

# St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Ballarat

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*Feast of the Holy Family (C)*  
*Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December 2015*



## **Gospel Reflection** - Veronica Lawson RSM

The time between Christmas and New Year is often family time, a good time to think about what family means. For many, it is a challenge to juggle the various family commitments. We do our best, and trust that everyone will understand the difficult choices that sometimes have to be made. It is just over two months since the Synod on the Family was brought to a close. So much has happened globally since then that we are in danger of letting this significant event pass without due reflection. The Pope's concluding words of concern for "difficult cases and wounded families" merit our attention.

For Pope Francis, the Synod was "about bearing witness to everyone that, for the Church, the Gospel continues to be a vital source of eternal newness, against all those who would 'indoctrinate' it in dead stones to be hurled at others." The pope reasserted his constant message that the Church's "first duty is not to hand down condemnations or anathemas, but to proclaim God's mercy.

Today's readings invite us to focus on family relationships. At a very basic level, we are all "children of God" (1 John 3:1), invited to remember the love that God has "lavished on us". In the Gospel reading, Luke presents the young Jesus coming with his parents from Nazareth to Jerusalem "as usual" for the great feast of Passover. He is twelve years of age, capable in that culture of making quite serious decisions for himself. He does just that, much to the consternation of his parents, who only become aware after a day's journey that he has remained in Jerusalem and not joined the extended family group or synodia for the return journey to Nazareth. Mary and Joseph are not well pleased. They express their concern but fail to understand his response: he is primarily God's child and must follow God's call first and foremost. This does not preclude obedience to his parents. It does, however, foreshadow the pain involved in parenting this young man whose mission will take him along paths they would never have chosen for him.

As Luke's story unfolds, Joseph fades from the picture. Mary lives in the reflective way we are all called to live, "storing all these things in her heart". Sometimes God's call to children is in tension with parents' wishes or hopes. Children are first of all "children of God". Much as we might want to, we cannot hold on to them. We try to understand their choices, we do everything we can to nurture their uniqueness, and we pray that they too will grow in wisdom and stature and in favour with God as responsible members of the whole Earth community.

**Recent Deaths:** Ian Bartlett, Fr Raphael Beltrame, Michael Mennen, Mary Sheen

**Next week's readings:** *Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2015*      *Epiphany of the Lord (C)*

Isaiah 60:1-6      Psalm 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13, R. see v.11 Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6      Matthew 2:1-12

**Welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism;**

Zarli Carol & Felix John

children of Matthew & Coco

Molly Magdalen

daughter of Michael & Monika

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



**Collections**      Envelopes \$11,260.00(includes credit cards)

Parish Loose \$324.70      Presbytery \$2,376.85

**Counters**      27<sup>th</sup> December      Team 5      Next week team 6

**Masses during the coming week**

Monday	10.00am	Cathedral	(Public Holiday)
Tuesday	12.05 pm	Cathedral	5.30 pm Loreto Sisters
Wednesday	12.05 pm	Cathedral	
Thursday	11.30 am	St John of God	12.05 pm Cathedral
Friday	10.00 am	Cathedral	New Year's Day- Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Saturday	10.00 am	Cathedral	

**Cathedral Parish Masses**      **January 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>**      **Smythesdale**      **Linton**      **Skipton**  
6.30 pm Vigil,      8.00 am,      10.30 am,      5.00 pm      7 .30 pm Vigil      9.00am      10.30 am

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

[ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto: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  
Principals St Patrick's Primary Mark Hogbin, St Thomas More Rosa Tocchet,

**Friday January 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 – World Day of Peace**

**Overcome Indifference and win Peace** is the title of the [Message for the 49th World Day of Peace](#), the third of the papacy of Pope Francis. Indifference in regard to the scourges of our time is one of the fundamental causes of the lack of peace. Today, indifference is often linked to various forms of individualism which cause isolation, ignorance, selfishness and, therefore, lack of interest and commitment. Increase of information does not mean per se an increase of attention to the problems, if it is not accompanied by solidarity-based openness of conscience. To this end, it is essential the contribution that can provide—besides the family—educators, teachers, people of culture, media practitioners, intellectuals and artists. Indifference can be won only responding together to this challenge.