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NEWSLETTER 25 - NOVEMBER 2021

Greetings

The end of tough restrictions with its awaking of social gatherings has certainly been a welcome relief. I have missed catching up with friends, parishioners and associates. There is certainly a feeling of joy associated with the ability to catch-up, but for many this relief seems to be mingled with some frustration and tiredness. As the end of the year draws near quickly, attention is moving towards wreaths, Christmas and plans for 2022.

Now we are catching-up on postponed lockdown activities. The entry of the double vaccination status, while a blessing, places those required to police this new status under considerable pressure. Bishop Paul Bird's letter of October 29 gives helpful pointers to parish communities on handling the new double jab reality. I wish the best of luck to all who are called into action in the next few weeks.

Since my last letter two of our retired priests have died:



- **Fr John Keane** joined the diocese after spending time with the Oblates of Mary Immaculate as a Brother. While in OMI John developed a close rapport with many of our farmers through his cattle agistment program and this repour moved him towards our diocese. After his ordination, John worked in the parishes of Ararat, Swan Hill, Warrnambool, Wycheproof, Stawell, Hopetoun and Linton. He is well remembered in the diocese.
- **Fr Denis Dennehy** was the last of many Irish priests who served in diocese over a long time. Denis' parish commitments included Ararat, Swan Hill, Maryborough, Mortlake, Charlton, Colac and Camperdown. Denis also served in the Diocese of Aitape in Papua New Guinea and the Diocese of Broome, Western Australia. Denis saw his endeavours in PNG as one of the highlights of his priestly life. He suffered a severe stroke while on a visit to Ireland nine years ago and has been in care since then. May he rest in peace.



*Copies of these bookmarks are available from the
Pastoral Ministry Office, email pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au*

The Council of Priests will meet on Tuesday, November 16, 2021. The meeting is scheduled to be held in the MacKillop and Glowrey Rooms from 1.00pm – 5.00pm. A light lunch will be served at 12.00noon. The meeting will be limited to 30 people due to COVID vaccination restrictions and so only priests who have current parish and diocesan appointments are expected to attend. The Council of Priests Executive members are Greg Tait, Matt Thomas, Jorge Jr De Chavez, John Monaghan, Bishop Paul Bird and Kevin Maloney.

The next meeting of the Pastoral Planning Panel is scheduled for Thursday, November 11. A draft of the document, *Looking Forward 2021-2025* is in circulation for response. If there are any further responses could they be in before this date.

It has been drawn to my attention that an unvaccinated Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion is taking Communion to a very senior citizen and her children are concerned. Could all parishes keep an eye out for issues like this and try to be pre-emptive where possible. I feel that more issues similar to this will emerge and it is better to be proactive rather than reactive.

Wishing you all the best.



Kevin Maloney VG

Novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

The latest information on COVID 19 and gathering restrictions are available on the diocesan [website](#).

Plenary Council

The Catholic Church in Australia has gathered for the first Assembly of the Plenary Council held since the second Vatican Council. The entire People of God in Australia began preparing for this historic moment in 2018 by listening to God and by listening to one another's stories of faith in the 'Listening and Dialogue' phase, followed by the 'Listening and Discernment' phase. The First Assembly was postponed in 2020 and gathered online from October 3 – 10, 2021.



Reports from the Plenary Council are available from the diocesan [website](#):

- Bishop Paul reflects on the journey so far.
- Fr Kevin Lenehan reflects on his experience and the Church's need for inward and outward-looking focus.

Synod of Bishops

"For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission"



Early preparation for the Synod of Bishops is underway. The Australian Bishops have their November conference this week with information and suggestions for the dioceses and parishes coming out of this meeting. The diocese will form a support group to help parishes in responding to requests from the National Coordinator, Synod of Bishops 2021-2023, Trudy Dantis. The following information was been received from Trudy:

Upon receiving numerous requests worldwide, the General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops has decided to extend the deadline for the presentation of the summaries of the consultations by the Episcopal Conferences to 15 August 2022. This means an extension of the diocesan consultation phase and a later date for preparing the diocese synthesised report.

