he will not fear; / open-handed, he gives to the poor; / his justice stands firm for ever. / His head will be raised in glory. R.



SECOND READING

1 Cor 2:1-5

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

I came to you to proclaim Christ crucified.

When I came to you, brothers, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you what God had guaranteed. During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him as the crucified Christ. Far from relying on any power of my own, I came among you in great 'fear and trembling' and in my speeches and the sermons that I gave, there were none of the arguments that belong to philosophy; only a demonstration of the power of the Spirit. And I did this so that your faith should not depend on human philosophy but on the power of God.

■ The word of the Lord.