

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Ballarat

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4th Sunday of Advent (C)
Sunday 20th December 2015



Gospel Reflection - Veronica Lawson RSM

The final Sunday of Advent draws us closer to the celebration of the Christmas mysteries. The gospel offers the story of the young pregnant woman, Miriam of Nazareth, travelling in haste from her home town of Nazareth to the hill country of Judea, some 130 kilometres to the south, to be with an older woman who is also pregnant, her cousin Elizabeth. Mary enters “the house of Zechariah” who remains silent and in the background throughout. While Zechariah is the householder according to Jewish law, his earlier reluctance to believe renders him silent and powerless to offer hospitality. Elizabeth’s contrasting openness to recognise and affirm the living presence of God in their midst makes her the true householder and foreshadows the reversal that is to characterise the new order. The two women embrace and, in their loving embrace, the Spirit-filled life gestating within Mary encounters and physically affects the life that is coming to birth in Elizabeth.

Elizabeth’s words resound throughout the ages in the prayer we know as the Hail Mary: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb...” These are the words of one woman prophet to another. Elizabeth recognises that Mary is blessed by God because she believed that God’s promise to her would be fulfilled. As God’s prophet, Elizabeth gives expression to the faith that is to be embraced by all those who accept that Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Miriam of Nazareth, is the Holy One of God (Luke 1:35). The lives of both women have been transformed through the power of God’s Spirit. The birth of their children will bring to birth an unprecedented event in human history.

Elizabeth’s proclamation of the blessing of God on Mary is found daily on the lips of countless faith-filled Christians across the globe. It echoes the blessing prayer of Moses to the Israelites (Deut 28: 2-4): “May you be blessed in the city and blessed in the country. Blessed is the fruit of your womb, the produce of your soil and the offspring of your livestock...” In our times, God’s blessing on the whole Earth community can only become a reality when we stop playing politics in the interests of short-term gains or personal greed, when we read the signs of the times, and work together to address the underlying causes of global warming and its effects. Advent is not a time of passive waiting. It is a time to ponder the various ways that God sustains life in its diverse forms and to become householders, like Elizabeth, who clear the paths and open our doors for the God of life to enter in.

Christmas Mass times

Christmas Eve (Thursday)

6.00 pm	Ballarat East
6.00 pm	Ballarat Nth
6.00 pm	Redan
6.00 pm	Skipton
6.00 pm	Wendouree
6.30 pm	Cathedral
7.00 pm	Buninyong
7.30 pm	Sebastopol
7.30 pm	Smythesdale
8.00 pm	Ballan
8.00 pm	Ballarat Nth
8.00 pm	Beaufort

9.00 pm Cathedral

9.00 pm	Ballarat East
9.00 pm	Redan
9.00 pm	Rokewood
9.00 pm	Snake Valley
9.00 pm	Wendouree
10.00 pm	Bungaree

12 Midnight Cathedral

Christmas Day (Friday)

8.00 am Cathedral

9.00 am	Ballarat East
9.00 am	Ballarat Nth
9.00 am	Linton
9.00 am	Redan
9.00 am	Sebastopol
9.00 am	Waubra
9.00 am	Wendouree
9.30 am	Dunnstown

10.30 am Cathedral

10.30 am	St John of God
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5.30 pm Cathedral (Syro Malabar)

Recent Deaths: Kevin Lang

Anniversaries: Con Cahill, Ronald Leslie Edgar, Ronald Mike Edgar, Eric Fay, Frank Giuliano, John Hynes, Stanislaw Lewashkewicz, Elizabeth Jane Lewis, Shirley Madden, Sr Christina Madden RSM, Joan Martin, Edna Merrick, Mary Molloy, Francis O'Bierne, Henry & Mary O'Donohue

Next week's readings: *Sunday 27th December 2015 Holy Family*
Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6, 12-14 Psalm 127:1-5. R. see v.1
Colossians 3:12-21 Luke 2:41-52

We welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism;

Harry Frederick Holtham	son of Adrian & Maryanne
Alfie Edward Sosinski	son of Klint & Jacinta
Ava Rose Brook Discher	daughter of Joshua & Megan
Gabrielle Anne Hahle	daughter of Chloe

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

Gathering Hymn –Lighting of the advent candle

" Come Lord Jesus, Come Lord Jesus. You are the way, the truth and life. Come Lord Jesus, Come Lord Jesus. You are the way, the truth and life." (copyright 1995 M.Herry fms. Marist Brothers Music Australian Agent: Word of Life. All rights reserved. Used with permission. No 97.)

OLHC Wendouree Christmas Day Lunch

You are invited to join us on Christmas Day for Lunch (no cost) 12.00 Midday -2.00 pm at OLHC Parish Hall 482 Gillies St. Wendouree. Transport provided. Bookings by 24th December (please specify an special dietary requirements) 0419 975 914

Mary MacKillop:

From Portland to the Sisters of Saint Joseph and Sainthood

Events are planned on the weekend of Saturday 30 & Sunday 31 January, 2016 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Mary MacKillop departing Portland in January 1866.