Information regarding the Synod of Bishops will be updated on the ACBC [website](#) regularly.

Star of the Sea Parish, South West Coast

Bishop Paul Bird CSsR [decreed](#) the establishment of a new parish in the diocese, Star of the Sea, South West Coast as at October 1, 2021. The new parish covers the area of the former parishes of Dennington (est. 1965), Koroit (est. 1886), Port Fairy, (est. 1849), Warrnambool (est. 1853) and Warrnambool West (est. 1970) and includes the DOBCEL schools:

- St John's Primary School, Dennington
- St Patrick's Primary School, Koroit
- St Patrick's Primary School, Port Fairy
- St Joseph's Primary School, Warrnambool
- St Pius X Primary School, Warrnambool West
- Emmanuel College, Warrnambool

Fr John Fitzgerald, Moderator and Fr John Corrigan, Co-Pastor, will continue their service in the new parish.

Ballarat Diocesan Personnel Board Executive Summary

Meeting held Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at the Diocesan Offices via video conference.

Prayer: Led by Bishop Paul Bird CSsR.

In attendance: Bishop Paul Bird, Anne Eskdale, Fiona Murphy, Michael Myers, Frs Kevin Maloney VG, Marcello Colasante, John Fitzgerald, Andrew Hayes, Kevin Lenehan, Ed Moloney, John Monaghan.

Update on items from previous meeting:

- St Paul VI Parish, Wimmera-Mallee began on July 1, 2021.
- Star of the Sea Parish, South-West Coast will begin on October 1, 2021.
- Parishes of Mortlake and Terang: Fr Gary Jones took up his Parish Priest appointment on September 20, 2021. Fr Michael McKinnon will leave for his Peru appointment with the Missionary Society of St Columban in mid-October 2021.
- Parishes of Creswick and Daylesford interim arrangements: Fr Kevin Maloney will be attending to these parishes, with the assistance of other Ballarat based clergy.

Looking Forward planning proposals for parishes from January 2022:

- Our meeting endorsed the *Looking Forward* plan of Creswick, Daylesford and Gordon parishes working towards amalgamation and Ballarat East and Bungaree parishes similarly working towards amalgamation.
- Creswick, Daylesford and Gordon: In accordance with usual practice, Bishop Paul will seek expressions of interest for the position of Parish Priest in coming weeks with a view to an appointment being announced soon, even if not taking effect until January 2022.
- Ballarat East and Bungaree: Bishop Paul has spoken with Ballarat East Parish Priest Fr Jorge De Chavez OSJ about the possibility of him and Fr Eladio Lizada OSJ jointly serving these parishes.

- Apollo Bay Parish: In view of Fr Wally Tudor's retirement as Parish Priest of Apollo Bay at the end of this year, Bishop Paul will continue consultations about future arrangements for Apollo Bay Parish.

Placement of Matthew Restall and Bill Lowry as deacons (late 2021 and early 2022): We anticipate they will be ordained Deacons in December 2021 and then begin a combined study and parish placement of approximately six months.

Other items:

- *Looking Forward* plan of Ararat, Stawell and Beaufort Parishes amalgamation: Fr Andrew Hayes asked if consideration could be given to working towards this being put into effect from possibly mid 2022.
- Clergy Appointments: There was discussion about the most appropriate way of seeking expressions of interest and making appointments now that we have much lower clergy numbers in our diocese. It was suggested this could be an agenda item for our November 2021 Council of Priests meeting.

Date for next meeting of Personnel Board: Tuesday, November 23, 2021.

Ballarat Diocesan College of Consultors Executive Summary

Meeting held Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at the Diocesan Offices via video conference.

Prayer: Led by Bishop Paul Bird CSsR.

In attendance: Bishop Paul Bird, Frs Kevin Maloney VG, Marcello Colasante, John Fitzgerald, Andrew Hayes, Kevin Lenehan, Ed Moloney, John Monaghan.

Plenary Council , First Assembly from October 3-10, 2021: Commences with Mass videoed from Perth on Sunday, October 3. The agenda and lots of other information is on our diocesan website. Jane Collins will provide updates as this proceeds.

