

**OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA - NAROOMA
ST MARY'S - COBARGO / BERMAGUI**
Parish Priest: Fr Joseph Tran (away till June 30)
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**ORDINARY TIME: Week 10
POPE FRANCIS:**

MONTHLY INTENTION FOR JUNE -Social Networks
That social networks may work towards that inclusiveness which respects others for their differences.

Masses	Narooma
next weekend	Tuesday 4:30pm
Saturday (Vigil)	Wednesday 9am
Cobargo: 5pm	Thursday 9am
Sunday	Friday 9am
Bermagui 7:30am	Cobargo
Narooma 9:30am	Every 2nd & 4th Wed 9:30am Comm. Service

Reconciliation: Narooma Saturday 9.30am.
Cobargo and Bermagui before Masses.

Sick: Linda Holland, Dillon Tindall, Shirley Dellamarta, Jan Jardine, Nola Sutherland, Cecilia Moore, Arthur Cotterill, Nora Thomson. Mary Ryan.

THE PLENARY COUNCIL OF 2020

Listen to what the Spirit is saying

DEVELOPMENTS: Lorraine Thompson and Phil Billington are our South Coast Deanery 'Listening Post' and contact persons. See website www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au for prayers, Council hymn/music, etc.

Breaking the seal of confession won't help children

The ACT Government's plans to expand the Reportable Conduct Scheme to include religious organisations should not ignore the concerns of the Catholic community, writes Archbishop Christopher Prowse.

The Catholic Church shares the government's concern to protect the safety of children and wishes to be a part of the solution. The draft laws are a consequence of the profound failure of the leadership of the Church and the duty of care we owe to children. It is a failure that will haunt the Church for decades, and which has haunted many survivors for even longer.

For these failures, the Church is sorry. I am sorry. At the same time, we are doing all that we can to make sure our schools and parishes are safe places and our protocols and procedures for responding immediately to

This week	NAROOMA	Next Week
Welcomer	J Voytas	K Day
Commentator	M Nugent	R Towers
Readers	K Day	F Bird
Offertory Proc.	K Day/V Wallens	F Bird/S Nash
Eucharistic Ministers	T Young/F Bird	J Voytas/P Brice
Counters	M & F Clark	T & M Young
Collectors	H Schrooten/T Short	H Schrooten/P Bird
Pilgrim Statue	J & L O'Neill	Mary Ryan
Flowers	Judy O'Neill	Therese Short
COBARGO		
Eucharistic Minister & Server	T Tarlinton	T Devoy
Reader	T Devoy	T McDonald
Offertory Procession Collectors	Tarlintons	
Cleaning		Jenny/Trish
Flowers	J O'Halloran	T McDonald
BERMAGUI		
Reader	S Harper	G Marsh
Prayers of the Faithful	J Harper	J Lazzaro
Welcoming Committee	N Scicluna	V Hummel

Collections of last week (Narooma)	
1st Collection	\$ 371.45
2nd Collection	\$ 520.00
Cobargo/Bermagui	
1st Collection	\$ 337.10
2nd collection	\$ 275.00

such issues are in place. We have heard the Australian community, including the very concerned Catholic community, we have learned, and responded on a practical level. I am, committed to continuing this important work.

I support the government's reportable conduct scheme. When the government scheme to report all child abuse allegations to the ACT Ombudsman did not include parishes and communities of faith, I called for that anomaly to be rectified and strengthened. But I cannot support the government's plan to break the seal on religious confession.

The government claimed it was interested in consultation on this crucial issue, inviting me to meet with the Attorney General to discuss the importance of both the protection of children and the seal of the confession. Yet, (now), the government is debating legislation before that meeting has taken place. It is vital we get this right. The Catholic community wants us to fix this. The reason these laws are likely to pass is not the protection of children, but the shocking history of abuse in the Catholic Church. Sadly, breaking the sacred seal of confession won't prevent abuse and it won't help our ongoing efforts to improve the safety of children in

Catholic institutions. We urge the chief minister to allow the Catholic community into this conversation to ensure we are a part of the solution.

