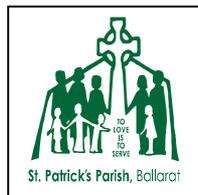


St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Ballarat



www.stpatscathedral.weebly.com

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)
Sunday 16th August, 2015



Reflection

This gospel passage continues the 'Bread of Life' discourse that we have been following through the Gospel of John for a few weeks now. It overlaps with the reading from last week with Jesus announcing that his flesh is the 'bread of life'. Not surprisingly, the Jewish audience is horrified by the idea of eating human flesh. Jesus drives his point home further with his audience by also referring to the drinking of blood. In Jewish tradition, even to touch blood made a person ritually unclean. Any meat that was to be eaten had to be drained of blood, according to kosher rules. The words used by Jesus in this passage are so confronting that they cannot possibly be taken literally. It is a complete overstatement of the image to try to make sure that a literal interpretation is impossible.

When the gospel writer has Jesus speaking about eating his flesh and drinking his blood he is drawing on a very old image of eating and drinking as representing 'absorbing'; or 'comprehending'; or 'understanding' the message of the speaker. In this ancient understanding, to 'eat the flesh' of Jesus is to take into yourself and accept everything that Jesus stands for; everything that Jesus teaches; everything that Jesus believes. It is an act of faith. When we received Christ in the Eucharist, is this the depth of significance and purpose with which we take communion? Unmistakably, this passage points us to the Christian sacrament of Eucharist. The practice of sharing Eucharist as a memorial of Jesus was already well established in the Christian communities by the time this gospel was written and throughout this extended discourse on the 'Bread of Life' the author provides a direct link between the practice of Eucharist and the teachings of Jesus.

Greg Sunter

Recent Deaths: Kathleen Delaney Maurice Martin, Maureen Elizabeth Taylor, Michael Yaworowicz

Anniversaries: John Anchen, Jozsef Balasi, Joe Cammarano, Peter Cotter, Eileen Dowling Snr, Marie & Ray Malthouse, Mollie Missin, Dick Nash, Jack Nuttall, Phonse O'Loughlin, Maureen Sandry, Johanna Skirka

Next week's readings: *Sunday 23rd August 2015* *21st Sunday of Ordinary Time (B)*
Joshua 24:1-2, 15-18 Ps 33:2-3. 16-23. R. v.9 Ephesians 5:21-32 John 6:60-69

We welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism;

Charlotte Patricia Amie Hope daughter of Craig & Peta
Edwin James Bruty son of Mark & Michelle
Xavier James Quinn son of Nicholas & Kathryn
Thomas William Gray son of Darren & Beth
Madeleine Sophie Murphy daughter of Michael & Monica



May they grow in faith in their loving families and our Catholic Community.

Parish Coordinating Team

Contacts from each of the Parish groups, organisations and ministries came together during the week as the first step in forming a Parish Coordinating Team. Attended by Jill Jeffrey (Baptism Sponsors), Sarah Kuek (Godstart post baptism support), Karia Kinnane (Playgroup), Anita Houlihan (Sacrament Team), Kay Curran (RCIA), Helen Lee (Funeral Ministry), Susan Crowe & Les Stewart (Liturgy Team), Kylea Forster (YESS Youth), Michael Hingston (Passionist Family Groups), Don Sebastian (Kerala Indian Community), Joan Bowman (Visiting Team), Sheila Wilton (Catholic Women's League), Allen Moloney (St V De Paul), Michael Dunne (Finance Committee), Jillian Hogbin (Cathedral Precinct Team), Rosa Tocchet (St Thomas More School), Mark Hogbin (St Patrick's Primary), Frs Anthony, James and Justin with an apology from Frank Stuart (New Lucas school steering committee). Cathedral Parish strengths, challenges and opportunities were identified, preparing for the Diocesan *Looking Forward* gathering to be held on Tuesday September 1st 7.00 pm at OLHC Wendouree. Next meeting will be held in October.

Visiting the Housebound

Do you have a relative or neighbour or friend who spends a good deal of time at home and would appreciate a visit from someone else besides family and friends? If you know of someone, please pass on details of name, phone number and address to Jacinta in the cathedral office. The first contact with the person will be made by phone to seek their consent.

Nazareth House Auxiliary Coffee Party

Nazareth House Hall Friday September 4th 2015 at 1.30pm admission \$5.00, Entrance Prize, Devonshire Tea, Raffle, Spinning Wheel, Produce and Fancy Goods Stall.

Cathedral Precinct

This group (Joe De Losa, Jillian Hogbin, Bethany Pennington, Frank Stuart, Jo, Leo & Patrick Styles, Deneise Walsh & Fr Justin) met this week with Les Stewart (Mercy Associates) and Sr Anne McMillan (Sisters of Mercy) to explore the Jubilee Year of Mercy with conversation on the development of a place of reflection and contemplation behind the Cathedral (Lyons St end) that will be a quiet space for the City of Ballarat which will promote healing and reconciliation. Exploration of possibilities continues – perhaps a labyrinth? Sensory garden? ... To join this conversation please contact Jacinta in the Cathedral Parish Office.

As part of the *Jubilee Year of Mercy*, commencing in December 2015, it is proposed to open a *Door of Mercy* making the Cathedral more accessible and welcoming from the Sturt St side. The gate from Sturt St into the Cathedral grounds, which at that point needs repair (asphalting needed to make safe) will be opened leading to the *Door of Mercy*. The Reconciliation Chapel will need to be relocated and made more transparent for access to the Cathedral from the *Door of Mercy*.

Building works continue on site with the redevelopment due for completion by the end of August! This will enable St Vincent de Paul to operate their Relief Centre from the front (Dawson St entrance) then the new toilets as well as the former smaller hall which will now have the capacity to be divided to form two meeting rooms. We have partnered with the Catholic Education Office in this project which will give them priority use for 65 days each year (booked the previous year). As we prepare to open these facilities, suggestions for naming of these rooms is invited. The whole facility will be the Cathedral complex, but it will be important for users and bookings to identify the different spaces. Several suggestions for room names have already been put forward which include **Lisieux** (to acknowledge the former St Therese of the Little Flower Church on Wendouree Parade) and **Glowrey** (to recognise Dr Mary Glowrey, declared a Servant of God on the path to canonisation, she was born and raised in the Ballarat Diocese, founded the Catholic Women's League, studied medicine at Melbourne Uni, entered the Sisters of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in India where she was a missionary and founding health carer). Please make your suggestions to the Cathedral Parish Office.

Laudato Si On Care for our common home, Diocesan Colloquium

Rev Dr Denis Edwards will be in Ballarat on Tuesday, August 25th to share his perspective on Pope Francis' Encyclical, *Laudato Si* at OLHC Wendouree Mercy Centre, 480A Gillies Street, Wendouree from 9.00am – 4.00pm. Local practitioners will share their experience on how the encyclical is being lived out in the local context. All from the diocese are welcome to attend. Enquiries and bookings to Sue Searls sue.searls@ballarat.catholic.org.au, 0409 401 329 or Susan Crowe scrowe@ceoballarat.catholic.edu.au, 0419 887 274. Booking is required for catering purposes. \$15.00 to cover costs for morning tea and lunch.