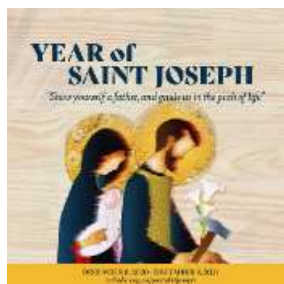
Synod on Synodality, October 17, 2021 – February 28, 2021: Bishop Paul provided us with a timeline of this Synod and our Plenary Council for pre-reading prior to our meeting. It was suggested the Synod agenda could be summarised for discussion in our parishes for feedback from parish councils and other groups.

Other items:

- Pandemic Mass restrictions: The incentive of larger gatherings for those vaccinated is likely to be a temporary measure. We have the challenge of also caring for the unvaccinated, while observing government regulations about limited numbers at gatherings. There is a meeting today between religious leaders and Victorian government representatives to clarify various points, including the question of provisions for people who are unvaccinated for medical reasons.
- World Youth Day 2023: Likely to have pandemic-reduced numbers. Information will be provided nationally then up to individual dioceses to coordinate.

Date for next College of Consultors Meeting: Tuesday, November 23, 2021.

Year of St Joseph



Each month during the year of St Joseph, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference will publish a reflection on the various aspects of St Joseph's life and character. Fr Paul Nulley is a priest of the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn and has been parish priest of St Joseph's, O'Connor since 2017. He also serves as archdiocesan vocations director and chaplain of Australian Catholic University's Canberra campus. Fr Paul reflects on, "St Joseph – A Powerful Intercessor" [here](#).

World Day of the Poor – November 14, 2021

The fifth annual World Day of the Poor has the theme *The Poor will Always Be With You*. In his message for the day, Pope Francis says, "A different approach to poverty is required. This is a challenge that governments and world institutions need to take up with a farsighted social model capable of countering the new forms of poverty that are now sweeping the world and will decisively affect coming decades. If the poor are marginalized, as if they were to blame for their condition, then the very concept of democracy is jeopardized and every social policy will prove bankrupt."



With great humility, we should confess that we are often incompetent when it comes to the poor. We talk about them in the abstract; we stop at statistics and we think we can move people's hearts by filming a documentary. Poverty, on the contrary, should motivate us to creative planning, aimed at increasing the freedom needed to live a life of fulfilment according to the abilities of each person." *Pope Francis, Message for the World Day of the Poor 2021, n 7.*

Prayer resources for the World Day of the Poor are available from the Australian Catholic Bishops Commission for Justice, Ecology and Peace [website](#).

"Amoris Laetitia Family" Year

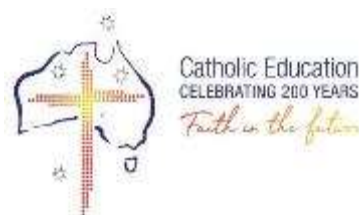


Five years after the publication of Pope Francis' post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia*, he launched the year of *Amoris Laetitia Family* on March 19, 2021 and it continues until June 26, 2022 - the day of the X World Meeting of Families in Rome.

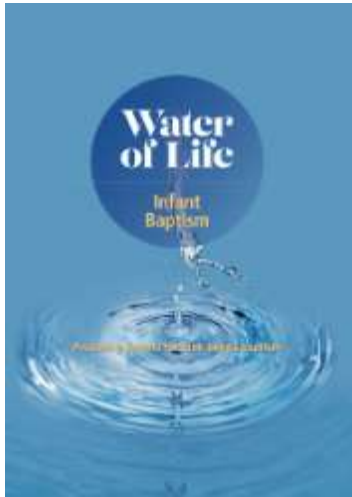
This initiative aims to reach every family around the world through several spiritual, pastoral and cultural proposals that can be implemented within parishes, dioceses, universities, ecclesial movements and family associations. More information and resources are available from the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life *Amoris Laetitia Family* [website](#)

Bicentenary Commemorative Book

From Humble Beginnings: Commemorating 200 years of Catholic education in Australia features a history of the oldest existing Catholic school in each diocese in Australia. This commemorative book is full colour and includes historical and contemporary images of the schools. It is available in paperback and hardcover versions and would make a great addition to school libraries or as a bicentenary memento. Click [here](#) to order.



