

St Patrick's Cathedral



Communities of Alfredton, Ballarat, Cardigan,
Lake Gardens, Lake Wendouree, Lucas, Newington

Sunday, March 29th, 2020

Fifth Sunday of Lent (A)

Parish Office hours: Monday - Friday

10.00am – 5.00pm 53 312 933

3 Lyons St Sth Ballarat

ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Bishop Paul Bird CSsR

Administrator: Fr Justin Driscoll

Visiting Priests: Fr Dan Arundell

Fr Barry Ryan

Parish Co-ordinator: Anita Houlihan

Admin Assistant: Juanita Bongiorno

Finance Officer: Kerrie McTigue

Grounds: Tony McVeigh

Safeguarding Officer: Anita Houlihan

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish acknowledges that the Aboriginal people of Australia are our first nation peoples and the traditional owners and custodians of this land.

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.

Recent Deaths: Paul Heenan, Brian Rice, Harry Strik

Anniversaries: Adele Byrne, Laurie Elliott, Sharon Kerr, Florijam Mircic, Harry Morris, Des Ryan, Greg Slater

Next week's readings for Palm Sunday of the Passion of Our Lord (A)

Isaiah 50:4-7

Philippians 2:6-11

Matthew 26:14 – 27:66

Thank you for contributing to the Cathedral collections this week

Envelopes \$323.00

Presbytery \$433.00

Planned Giving Envelopes

Due to the cancellation of Masses, should you wish to continue your Planned Giving or contributions to the First Collection, please hand your envelope into the Parish Office, or through the mail slot near the front door. New Planned Giving Envelopes commencing April 5th are available for collection from the Parish Office.

Staffing the Cathedral Parish With the impact of the COVID-19 virus being felt by all, we are considering the capacity of the Parish to continue to employ its staff and will discuss this with staff in the coming week and communicate with parishioners in the next Parish newsletter.

Updates, information, resources and links to online Masses, in light of COVID-19

- **Facebook** We now have a [Cathedral Parish Facebook page](#) so that we can stay connected to each other. Fr Justin will be celebrating Mass in the St John of God Hospital Chapel at 11.30am each day and in addition to this being televised to the patients and staff of the Hospital, it will be live streamed through the Parish Facebook Page. We have many friends already and we'd love you to join us online for Mass. Look for [Patrick's Cathedral on facebook](#).
- Updates from Bishop Paul, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and other agencies are available from the Diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au
- LiturgyHelp have provided a site for the people of the Ballarat diocese to access resources - go to the diocesan website for the links.

Delegates named for the Plenary Council

Some long-awaited lists have appeared on the website of the Australian Plenary Council. They are lists of people who will be attending the sessions of the Plenary Council in October this year and June next year. There are 267 delegates from all around Australia. A few more delegates are to be added as representatives of national church organisations.

Under the "Diocese of Ballarat" heading, there are four delegates. As well as Bishop Paul, the delegates include Fr Kevin Maloney (Vicar General of the Diocese), Felicity Knobel (from the Ballarat Cathedral Parish) and Marie Shaddock (from the Parish of Ouyen, in the north of our Diocese). In Felicity and Marie, we have delegates from the Regional City of Ballarat and from the Rural town of Ouyen. Felicity is much involved in the life of the Cathedral Parish, as well as being a teacher at Loreto College. Marie is much involved in the life of the Ouyen Parish, as well as being a member of the Diocesan Pastoral Council.

As well as the four delegates listed under the "Diocese of Ballarat" heading, there are another two delegates from our diocese.

Fr Kevin Lenehan is a delegate to the Plenary Council in view of his role as Master of Catholic Theological College in Melbourne. While he lives and works in Melbourne at the moment, Kevin is a priest of our diocese and he will bring to the Plenary Council his experience of life and ministry in our diocese as well as his experience in theological education.

Monsignor Glynn Murphy is listed as a delegate to the Plenary Council under the heading of the "Military Ordinariate". Glynn has served for many years as a chaplain in the Australian Defence Force and he will bring that experience to the Plenary Council. He also served in the Ballarat Diocese in the first years of his priestly ministry and he is among us again now as parish priest of Warracknabeal and Hopetoun.

