

NOTICES

Our Diocesan Community

The Ballarat Diocesan print publication “Our Diocesan Community” (ODC), jointly sponsored by the Diocese and the Catholic Education Office, will again be published three times during 2019. Attached is the timeline of publication. The aim of “Our Diocesan Community” is to share the good news of the many initiatives taking place in our parishes, schools and agencies around the diocese. ODC is distributed to all parishes, all staff and families of primary schools and all staff members of secondary schools of the diocese. Contributors to ODC are the people of the diocesan community. The only way we all will hear of the good things happening in the various communities is if they are written and contributed from the local level. It is helpful if we have an ODC contact person in each parish / school / agency to assist with the gathering of news and distribution of the magazine. If you are able to provide a contact person please email their contact details to odc@ballarat.catholic.org.au

We now invite your contribution to the first issue for 2019. The focus for this year will be the Plenary Council 2020. We are hoping to gather stories and examples of new initiatives and experiences in the Catholic community – schools, parishes and agencies from all around the diocese. We also invite you to share significant events that may have taken place over the last few months in your parish and school communities and agencies. We hope to have this first issue of “Our Diocesan Community” delivered in the week beginning March 25 so the latest date for submissions to this issue is Friday, February 22. Articles should be approximately 250 words maximum in length and accompanied by photos where possible. Photos should be sent as separate JPEG files (NOT inserted into a Word document). Material can be sent to odc@ballarat.catholic.org.au. A reminder that when sending in photos, permission should be sought from those in the pictures. From time-to-time, these photos will also be used in other diocesan publications.

Our Diocesan Community Distribution Numbers

Please advise the Pastoral Ministry Office if you need to change the number of ODC copies your parishes receives, odc@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7159.

Diocesan Historical Commission Membership

The Ballarat Diocesan Historical Commission is a voluntary advisory body headed by the Bishop. The Commission is responsible for assisting with the historical and heritage collection housed as part of the Diocesan Archives. Commission members support the Diocesan Archivist and meet four times a year at Ballarat. Members are interested in the history and objects relating to it, of the whole diocese from the Murray to the sea. Currently there are four vacancies on the Commission and this call is for nominations. If you have an interest in history and for the heritage/history of the church in the diocese, you are invited to submit an expression of interest. Archives, records management, collections management or library experience are not needed but may be of assistance in understanding the dynamics of the archives and historical collection. Expressions of interest can be sent to The Archivist, Catholic Diocese of Ballarat, PO Box 121, Ballarat 3353 or email archives@ballarat.catholic.org.au. *Michael Taffe, Diocesan Archivist.*

Rite of Election

The Rite of Election is an important part of the process of a person's journey to full membership in the Catholic Church community and one which is greatly appreciated by all who participate. This applies to both adults and children of catechetical age. The Rite of Election for catechumens, candidates and children of catechetical age will take place on **SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2019 at 12.30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat**. The presider will be Bishop Paul Bird CSsR. At the conclusion of the ceremony all are invited to join the Bishop in the Galilee Centre for a light lunch. A sheet containing the **Procedures for the Ceremony** is attached. Also attached is a copy of last year's ceremony for reference purposes.

For the Ceremony we require one reader for the First Reading and Welcomers to greet and hand out the booklets. If you have anyone for these ministries, please let me know as soon as possible. Also, if you have anyone who would like to join in the Music ministry, please let me know.

On a weekend close to the Rite of Election, parishes should celebrate the **Rite of Naming**. A copy of the Rite is attached.

Please complete the **RESPONSE FORM** ([click here](#)) by **Friday, February 22, 2019**.

Ministries for the Mass of the Oils: The Mass of the Oils will take place on Monday, April 15, 2019. Can you please advise me if your catechumens and candidates will be available and/or willing to participate in this Mass.

Photo permission: We seek permission from those participating in the Rite of Election and the Mass of the Oils to publish photos in the diocesan communications. Please advise the Pastoral Ministry Office if this is not suitable.

If you have any queries, please contact Julie Boyd (ph. 5337 7159) or julie.boyd@ballarat.catholic.org.au before Friday, March 1, 2019.

Parish RCIA & Liturgy Contacts

The Diocesan Liturgy Commission would like to compile a list of RCIA and Liturgy contacts in parishes in the diocese, so information and resources can be forwarded to the correct people. Please advise the name and email address of the RCIA and Liturgy contacts in your parish to julie.boyd@ballarat.catholic.org.au.

Lent Resources

Lent resources are available from the diocesan website. Click on the "Liturgy Resource" tab on front page www.ballarat.catholic.org.au.