Infant Baptism Booklet, "Water of Life"



This booklet is for parents/guardians preparing their baby for baptism. It has been produced by Teresa Pirola from The Story Source and includes:

- 32 attractive pages exploring the meaning of the Sacrament of Baptism, its ritual steps and symbols;
- Parent/guardian-friendly information, including home-spirituality tips;
- Easy-to-use steps for parish personnel conducting a Baptism information session;
- Customised printing with our diocesan logo and Bishop's Letter.

Booklets are \$7.00 each and available for purchase from the Pastoral Ministry Office, as per the catechetical resources for Eucharist and Confirmation. Email pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au or download the order form from the diocesan [website](#).

We Remember

Sr Anne McMillan rsm

On Wednesday, September 8, 2021 Sr Anne McMillan died peacefully at St John of God Hospital, Ballarat, aged 82 years.

Anne was born on July 15, 1939 in Mildura and completed her schooling locally and then enrolled at Sacred Heart College, Ballarat East to finish her secondary education. At this stage Anne felt the call to Religious life, but her father insisted she have some career before joining, so she trained as a Librarian and subsequently worked in Colac and Mildura before joining the Sisters of Mercy, Ballarat East in 1962 and was known as Sister M Philippa.

Anne's early ministry as a Sister of Mercy was in parish schools in Ballarat and Robinvale. Following this, Anne was well known and respected during her 35 years of service to the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat. Her most significant contribution was her involvement in Adult Education, Pastoral Planning, Liturgy and her creativity can be seen throughout the diocese. Anne worked consistently to provide the laity with the opportunity to contribute to parish life. Anne is remembered as a much loved and valued friend, colleague and mentor in the Bishop's Office. May she rest peacefully in God's care.

Tributes to Anne have been published in the diocesan [e-News](#) and the October edition of ["Our Diocesan Community"](#).

Copies of Sr Anne's bookmark are available from the Pastoral Ministry Office, email pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au



Sr Elizabeth Hennesey csb



Earlier this year on February 4, Sr Elizabeth Hennesey csb died very peacefully in Nazareth House Ballarat. Over the 11 years Elizabeth was in residence, she was very well cared for and much loved by staff and friends.

Elizabeth was born in Dublin. At the age of 18 Elizabeth and two friends left home and country at the age of 18 and travelled by ship to join the Brigidine Mission in Australia. Elizabeth was known to many as Sr Cyprian and began the first eight years of her teaching ministry in Ararat. Over the years she moved to other schools in Geelong, Rochester, Beechworth, Albert Park, Horsham and Ardeer. She was a very competent teacher and well-liked by her pupils.

Elizabeth returned to Ararat in 1987, 'retired from school' but was still very involved in parish life and visiting the sick. In 2010, Elizabeth chose to retire to Nazareth House where she had previously spent a couple of respite times. May she rest in God's loving presence.

Sr Maree Holt csb

A tribute to Sr Elizabeth has been published in the October edition of ["Our Diocesan Community"](#).

OF INTEREST



Vinnies 2021

Christmas Appeal

Give hope to struggling families this Christmas. Donations to the Christmas appeal will go towards providing food for families, assistance with utility bills and accommodation costs. Click [here](#) to donate.

Church's pastors to their people. The book is available from [St Pauls Publications](#) for \$16.95 (plus postage costs) .

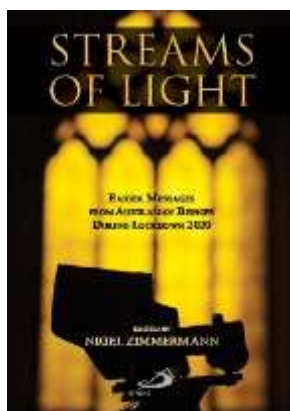


Sisters of Saint Joseph
of the Sacred Heart

***Mary MacKillop
Heritage Centre
(MMHC)***

"Streams of Light" – a collection of 2020 Easter Messages

"Streams of Light" is a collection of 2020 Easter messages from Australian bishops (including Bishop Paul) in the context of the pandemic.



