

**OUR COMMUNITY NEWS – July 12, 2020**  
**Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary time Year A**

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Sandra 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)

**Information for special parish events (Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals)**

Please contact Anne Beer on 5349 2168 or 0417 369 322

**Parish Support:**

A reminder that if anyone needs help with anything,  
to 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

**Welcome to 'Our Community News' for July 12<sup>th</sup> 2020**

**POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER FOR  
PROTECTION FROM CORONAVIRUS**

*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.*

*Note: Today's Community News email has 2 other attachments: copy of 'The Saving Word' and a flyer advertising the Australian Catholic Men's Gathering.*

**THANK YOU** – I had a lovely phone call from Pat Byrne through the week to say how much she has appreciated receiving 'Our Community Newsletter' and 'The Saving Word' provided by Melissa Hill of Beaufort & Skipton Health Services. Every week, Melissa prints off the newsletter and The Saving Word and distributes these to Pat, Roger and Shelia who are members of our faith community and who reside at B&SHS. So a BIG THANK YOU to Melissa also!

### **RETURN TO MASSES DELAYED - A MESSAGE FROM FR MARCELLO:**

As the restrictions for people assembling remain fluid and uncertain due to COVID 19, it will be necessary to defer recommencement until at least 26th July 2020. The government has extended the limit of 20 persons until Sunday 19th July 2020, at which time a further update will be provided. Once the limit is increased to 50, we can resume the Sunday celebration on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays @ 8.30 am.

### **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/>

CAN I SUGGEST THAT THE SECOND LINK HERE WILL PROBABLY WORK BEST FOR OUR COMMUNITY?  
.... AND IT SEEMS WE MIGHT BE IN FOR A LONGER HAUL THAN WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT.

### **RECENT DEATHS:**

We continue to pray for all the victims to Coronavirus throughout the world.

### **ANNIVERSARIES:**

**Jack Irving, John Hellwege, Joyce Doyle, Bill Jaensch, Brian Molony, Rita Lynch, Eric Dawson, Betty Bowd, Joan Windsor, Sam Azzopardi, Mark Baulch, Rose Harrison, Rhonda Crowe and Tony Purcell.**

### **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, Maria Large (Judy O'Connor's sister) and all those in need of prayer.

### **ROSTERS:**

**As Anne Beer will soon be preparing our new roster, can people give consideration to volunteering for any roles that may interest them? Anne's mobile number is 0417 369 322 or email:- [bigmac09@bigpond.com](mailto:bigmac09@bigpond.com)**

If any parishioners wish to contribute anything at all for inclusion in the newsletter, it will be greatly appreciated. This is a great way to keep our little community in touch. Just simply put your contribution in an email.

July: **Bernadette Franc** Phone: 0427678830 Email: [bernadette.franc.m@gmail.com](mailto:bernadette.franc.m@gmail.com)

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

We continue to distribute information regarding the coronavirus as it received. All updates are also on the diocesan website "news" section" [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) The last update I have was on June 21<sup>st</sup>, which was circulated at the time.

### ***St Vincent de Paul Society Winter Appeal***

As a result of the coronavirus many people have found themselves in the position of having a job one day, and being unemployed the next. This will lead to an increasing number of people reaching out to Vinnies for help for the very first time. Therefore, this year's appeal will focus on addressing the needs of Victorians who have been impacted by COVID-19. Now more than ever, the funds raised during this appeal are critical in ensuring that Vinnies can continue to be there for people when they need us most. You can donate to our appeal via: online at [vinnies.org.au](http://vinnies.org.au) or by phone 13 18 12. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible

## [Australian Catholic Men's Gathering](#)

See attached flyer. This is a revised online program available from August 15. Go to:-  
[www.catholicmensgathering.com.au](http://www.catholicmensgathering.com.au)