World Day of Prayer, Reflection and Action Against Human Trafficking - time to end slavery

ACRATH, CRA and ACBC are inviting Catholics to mark St Bakhita Day on February 8, 2019 and at weekend Masses on February 9 and 10 and to join the call for a fourfold commitment to

slavery prevention, victim protection, legal prosecution of perpetrators and partnerships for change. This commitment begins with awareness raising and action to eliminate slavery in all its forms at a diocesan, parish, school, family and personal level (see notice below also for events for the Feast of St Josephine Bakhita).

ONE LICENSE New User Webinar

ONE LICENSE are holding a New User Webinar on February 8. Reporting, downloading, lists searching, and more will be discussed. The webinar will be posted to the blog soon after for those unable to join the live event.

NATSICC Acknowledgement Plaques

Since their launch in early 2018, the NATSICC Acknowledgement Plaques have proven popular with schools, parishes and Catholic organisations throughout Australia. As the first plaques endorsed for use throughout the Catholic Church by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, they are a piece of history representing the spirit of Reconciliation in Australia. The plaques are available from the NATSICC online store [here](#).

Alpha Team Training Workshop Day

Alpha team training aims to develop teams with the skills to successfully run Alpha in local parishes. It will include information on what Alpha is and how it fits into the faith formation process in a parish. Training will include small group facilitation, how to sustain small group enthusiasm and how to run the Alpha weekend/day retreat. Tips on marketing and promotion and forming an Alpha team are covered. Saturday, February 23, 2018 at Our Lady of the Nativity Parish Hall, 29 Fawkner Street, Essendon West, 9.00am – 5.00pm (parking available in adjacent shopping centre or in the Parish Carpark over the road). BYO lunch - tea and coffee provided. Attendance is free and bookings can be made [here](#). More details on the attached flyer.

BULLETIN NOTICES – DIOCESAN NEWS

Church Closures

St Joseph's Church Hawkesdale will celebrate their final Mass on Sunday, February 10, 2019 at 10.30am.

St John's Church Orford will celebrate their final Mass on Sunday, February 17, 2019 at 10.30am.

All welcome.

Hearing the voices of young people!

Please encourage young people, young adults, young parents to have their voices heard by the Plenary Council agenda preparation team. Responses to the Plenary questions can be submitted by a group or by individuals. Responses close on March 6, 2019. More

information is on the Youth and Young Adult pages of the Diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Rite of Election – Saturday, March 2, 2019

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Mass of the Oils: Monday, April 15, 2019

The Mass of the Oils will be celebrated in St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat at 6.30pm on Monday, April 15, 2019. This Mass is a celebration of the whole Church of the Diocese of Ballarat. We celebrate the unity and ministry of the ordained priests in the midst of the entire priestly people of God of the Diocese. This Mass also has special significance for those who will use the blessed oils in 2019 – the sick, those to be baptised and confirmed. All members of the diocese are invited to participate in this celebration which truly expresses the unity of the Diocesan Church. Ministries required for the Mass of the Oils include ushers, readers, oils bearers, presentation of the gifts, collection of oils, musicians and singers. For further information contact the Pastoral Ministry Office, ph. 5337 7159 or pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Joy Spreading with Bishop Paul

The next *Joy Spreading* event for young adults (18–30 yo) featuring Guest Speaker Bishop Paul Bird with Q&A, will be held on Friday, February 22, 2019 from 6.30pm-8.30pm at the Lake View Hotel Ballarat. An opportunity for young adults to share ideas and views in a friendly environment. This is a free event. Snacks and drinks provided. More info: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7125.

Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program – now open for new participants

Low-cost online study and formation for lay workers in parish and other ministries, employed or volunteers. Sacraments, scripture, social justice, youth ministry, liturgy and many other subjects available – a subject is completed in 5 weeks. Next study cycle starts March 10, contact us by February 25. More info at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or amanda.smith@ballarat.catholic.org.au ph. 5337 7125.

Catholic Man Breakfast Series

Men of all ages are invited to a Catholic Man Breakfast to be held on Thursday, February 21, 2019 at Craig's Royal Hotel in Ballarat. The Breakfast will be hosted by Bishop Paul Bird CSsR

and will feature former leading Radio Executive, Shane Healy, as guest speaker. Shane has walked a fascinating path to the top of the highly competitive radio industry in Australia and has connected with high profile performers such as Brian Taylor, Neil Mitchell and Rex Hunt. Further information from Chris Liston, ph. 0437 318 251 or email chris.listo2@gmail.com or Vincent Sully, ph. 0407 310 115 or email vcjdh.sully@gmail.com. Bookings are open on Trybooking <https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=451553>

Clemente Program

Clemente is a free educational program for local people who wish to reconnect with learning. Students are taught by staff from ACU and Federation University, and supported by staff from Centacare. Learning Partners help them in their study. Courses are in Humanities subjects, and this semester's is History. Classes of two hours are on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Ballarat Library, and a free lunch is available on both days. No prior knowledge or qualifications are required, only a willingness to learn and get involved. Contact Centacare for more information, ph. 5337 8999.

