

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 – MARCH 10th, 2024
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR B

DEATHS:

Samantha Murphy

ANNIVERSARIES:

Adam Milenkovic, Harold George, Joe Lamb,
Susanne Briody, Pat Gustus, John D’Arcy,
Patricia McMahon, Norm Daniels, Jobez Sterry,
Veronica McNamara, Jack Carland, Ray Larkens,
James Hynes, Phyllis Sertori, and Yolanda Pereira.

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Pat Byrne, Blake Dridan, Shelagh Mulcahy, Fr Adrian
McInerney, Graeme Trethowan, tony Collins and Jim
Mahony and all those in need of prayer.

ROSTER:

Introduction & Reading

Today: Angela Gerrard
March 17: Bernadette Franc

Prayers of the Faithful

Today: Carita Clancy
March 17: Angela Gerrard

Assembly Leaders

March 17: Genevieve & Clarrie Johnston
March 31: Angela Gerrard & Carita Clancy

Special Minister

March 17: Gail Hall
March 31: Clarrie Johnston

Music

Sue Mahony

Church Cleaning, Linen, Flowers

March 17 & 24: Colleen Briody
March 31 & April 7: Therese Jess & B Franc

Church Grounds

March 17 & 24: Garard Briody
March 31 & April 7: Bill Franc & John Jess

Newsletter

March: Bernadette Franc 0427 678830

MASS TIMES

Next week: March 17 LLA 10:00am

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Reunion: Welcome to any Jess Family members
to Mass today.

UPCOMING DATES

Farewell to Fr Marcello: Thurs March 21 at 6.

All are welcome to share in a farewell meal for Fr
Marcello at the Beaufort Hotel. Please let Bernadette
know your availability by March 14.

**Monday March 25: Mass of the Oils & 150th
Anniversary of Ballarat Diocese at St. Patrick’s
Cathedral at 11.30 am. Volunteers needed.**

ANNIVERSARY CANDLE:

We have been provided with a special candle to
acknowledge the 150th Anniversary of the Diocese. The
logo on the candle has been prepared by a committee and
it includes the diocesan logo and a bough of a tree drawn
by Sr Anne McMillan rsm in 1985.
The words : REMEMBER, REVITALISE & HOPE reflects
various aspects of the anniversary. ***May this anniversary
year be a season of renewal for our diocese, our
community of communities from the Murray to the
sea.***

EASTER CELEBRATIONS:

We will be having a 3 pm LLA for Good Friday and our
Easter Sunday celebration will be a LLA also.
A list of roles will be placed in the porch area for you to
indicate your availability to assist.

RECENT PREIST APPOINTMENTS:

An email with these details will be forwarded in our
newsletter email.

AN URGENT PRAYER FOR PEACE by Michael McGirr

God of compassion, we turn to you with heavy hearts
as we consider the needs of your family.
Israelis and Palestinians, we are all your people,
each of us loved by You and called to live in peace
and justice.
We lament the dreadful loss of life, destruction of
property and loss of human dignity.
We are pained by so much suffering. We beg you to bring
healing to this ancient place. Help your people
find a way forward.
Enable everyone to look each other in the eye,
and embrace each other as sisters and brothers,
as they find your image in every face.
We ask that courage and grace will help create a wiser
and more gentle future, where everyone has a home.
God of wisdom, come to our aid. Amen.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! / God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, / that all who believe in him might have eternal life. / Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

Jn 3:14-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

God sent his Son into the world that we might be saved through him.

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

‘The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God’s only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.’

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT / B

10 MARCH 2024

GOD’S LOVE, GIFT AND GRACE

On this *Lactare* Sunday (so called for the first word of the liturgy is “rejoice”) we find in the Letter to the Ephesians: “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God” (2:8). To contemplate this statement is to begin to understand the generous mercy and love of God for each of us.

This reading follows 2 Chronicles that recounts the fall of Jerusalem, despite the compassion of God for the people, but then King Cyrus of Persia liberating the exiles. So as the passage begins in Ephesians we see the continuity with God, who is rich in mercy. Three times “grace” is repeated: “by grace you have been saved,” “the immeasurable riches of God’s grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus” and “for by grace you have been saved through faith.” This reiteration accentuates the love of God and invites us to know that “we are God’s work of art, created in Christ Jesus for good works.”

John’s Gospel reminds us “God so loved the world that he gave his only son so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life” (3:16). With his clear illumination of light and darkness, John affirms that “those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

How will we respond to God’s love, gift and grace?

FIRST READING

2 Chron 36: 14-16, 19-23

A reading from the second book of Chronicles.

The wrath and the mercy of the Lord are revealed in the exile and liberation of his people.

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, ‘Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.’

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: ‘Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, “The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up.”’

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 136. R. v. 6

R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

1. By the rivers of Babylon / there we sat and wept, / remembering Zion: / on the poplars that grew there / we hung our harps. **R.**



2. For it was there that they asked us, / our captors, for songs, / our oppressors, for joy. / ‘Sing to us,’ they said, / ‘one of Zion’s songs.’ **R.**

3. O how could we sing / the song of the Lord / on alien soil? / If I forget you, Jerusalem, / let my right hand wither! **R.**

4. O let my tongue / cleave to my mouth / if I remember you not, / if I prize not Jerusalem / above all my joys! **R.**

SECOND READING

Eph 2: 4-10

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.

When we were dead through sins, he brought us to life.

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God’s work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he has meant us to live it.

■ The word of the Lord.