This collection of homilies and pastoral letters captures the moment of strangeness, deprivation and isolation, pierced by joyful good news and the faithfulness of the

Mary MacKillop Gift Shop & Sisters of St Joseph Calendar 2021: With Christmas coming up, please consider supporting the work of the Sisters of St Joseph by purchasing a 2022 Josephite Calendar (\$8.00) and/or a present from the Museum Gift Shop (communion and confirmation gifts, devotional items, Vatican Library collection, rosary beads, holding crosses, candles, cards, statues, crucifixes, books and Peruvian handmade items).

Accommodation Specials: With Melbourne opening up again, events like the Boxing Day Test and Australian Open will be big draw

cards! Book your next stay at the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre Accommodation in the heart of Melbourne. Contact Kate, ph. 9926 9300.

COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate

The Australian Immunisation Register can post immunisation history statements for those having difficulty accessing a digital

copy (it may take up to 14 days to arrive). Phone 1800 653 809, Monday – Friday 8.30am – 5.00pm.

Officeworks are offering to downsize and laminate vaccination certificates for \$4.00. You need to provide a copy of the printed certificate.

UPCOMING EVENTS

National Centre for Pastoral Research (NCPR) marks 25 years of service to the Church



To acknowledge this significant anniversary, Bishop Michael McKenna of Bathurst, who was General Secretary in 1996 when the then Pastoral Projects Office (forerunner to the NCPR) was established, will deliver a lecture, 'How do we know what we don't know?' The lecture will look at how research and analyses undertaken by the NCPR have informed the planning for parish, school and other ministry developments, and have supported major Church initiatives, including the Plenary Council.

The lecture is hosted by ACU and will be held online on Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 5.00pm (AEDT). There is no cost to attend. Register to attend [here](#).

interested in beginning or extending their study journey. For more information and to book go to the CTC [website](#).



Youth ministry leaders invited to online consultation

Representatives of Australian Catholic youth and young adult ministries are invited to take part in a consultation to explore the establishment of a new national network.

Hosted by the Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry, in partnership with the Australian Network of Diocesan Youth Ministry Coordinators (ANDYMC), the online event will take place on Thursday, November 25, 2021 from 7.00pm – 9.00pm AEDT.

Bishops Commission Chairman Archbishop Christopher Prowse and Bishop Columba Macbeth-Green OSPPE, Bishop Delegate for Youth, will participate in the consultation, which hopes to attract representatives from youth and young adult ministries in dioceses, religious orders, ecclesial communities, universities, schools and organisations from around Australia. For more information and to register click [here](#).

Free online Open Day Information Sessions "Getting Started in Theology"



Catholic Theological College is offering online Open Day Information Sessions across November – topics will include "Getting Started in Theology", "Pastoral and Spiritual Practice" and "Mannix Library" for anyone

Advent with Mary MacKillop

The Education Team at Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre will be delivering an online Advent reflection program consisting of 4 one-hour sessions on Wednesdays November 24, December 1, 8 & 15 from 7.00pm – 8.00pm.

The sessions will be based on the Advent readings and will be combined with reflections on St Mary of the Cross. Each session will incorporate aspects of the program *Blessed*. Register [here](#).

Access to sessions will be via a Teams link provided by MMHC after registering, where participants would be able to join using a computer, tablet or smart phone. It would be much appreciated if you would consider donating \$7.50 per session or \$25.00 for the 4 sessions.

Advent: Online Learning

Our online learning partner, Dayton University, is offering two new Advent classes beginning November 28.

Advent: A Holy Waiting is designed as an e-retreat experience. Participants will find

enrichment for the season through scripture, spiritual reading and listening, group discussion, prayer, and sacred music; and *Let This Be the Time: Spiritual Essentials for Life's Second Act* explores the needs of people in their later lives: what is happening and how to maximize these times for the deepening of our spirituality. Registration is open until November 25.