World Day of Prayer – March 1

World Day of Prayer is an inspirational, international, intercultural and interdenominational day of prayer around our planet within 24 hours on the first Friday in March annually. For 92 years Australia has enthusiastically been one of 170 participating countries, with three million Christians involved worldwide last year. Opportunities to participate in the diocese:

- Ararat: St Mary's Catholic Church, 304 Barkly Street, 10.00am – March 1
- Ballarat North: St Columba's Catholic Church, 801 Lydiard Street, 2.00pm – March 1
- Buninyong: St Peter & Paul's Catholic Church, 701 Fiskens Street, 7.00pm – March 1
- Creswick: St Augustine's Catholic Church, 115 Napier Street, 7.00pm – March 1
- Maryborough: St Augustine's Catholic Church, 56 Burke Street, 10.00am – March 1
- Lake Wendouree: Nazareth House, 218 Mill Street, 10.00am – March 14

Nazareth House Ballarat - Auxiliary Membership

Nazareth House Auxiliary would like to welcome new members. If you feel you would like to contribute in some way in supporting Nazareth House, please come and join us on the first Wednesday of each month at 1.30pm. For more information contact Margaret, ph. 0419003415 (Secretary). Everyone most welcome.

Sacred Concert with David Parkes

Irish singer, David Parkes, is a renowned international singer and witness on the great mercy of Our Lord through the intercession of Our Lady. David will be performing a Sacred Concert on Thursday, March 7, 2019 at Nazareth House Chapel, Ballarat. Holy Mass will be held at 6.30pm, followed by the Sacred Concert at 7.00pm. All welcome. Flyer attached.

Ethical purchasing of Easter Chocolate

In 2015 Pope Francis said that “every person ought to have the awareness that purchasing is always a moral – and not simply an economic – act.” Cocoa is a key ingredient of chocolate. Much of the chocolate sold in Australia is made using cocoa beans picked by children, many of whom have been enslaved or forced to work in exploitative conditions. Most of these children have never even tasted chocolate. To buy slavery - free Easter chocolate look for any of these three certification symbols on the wrapper. If you have any questions access ACRATH at <https://acrath.org.au/slaveryfree>.

BULLETIN NOTICES – OTHER NEWS

International Day of Prayer, Reflection and Action against Human Trafficking

Events for the Feast of St Josephine Bakhita, Patron Saint of modern slavery and human trafficking, will be celebrated by Archbishop Peter Comensoli on February 7, 2019 at St Patrick’s Cathedral, Melbourne with Holy Hour at 6.30pm and Vigil Mass at 7.30pm. Further Masses will be held on Sunday, February 10, 2019 at Holy Eucharist Church, 1a Oleander Drive, St Albans at 3.00pm celebrated by Fr Cyril Bozic EV and Thursday, February 17, 2019 at St Anthony's Church, 90 Buckley Street, Noble Park at 2.30pm celebrated by Archbishop Peter. All welcome. Flyers attached.

2019 Mission Inspired Leadership Program

Catholic Social Services Victoria is delighted to announce the 2019 Mission Inspired Leadership program for Leaders and Board Directors in organisations and parishes involved in Catholic social services, from March – June 2019 at St Patrick’s Centre, 486 Albert Street, East Melbourne. This professional development program of four monthly workshops facilitates informed and animated mission-related formation and dialogue, for all involved in leadership and decision-making in Catholic social services. To register interest and for further inquiries, please contact Lucia Brick at CSSV ph. 9287 5566. Flyer attached.

Mission: one heart many voices 2019 Conference in May

Mission: one heart many voices 2019 is for those who are inspired to strive creatively for justice, peace, reconciliation and God’s mission of love. As we journey together towards Plenary Council 2020, the conference is a unique opportunity to listen, converse and experience the many and diverse voices that are an expression of the one heart of mission. The conference will explore the complexity and issues surrounding leadership, formation, theology and the practice of mission. All those who are passionate about mission and in leadership roles in parishes, communities, organisations and agencies are invited to come together and join a conversation that may enable us all to live the joy of the Gospel and lead mission. [Click here](#) for conference website.

Kind regards



Julie Boyd
Pastoral Ministry Office

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[www.ballarat.catholic.org.au]www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

I work part-time on Monday – Thursday from 9.15am – 3.00pm

The Pastoral Ministry Office is open Monday – Thursday from 8.00am – 3.30pm and is closed on Friday.



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