VATICAN ON 1) SPORTS & 2) SOCIAL MEDIA

1) A new Vatican document cautions against the dangers of competitive children's sports, political and economic pressures on athletes to win "at all costs" and the unsportsmanlike behaviour of fans.

It also calls on every group or institution sponsoring sports programs to have expert-guided child protection policies in place and it urged bishops, parishes and lay Catholics to be proactive in helping "humanise" sports.

"Giving the Best of Yourself" allows sports on Sundays as a means of bringing families and communities together in joy and celebration, but only as long as such events are not used as an excuse to miss Mass. It is the first Vatican document on sport, said the prefect, Cardinal Kevin Farrell.

Pope Francis said, "Sport is a very rich source of values and virtues that help us to become better people. We need to deepen the close connection that exists between sport and life, which can enlighten one another." He recalls how he and his family cheered on his favourite soccer team when he was a boy.

The document highlights the Church's positive view of the important values inherent to sport and blew the whistle on the growing threats in the sports world, including corruption, over-commercialisation, manipulation and abuse.

It listed what it saw as four serious challenges that are the result of an obsession with success and the huge economic and political pressures put on sports and athletes: the debasement of the body, doping, corruption and the negative behaviour of spectators. People are not machines and parents, coaches and communities must avoid objectifying players, particularly with expectations they receive medals, scholarships, wealth or break records.

The Church wants to develop and promote an "apostolate for sports" that shows the its commitment to the integral wellbeing and development of the human person in sports and to directly initiate sports-related activities at the local level.

2) **SOCIAL MEDIA** The Pope's prayer intention this month is dedicated to "inclusive and respectful social networks". On Tuesday, Pope Francis released a video message to accompany his prayer intention. It has become his custom to release a video message detailing his monthly intention. In "The Pope Video" for June, Francis says: "Let us pray together that social networks may work towards that inclusiveness which respects others for their differences." *The Internet is a gift of God, but it is also a great responsibility. Communication technology, its places, its instruments have brought with it a lengthening of horizons, a widening, for so many people. It*

can offer immense possibilities for encounter and solidarity. May the digital network not be a place of alienation. May it be a concrete place, a place rich in humanity. Let us pray together that social networks may work towards that inclusiveness which respects others for their differences.

The video initiative was developed by the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network of the Apostleship of Prayer to assist in the dissemination of monthly intentions of the Holy Father in relation to the challenges facing humanity.

ON FRIENDSHIP: One of the richest experiences of grace that we can have this side of eternity is the experience of friendship. Dictionaries define 'friendship' as a relationship of mutual affection, a bond richer than mere association. They then go on to link friendship to a number of words: kindness, love, sympathy, empathy, honesty, altruism, loyalty, understanding, compassion, comfort, and (not least) trust. Friends, the dictionaries assert, enjoy each other's company, express their feelings to each other, and make mistakes without fear of judgment from the other. First, true friendship is only possible among people who are practicing virtue. Because friendship needs to bring grace and grace is only found in virtue.

Next, friendship is more than merely human, though it is wonderfully human. When it is genuine, friendship is nothing less than a participation in the flow of life and love that's inside of God. God is love, but the word Scripture uses for love in this case is the Greek word 'agape', a term which connotes "family", "community", or "the sharing of life".

"God is Love" would mean: God is family, God is community, God is shared existence, and whoever shares his or her existence inside of community and friendship is participating in the very flow of life and love that is inside the Trinity. But this isn't always true. Friendship and family can take different forms. Family and community can bring grace or block it. Our circle can be one of love and grace, or it can be a one of hatred and sin. Friendship, says St. Augustine, is "the beauty of the soul".

Deep, life-giving friendship is as difficult as it is rare. Why? We're rightly cautious as to whom we give entry into our soul. And so it isn't easy to have that kind of affinity and trust. Nor is it easy to sustain a friendship once we have found one. Sustained friendship takes hard commitment and that's not our strong point as our psyches and our world forever shift and turn. Moreover, today, virtual friendships don't always translate into real friendships. Rainer Marie Rilke suggests, "In a deep, felicitous love between two people you can eventually become the loving protectors of each other's solitude. ... If you become the loving protectors of each other's solitude, love gradually turns to friendship." *-Fr Ron Rolheiser OMI*