## [Plenary Council Update](#)

[The journey to the Plenary Council 2020 continues. While it's 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 be read. The National Plenary Facilitation Team will soon release resources to assist parishes and communities to explore each of the papers. Here in the diocese, we will endeavour to look at one paper for a month. For the month of July (you can start in June, of course), we will look at **HOW IS GOD CALLING US TO BE A CHRIST-CENTRED CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA THAT IS Missionary & Evangelising?** *'Mission' is God's initiative and proceeds from the Trinity, whose love overflows in creation and redemption. The Word and Spirit are present and active in the unfolding of the universe and in all human history, as evidenced in the goodness and truth found in all cultures and societies. The incarnate Son of God through his life, ministry, death and resurrection revealed God to us and redeemed us in a unique and unsurpassable way through his paschal sacrifice. His evangelising activity gave birth to the Church which is the visible manifestation of the Gospel command to "Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations" (Mt 28:19).* Have a read of the discernment paper, think about your parish and the diocese in general. We welcome any comments. Please send through to [jane.collins@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:jane.collins@ballarat.catholic.org.au). Read the discernment paper Visit the Missionary and Evangelising theme's page.

## [Social Media Guide for Parishes](#)

The Australian Catholic Media Council has launched a resource encouraging parishes to embrace Pope Francis' invitation to share the Gospel story as the Church in Australia - in person or online. The guide can be downloaded from the diocesan website [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au).

## [ST VINCENT PALLOTTI SCHOLARSHIP TRUST](#)

Scholarships are offered to enable lay people to further their understanding and skills in leadership/ministry or a specialised activity, such as promoting faith enhancement, social justice and pastoral care. More information and applications forms are available at <https://pallottine.org.au/scholarships/st-vincent-pallotti-scholarship-for-lay-ministry.html>. Closing Date : July 31, 2020.

## [EXPLORING THE WORD](#)

This parable would have had a great appeal to the rural population living on the fertile land around the Sea of Galilee. There, the gentle undulating hills are green and verdant, in sharp contrast to the desert wilderness of the southern part of the province of Judea around Jerusalem. In the longer version of today's gospel, Jesus explains the meaning of the parable of the sower. The different soils represent different human responses to hearing the word of God. The message is that, despite some failures, the sower's work ultimately succeeds. Not everyone is open to receiving the word and acting on it, but there is encouragement for those who allow the word to take root and bear fruit.

## MAKING CONNECTIONS

What are the rocks and thorns in our world that may cause the word of God to choke and wither? In the modern world, what are the things that make it difficult for the word of God to take root and flourish? How can believers 'cultivate their soil' to help the seed of faith grow?

- Try to be 'rich soil' this week, not just for the word of God but also for those around you. Listen attentively to your family and work colleagues. Try to discern what God is saying to you in the events of everyday life.
- Say this prayer each day:  
Lord, may the seed of your word fall into deep soil in me.  
May it not return to you without yielding its fruit in me.

## SHARING THE TRADITION – some thoughts about the Liturgy of the Word and the relevance of this for our RCIA participants....

The two major parts of the liturgy are known as the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. These are framed by an introductory and a concluding rite. The Liturgy of the Word consists of readings from both the Hebrew Scriptures, sometimes called the Old Testament, and the Christian Scriptures, sometimes called the New Testament. The Hebrew Scriptures tell the story of God's calling of the people of Israel as his chosen people and details God's relationship with Israel through its long history. God makes a covenant with them, but with the covenant comes the obligation for the people to be faithful and to live justly. The Christian Scriptures contain four accounts of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus (the gospels), an account of the establishment of the early church (the Acts of the Apostles), some letters of the early church and a book of visions (Revelation). This final book is a particular form of literature (apocalyptic) widely known in the first century BC and first century AD but badly misunderstood in the modern age. The church reads the 'Word of God' constantly so that members of every generation come to appreciate God's actions in history, know Jesus and reflect on the work of God in their own lives. The Scriptures are the presence of the living God among us and a rich source for our own prayer lives. ***The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is based on learning about and journeying to God through the Word.***

## SYMBOLS AND IMAGE

Jesus uses the image of the seed to help his followers understand something about the word of God. **First**, it is alive and active and capable of growth and productivity. **Second**, it requires us to be open to receive it and we must not allow it to be crowded out of our lives by other concerns or stolen away by those indifferent or hostile to Christ. **Finally**, we must cultivate the soil of our lives so that the seed can take root and bear rich fruits.

