

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Ballarat

Christmas Day (Nativity of the Lord) – 25th December



Cathedral Clergy:

Fr Ed Moloney
Fr Abraham Thomas
Fr Jim McKay

Visiting Priests:

Fr Dan Arundell
Fr Barry Ryan

Parish Admin:

Tony Beggs

Finance Officer:

Kerrie McTigue

Sacraments:

Tony Beggs

Safeguarding Officer:

Tony Beggs

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stpatscathedral.weebly.com/

<https://www.facebook.com/patricks.cathedral.9/>

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday, 10.00am – 5.00pm

The phone will be transferred to the on-call priest so that Hospitals, Aged Care facilities, Funeral Directors or others seeking the services of a priest may be responded to.

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St Patrick's Cathedral Parish acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather, the Wadawurrung People of the Kulin nation. We recognise their heritages, their cultures and their continuing connection to land and community, and we pay respects to elders past, present and emerging.

We are a child safe Parish following the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government, implementing procedures and standards as directed by the Professional Standards Office of the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat.

Readings this week: Christmas Day (Nativity of the Lord) (25th December)

First: Isaiah 52:7-10

Second: Hebrews 1:1-6

Gospel: John 1:1-18

Readings next week: Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God (1st January)

First: Numbers 6:22-27

Second: Galatians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 2:16-21



RECENT DEATHS:

Basil Torpy

ANNIVERSARIES:

Patricia Batten, Maureen Burke, Patricia Byrne, Bartholomew Cahir, Gregory Dean, Sr Joan D'Orsa, Leo Durrant, Connie Garland, Moya Hall, Annie Hand, Leslie Hearn, Kevin Jones, Eileen Kierce, Melanie Kis, Mani Kosikkal, Frank Krpic, Bramwell Le Lievre, Gerald Leonard, Francis Loughnan, Mavis Maher, Thomas Mahar, Irene McIver, Edward Monkivitch, Eileen Moody, Bob Morris, Bob Nichols, Olga Roglic, James Scanlon, Clara Scott, Rebecca Shackwell, Michael Shearer, Joan Sherritt

Share joy this Christmas with a gift that can change a life

Global Gifts are Caritas Australia's charitable Christmas cards. The funds raised from these cards go towards supporting vulnerable communities around the globe, including right here in Australia. Whether you purchase your Global Gift for a family member, friend or colleague, each gift reflects real items that will help assist the world's most vulnerable people in their fight against poverty and injustice. Gifts of Education. Gifts of Health. Gifts of Empowerment. The beauty of these Global Gifts is that they bring joy to their recipient and provide someone in need the chance to build a better future. This Christmas please consider buying a gift that changes lives. Visit www.globalgifts.org.au or call 1800 024 413 toll free to browse the range.

Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program – Online Study

The Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation is a new initiative to offer adult religious education and faith formation anytime and anywhere. This low-cost (\$50usd) online study and formation for employed or volunteer lay workers in parishes is available through our partner, Dayton University. The first Cycle for 2023 begins 9th January. There are 36 subjects to choose from – find one that interests you! Registrations are open now. More information is available on the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/pastoral-ministry/lay-pastoral-ministry-program/> or email djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7121.

56th World Day of Peace – January 1, 2023

Pope Francis' message for the 56th World Day of Peace, "No one can be saved alone. Combatting Covid-19 together, embarking together on paths of peace" is available from <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace/documents/20221208-messaggio-56giornatamondiale-pace2023.html>. Pope Francis' prayer for peace is included below in the bulletin notices. Attached are suggested Prayers of the Faithful for January 1.

Rite of Election 2023: Saturday, February 25, 2023 at 12.30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat. Lunch will follow in the Hall.

Mass of the Oils 2023: Monday, April 3, 2023 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 6.30pm. Supper will follow in the Hall.

Roll up your sleeves; make a difference overseas

Do you require professional renewal, or are you seeking a retirement challenge? Communities abroad are asking for qualified and experienced Australians able to mentor their people in education, health, administration, trades, agriculture and more. Imagine yourself re-engaging your vocational passion in Africa, Asia or the Pacific. Since 1961 Palms Australia has been recruiting Australians able to offer mentoring that will allow overseas counterparts opportunities otherwise unattainable. Sharing your skills will strengthen the capacity of workers overseas to serve their communities for generations to come, long after you return home. Communities in American Samoa, Cambodia, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Zambia are seeking to fill a variety of roles. Enquire about those roles via www.palms.org.au or by calling 02 9560 533 or 0422 472 567.

REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL- CHRISTMAS DAY

(JOHN 1:1-18)

The readings for the Christmas liturgies vary from celebration to celebration. The prologue to Matthew's gospel provides the first part of the gospel for the Christmas Vigil Mass. The first two words of the gospel (*biblos geneseōs*) evoke the first words of the Book of Genesis and thus locate the child to be born within the broad sweep of the birth of the cosmos. At the same time, the child Jesus is identified as Messiah or *Christos* (the anointed of God) and descendant of Israel's ancestors, Abraham and David. His name is symbolic of the salvation or liberation he will bring for "his people". At this time of Earth's distress, we are conscious of our need to be saved from our "sins" which include our capacity to destroy God's world for selfish gain.

The gospel for Midnight Mass (Luke 2:1-14) comes from the great story-teller, Luke, as does the gospel for the early morning Mass (Luke 2:15-20). Luke tells us that Jesus was born into the world of the Roman Empire during the reign of Caesar Augustus. In his lifetime, Augustus was acclaimed by the people as saviour of the world, son of God, and bringer of peace, albeit by violent means. Luke's communities at the end of the first century would have known the achievements and reputation of Caesar Augustus. These early Christians would have recognised in Luke's story of the birth of Jesus a very deliberate attempt to proclaim Jesus rather than Caesar Augustus as the face of God, as saviour of the world and as bringer of the good news of peace. Luke is a master storyteller. He weaves, from Israel's sacred history and from what he knows about Jesus' origins, a wonderful tapestry of life and hope for the world, a tapestry that unites the heavenly, the human, and the animal world in one great act of praise. The violence that brought the "peace" of the Caesars to the Roman Empire has no place in this scene. The peace of Christ is the deep peace of non-violence and reconciliation. It is the peace that satisfies the longing of our hearts.

On Christmas morning, we hear the words of John's prologue. Once more, Earth's genealogy in Genesis 1 is evoked: "*In the beginning* was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. The Word was *in the beginning* with God." The gospel then asserts that "all things came into being" through the Word and that "what has come into being was life and the life was the light of the people". These assertions prepare the way for the extraordinary statement that the Word was enfleshed and tented among us. John brings home to us the momentous nature of the incarnation, the deep incarnation that embraces all of God's creation.

– Veronica Lawson RSM

Bishop Paul's Christmas Message 2022

Bishop Paul's Christmas Message is available to view on the diocesan website

<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/bishop-pauls-christmas-message-2/> . A hard copy of the message is also available from this page to download.

Praying with Pope Francis

The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) is an international movement that is more than 170 years old. Each month, the Pope puts forward a prayer intention and asks Catholics around the world to join him in prayer. These intentions cover all sorts of areas of life, encouraging faith, renewing hope and calling us to loving service. Praying each month 'The Pope Video' forms part of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network – view at www.thepopevideo.org.

Pope's intention for December: For volunteer not-for-profit organisations: We pray that volunteer non-profit organisations committed to human development, find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

PARISH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Tuesday

7.00pm – Life in the Spirit
(MacKillop/Glowrey Room)

Wednesday

1.30pm Legion of Mary

PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS

Thank you for contributing to the Cathedral collections this week:

First Collection - \$2,087.10
(Presbytery - Priest support)

Second Collection - \$1,234.00

(Parish – buildings, office, admin, grounds and maintenance, including envelopes, credit cards and direct debits)

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday – 10.00am

Tuesday – 7.00am and 10.00am

Wednesday – 7.00am, 10.00am

Thursday – 7.00am, 10.00am

Friday – 12.05pm

(Reconciliation at 11.00am until midday)

Saturday – 10.00am

(Reconciliation at 10.30am until 11:30)

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 6.30pm Vigil

Sunday 8.00am, 10.30am, 5.00pm

DEVOTIONS

Monday-Saturday Morning Prayer 7.30am

Monday-Friday in recess this week

Monday/Tuesday after 10.00am Mass
Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet

Wednesday after Mass Litany to St Joseph
Holy Hour & Benediction 7.00pm – 8.00pm

Thursday after 10.00am Mass – Rosary &
Divine Mercy Devotion

Friday after 12.05pm Mass
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Silent Prayer

**changes may occur due to Funerals/Liturgical events.*

A Reminder from Bishop Paul Bird CSsR:

During this time of pandemic:

Communion should be received in the hand rather than on the tongue.

No sharing of the chalice.

Those distributing Holy Communion should use hand sanitiser prior to distribution and not touch anyone when giving a blessing, and holy water fonts should still be empty.