Collections Envelopes \$2,081.00 Parish Loose \$374.50
Presbytery \$2,134.80

Counters 20th December Team 4 Next week team 5

Ministries at Christmas Masses (thank you to the following who have volunteered for ministry)

6.30 pm Sacristan Kathleen Hayes, Baby Jesus Lona Green Readers Richard Hayden & Dominic Green, Prayers of the Faithful Bernadette Brouwers, Eucharistic Ministers Peter Morris, Tricia Canty, Kathleen Hayes, Carmel Bourke, Yvonne Beaston, Leaders of Song Mitch & Leonie Leviston with Joan Jeffrey

9.00 pm Sacristan Lorraine Stuart Altar Servers Joshua & Benedict, Baby Jesus Catiel, Welcomers Kay Curran Juanita Bongiorno, Readers Bill Walsh & Sr Marg Sculley, Prayers of the Faithful Joe De Losa, Procession of Gifts Youth Group Eucharistic Ministers Frances Elliott, Lyn Singleton, Bev Caligari, Joric, Tony McVeigh, Joan Bowman, Frank Stuart, Leaders of Song Youth Group, & 5.00pm Choir with Helen Lee

12 Midnight Sacristan Kathleen Hayes, Welcomer Heather Myles, Readers Beth Pennington, Sue Storey, Eucharistic Ministers Maureen Russell, Beth Pennington, Heather Myles Kathleen Hayes Leaders of Song Reginia Caeli Choir

8.00 am Sacristan Val Lange, Procession of Gifts Krysz Antosiewicz, Eucharistic Ministers Trudie Dickinson, Di Hanlon, Jo Jans, Val Lange, Michael Taffe, Leader of Song Judy Gustus

10.30 am Sacristan John Caligari, Readers Maria Peck, Susan Crowe, Eucharistic Ministers John Caligari, Beth Pennington, Kay Curran, Welcomer Carolyn Bourke, Musician Judy Houston Leader of Song 10.30 am Choir

Masses during the coming week

Monday	12.05 pm	Cathedral			
Tuesday	9.30am	Redan	12.05 pm	Cathedral	5.30 pm Loreto Sisters
Wednesday	9.30am	Sebastopol	12.05 pm	Cathedral	
Thursday	9.30am	Redan	12.05 pm	Cathedral	
Saturday	10.00 am	Cathedral			

Parish Office hours Monday - Friday 10.00 am – 5.00 pm Phone 5331 2933

ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au



Clergy Frs Justin Driscoll, James Kerr, Anthony Nagothu SDB
Parish Office Jacinta Westbrook,
Finance Officer Philip Westbrook
Family Ministry Anita Houlihan
Hospital Pastoral Care, Kaye Stringer

St Patrick's Primary Mark Hogbin, Principal
St Thomas More Alfredton Rosa Tocchet, Principal

Cathedral Parish Masses **December 26th/27th** **Snake Valley** **Beaufort** **Skipton**
6.30 pm Vigil, 8.00 am, 10.30 am, 5.00 pm 7 .30 pm Vigil 8.30am 10.30 am

Christmas Appeal 2015

Our Christmas Appeal is one way by which the diocese can respond to the many communities around the world who turn to us for assistance. Often these requests come from priests and religious who have bonds with the diocese of Ballarat. Our response is an indication of our solidarity with people in need, such as those affected by natural disasters.

I commend the Christmas Appeal to you and to your people. I am aware that there are many times throughout the year when you are invited to respond to appeals for very worthy causes, but I hope the Ballarat diocese can continue to support this particular appeal.

I thank the people of the diocese for their support of last year’s appeal. The money was distributed as follows:

Loreto-Vietnam Australia Programme (Sr. Trish Franklin IBVM)	2,000
Columban Mission Society work in Peru	8,000
Diocese of Aitape through Franciscan Missionary Union	8,000
Sisters of Nazareth in Fiji	1,000
Archdiocese of Honiara – Solomon Islands	2,000
Diocese of Tonga – Marist Missions	2,000
Diocese of Raratonga – Marist Missions	2,000
Diocese of Auki – Solomon Islands	2,000
Sr. Lourdes - East Timor	1,000
National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council	2,550
Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans	2,000
Edmund Rice Centre	2,000
Good Samaritan Centre, Kiribati	2,000
Bishops’ Appeal for Refugees in the Middle East	7,500
Exodus Community, Wendouree	2,000
	\$46,050

In anticipation I thank you for your co-operation in recommending the 2015 Christmas Appeal to the generosity of your parishioners and giving them the opportunity to make their contribution on or about Christmas Day.

With every good wish, I am

Yours sincerely in Christ,



+ Paul Bird CSsR
Bishop of Ballarat