THANK YOU TO ALL THE FOLK WHO HAVE GIVEN POSITIVE FEEDBACK ABOUT OUR NEWSLETTER  
DURING THIS PERIOD OF RESTRICTIONS.





You will listen and listen again, but not understand,  
see and see again, but not perceive.  
For the heart of this nation has grown coarse,  
their ears are dull of hearing,  
and they have shut their eyes,  
for fear they should see with their eyes,  
hear with their ears,  
understand with their heart,  
and be converted  
and be healed by me.

‘But happy are your eyes because they see,  
your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly,  
many prophets and holy men longed to see what  
you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear,  
and never heard it.

‘You, therefore, are to hear the parable of  
the sower. When anyone hears the word of  
the kingdom without understanding, the evil  
one comes and carries off what was sown in his  
heart: this is the man who received the seed on  
the edge of the path. The one who received it  
on patches of rock is the man who hears the  
word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he  
has no root in him, he does not last; let some  
trial come, or some persecution on account of  
the word, and he falls away at once. The one  
who received the seed in thorns is the man who  
hears the word, but the worries of this world  
and the lure of riches choke the word and so he  
produces nothing. And the one who received the  
seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word  
and understands it; he is the one who yields a  
harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now  
sixty, now thirty.’

### ■ The Gospel of the Lord.

*Shorter form 13:1-9.*

#### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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### AGAINST BEING DISCOURAGED

Adopting the shorter form of today’s Gospel, let us concentrate on the riches contained in the parable of the Sower taken simply by itself.

Jesus probably told the parable to counter discouragement among his disciples stemming from the poor response his message was receiving from many quarters.

So, taking a familiar image from agricultural practice of his day, Jesus pointed to the very casual way in which those going out to sow a crop scattered the seed about. By no means all of it landed in good soil. Quite a bit could land in the three situations – on the path, on rocky ground, among thorns – resulting in the loss described.

Isn’t this all rather wasteful? Not at all! The sower knows that each seed that falls on good soil will bear a yield many times in excess of itself: a hundredfold, sixty or thirty. This abundance so vastly outweighs the losses that he can afford to be casual and wild.

Like the sower, Jesus scatters his message far and wide. In the case of many who hear him the word suffers the fate of the seed that is lost. But when it really strikes home and finds a welcome, the corresponding ‘yield’ – hundredfold, sixty, thirty – more than compensates for all the loss.

In the face of opposition and indifference, Jesus does not lose confidence. When the word finds a generous response in the human heart, there is no limit to the riches of God’s love and grace that can be channeled through such persons into the world.

**Brendan Byrne, SJ**

### FIRST READING

Isa 55:10-11

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

*The rain makes the earth give growth.*

Thus says the Lord: ‘As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.’

### ■ The word of the Lord.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 64:10-14. R. Lk. 8:8

**R. The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.**

1. You care for the earth, give it water, / you fill it with riches. / Your river in heaven brims over / to provide its grain. **R.**

2. And thus you provide for the earth; / you drench its furrows, / you level it, soften it with showers, / you bless its growth. **R.**

3. You crown the year with your goodness. / Abundance flows in your steps, / in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. **R.**

4. The hills are girded with joy, / the meadows covered with flocks, / the valleys are decked with wheat. / They shout for joy, yes, they sing. **R.**

### SECOND READING

Rom 8:18-23

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans**

*All creation is waiting for the revelation of the children of God.*

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory

as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

### ■ The word of the Lord.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia! / The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; / all who come to him will live for ever. / Alleluia!**

### GOSPEL

Mt 13:1-23

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.**

*A sower went out to sow.*

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, ‘Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!’

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, ‘Why do you talk to them in parables?’ ‘Because’ he replied ‘the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but for anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled:



A GATHERING OF MEN CALLED BY THE AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS.

# Brothers, what must we do?

**2020 Catholic Men's Gathering**

**FREE REGISTRATION from 29th June**  
**REVISED ONLINE PROGRAM available from**  
**15th August**

Go to [www.catholicmensgathering.com.au](http://www.catholicmensgathering.com.au)

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MENS  
GATHERING**