On Wednesday 18 March 2020 the Bishops of the Province of Victoria wrote

All gatherings are suspended. The Bishops are very aware that this restriction will be particularly difficult for families who are planning liturgies such as funerals, weddings and baptisms. In light of this, all Catholics in Victoria are dispensed from their Sunday obligation until further notice (canon 1248). We encourage you to continue active participation in the life of the Church, through activities such as time in personal and family prayer, reflecting on the Scriptures, making a spiritual communion.

Participate in Mass online

<http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand> or <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass> or www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass).

Watch LIVE coverage of daily Mass celebrated by Pope Francis on Shalom World TV at shalomworld.org/dailymass

Mass for You at Home: This program has been enabling Catholics to participate in Mass from their homes for many years. Mass for You at Home is broadcast on Eleven and Network Ten on Sundays and Aurora Channel on Foxtel every day. Watch at

<http://www.mfyah.com/video.html> or <https://10play.com.au/mass-for-you-at-home>

Lenten Resources

The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne website has a number of Lenten resources for use at home. To access the website, click here [Lenten Resources](#)

Our Diocesan Community Magazine and the Diocesan E-Newsletter

Staying connected to each other in our faith communities is now more important than ever.

The latest edition of [ODC](#) and [eNews](#) are now available to read online at

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au under “News and Events”.



Fifth Sunday of Lent 29th March 2020



Tawonga is a 10-year-old girl living with a disability, and struggling with food insecurity and discrimination in Malawi. Since participating in a Caritas Australia supported program, Tawonga's life has transformed.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 to so this transformational program can continue to empower vulnerable women, men and children, and strengthen the communities around them.

Let's Go Further, Together. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

Project Compassion envelopes or boxes can be handed in to the Cathedral Parish Office during office hours, Monday -Friday, 10.00am-5.00pm

Gospel Reflection by Veronica Lawson rsm

Sunday's readings touch into the most profound of mysteries, the mysteries of life and death. To hold a new born child or to see the sick restored to health is to experience the wonder of life. On the other hand, sudden death can bring unimagined grief and pain. The news this morning (March 23) tells us that 14,641 people have died from Coronavirus over the past two months. Some have died alone. With this pandemic comes an extraordinary outpouring of grief and fear. This comes in the wake of bushfires that saw the death of some 1.25 billion animals in my country and deep sorrow at the prospect of species loss. Death brings tears, even anger. Little wonder that "life" becomes a metaphor for transformation and new beginnings or that "death" so often signifies deprivation and loss.

The gospel reading is about the death and restoration to life of Lazarus, "the one whom Jesus loved". It is the last of the seven "signs" in John's "book of signs" that reveal the "glory" of God. It is also the greatest of Jesus' signs. It functions as a catalyst for the events that lead to his death: "...from that day on they planned to put him to death" (11:53). It provides the occasion for Jesus to assert "I am the resurrection and the life" and to invite assent to that revelation of his identity. It reveals the compassion and tender heart of Jesus who weeps at the grief of Mary his friend and at the death of her brother. It also reveals the goodness in the hearts of those "Jews" who share her grief and who come to faith in Jesus who raises the dead to life.

Though the story revolves around the plight of Lazarus, Martha and Mary are the characters who, with Jesus, occupy centre stage and into whose faith journey we are invited to enter. Martha and Mary are identified as "sisters" who live in Bethany. Are they blood "sisters" or sisters in their love of Jesus and the community around him, or both? Lazarus is Mary's sick "brother". Martha will later claim him as her "brother". Might they all be part of a little faith community in Bethany rather than biological siblings? A brief notice alerts the reader to the imminent death of Jesus: "Mary is the one who anointed Jesus with perfumed oil and wiped his feet with her tears". The reader will later discover that Mary's anointing of Jesus is "for the day of [his] burial". As so often in John's gospel, misunderstanding and irony function to bring the actors in the drama, and to bring us as actors in the theatre of Christian life, to new levels of understanding and faith. Right now, in the face of a pandemic, we are called, as sisters and brothers across the globe, to play our part so that this illness may lead to greater love and even to "life".