More information and registration details are available from the diocesan [website](#) or email djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7121.

E Facilitative Leadership Training

Seville Mercy Conference Centre will be offering a four day program in January 'Facilitative Leadership Training Towards Sustainability'.



Session 1: Thursday, January 13 & Friday, January 14, 2022.

Session 2: Friday, February 25 & - Saturday, February 26, 2022.

More information available [here](#).

CLERGY ANNIVERSARIES

Ordination:

October 2	Gary Jones	1987	Colac
October 16	Bishop Paul Bird CSsR Episcopal Ordination	2012	Ballarat Cathedral
	Bishop Shane Mackinlay Episcopal Ordination	2019	Bendigo
November 11	John Fitzgerald	1978	Koroit
November 18	Andrew Hayes	1998	Ballarat
December 21	John McKinnon	1957	Rome
	Kevin Murphy	1957	Rome
December 29	George Kuruvila	1995	India
January 3	Shaiju Mathew	2002	India
January 23	Anthony Nagothu	2010	Guntur

Deaths:

October 2	Cornelius O'Sullivan	1991	Quin, Ireland
October 3	Michael P Gaffney	1974	Ballarat
	Bill O'Halloran	2012	Colac
October 6	Michael Conlan	1959	
October 9	Michael Sheridan	1882	Ballarat Old Cemetery
October 11	Michael F Quinn	1932	Morrisett NSW
October 12	Michael Shanley	1960	Warncoort
October 13	Thomas Carroll	1905	Ararat
October 14	Patrick Smyth	1865	Melbourne
October 15	Michael Mulcahy	1965	Terang
	Patrick King	1987	Cressy
October 18	William A Ryan	1955	Colac
October 21	Frank Monaghan	2013	Stawell
October 23	Denis DP O'Brien	1985	Mallow, Ireland
October 24	John H Gleeson	1976	Terang
	Frank McKenzie	1999	Terang
October 27	Thomas Barrett	1881	Geelong
October 31	Bishop Daniel Foley	1941	Ballarat Cathedral
	Henry Nolan	2007	Ballarat
November 2	Michael McKernan	1935	Ballarat
November 4	Edward V Ryan	1951	Hamilton
November 8	Frank Crowe	1991	Port Fairy
November 9	John Barry	1941	Watchem Church Grounds
November 13	Nicodemus Serzants	1980	Ballarat New Cemetery
November 18	James (Mick) Kehoe	1981	Ballarat New Cemetery
November 23	John J Ferris	1908	Casterton
November 25	Bishop James O'Collins	1983	St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat Crypt
November 26	Michael Barrett	1923	
	Anthony Kenny	1995	Mentone
November 28	Justin Woodford	2018	Carlton
November 30	Gerard Doyle	1931	St Arnaud
December 1	William McCunnie	1970	Terang
December 3	John McAuley	1926	Hamilton
December 5	John Martin	1997	Ballarat
December 6	Michael Shanahan	1931	Hamilton
	Martin Gleeson	1974	Clarendon
December 13	Gerald Payne	1968	Culgoa
December 15	Joseph Roger	1925	

December 16	John O'Sullivan	1888	
	Daniel Devane	1941	Terang
December 17	John Connellan	1945	Watchem
	William Close	1949	Hamilton
	Patrick O'Dowd	1976	Port Fairy
December 20	Stephen O'Rourke	1964	Ballarat
December 23	Michael Glennen	1974	Terang
December 26	Patrick Bushell	1979	Warrnambool
December 27	Timothy McCarthy	1935	Colac
December 29	Edward Glowrey	1950	St Arnaud
December 31	Paddy Culligan	1992	Ballarat
January 2	Patrick McGuire	2001	Garvoc
January 13	John D Barry	1871	
January 14	Michael Connolly	1911	
	John Kirby	1980	Ballarat
January 16	John Coughlin	1949	Horsham
	William Cain	1951	
January 19	Michael Lynch	1908	Horsham
January 26	Eugene Galligan	1959	Warrnambool
January 28	James Conway	1965	Colac
January 31	Frank Harney	2005	Garvoc