

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Ballarat

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Baptism of the Lord (C)
Sunday 10th January 2016



Gospel Reflection – © Mary Coloe

Jesus' first 'Abba' experience is described in the scene of his Baptism. The three synoptic Gospels record this scene of Jesus' baptism by John, and all try to convey the deeply interior spiritual experience of Jesus. Historically, Jesus came from Nazareth to John, and the Gospel of John suggests that Jesus spent some time as a disciple of John before beginning his own ministry. A glance at the other three Gospels' presentation of this scene can help to identify some unique features of Luke's gospel, and therefore indicate the particular theological perspective of Luke.

Mark presents the experience as something totally private to Jesus. He is the only one to see the heavens part, and to hear the heavenly voice. Matthew and Luke bring elements of a private and public manifestation of God. Luke records, 'heaven was opened'. The use of the passive voice is a technique known as 'the Divine Passive' to indicate that this was the action of God. Since Luke omits the words from Mark that *Jesus saw* the heavens opened, Luke suggests that this was a public revelation. Then Luke follows Mark in having the heavenly voice speak directly to Jesus, 'You are my Son.' This suggests a private experience.

Some other elements in Luke's presentation need to be noted. Only Luke records that Jesus 'was at prayer'. Prayer will emerge as a theme of this Gospel and frequently Luke presents Jesus withdrawing from his ministry in order to spend time in prayer, or teaching his disciples to pray. This same theme continues in Luke's second volume, the Acts of the Apostles.

In Mark and Matthew, we are told that Jesus came *out of the water* and then the heavens opened and the Spirit came down on him. Luke omits this detail and so Jesus is standing in the water when the Spirit descends. This deliberate change to Mark indicates Luke's presentation of Jesus' baptism as a new creation. In Genesis 1:3, we read that the Spirit of God moved over the face of the waters. This same Spirit now hovers over the waters of Jesus' Baptism. This marks the dawn of a new era in Luke's theology. In Luke 16:16 we read, 'The Law and the Prophets were until John; since then the good news of the kingdom of God is preached.' Across Luke's two-volume work, there is a particular time schema:

The time of Israel (the Law and the Prophets)

The time of Jesus and the Kingdom (The Gospel)

The time of the Church (the Acts of the Apostles)

Each of these eras begins with the outpouring of God's Holy Spirit. I consider the scene of Jesus' baptism as his vocational call. From this moment, his life changes dramatically and he begins a public ministry to proclaim the in-breaking of God. This, in fact, is his experience here. He knows God as Abba, and knows himself as beloved son. From this spiritual insight, Jesus shifts his perception of God as one who reaches out with kindness and compassion to those in need, particularly the most vulnerable. It is false to imagine that Jesus comes to us with full knowledge of his calling, as if he has somewhere a heavenly diary to consult telling him all he needs to know and do. Jesus is fully human and fully divine, and to be fully human means being open to the mysterious call of God and needing to carefully ponder this mystery and work out the details in solitude and prayer.

Recent Deaths: Pearl Fox, Roma Hills, Brian Schreenan, John Whitehouse

Anniversaries: Mabel Canty, Thomas Currie, Sr Joan D'Orsa RSM, Flo Flynn, Thomas Hartigan, Eileen Hillman, Tony Houlihan, Kathleen Maher, Joseph Maher, Mary McGuinness, Fr Michael Rowdon, Carmel Sheahan.

Next week's readings: *Sunday 17th January 2016* *2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)*
Isaiah 62:1-5 Ps 95:1-3. 7-10. R. v.3 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 John 2:1-11

St Vincent de Paul Society 2015 Christmas Appeal

The Cathedral Parish Conference of the Society sincerely thanks all Parishioners who contributed to our Christmas appeal through the donation of food, cash, toys and time. Your generosity has allowed us to distribute over 150 hampers to families and individuals as well as providing toys for over 50 children. We also thank those who gave up their time to assist in the preparation and delivery of the hampers. In addition to the Parish donations we are greatly appreciative of the donations and support received from the 3BA Christmas Appeal, Loreto College, St. Patricks Primary School, St Thomas More Primary School, Ballarat Wordworker's Guild, IGA Pleasant Park, Shepparton Canary Outlet, Commonwealth Bank, Senator John Madigan and the Knights of the Southern Cross.

New Catholic Primary School in Lucas – Opening in 2017

The new Catholic School in Lucas will be the third in the Cathedral Parish with St Patrick's Drummond St and St Thomas More Alfredton. Community information evenings for the new Catholic Primary School in Lucas have created great interest from many prospective families. The new school will be designed to accommodate a long term enrolment of approximately 350-400 students and will encompass Prep/Foundation to Year 6. The position of Principal or Co-Principals for the new school has been [advertised](#) with applications closing on February 12th with a commencement expected mid-2016. The [architects Y2](#) have been appointed to master plan the site and have commenced working with the Steering committee (Frank Stuart – Cathedral Parish, Fr Justin – Governing Authority, Mark Hogbin and Rosa Tocchet – our current Parish School Principals, Brad Carr, Julie Duynhoven and Tony Perkins – Catholic Education Office Ballarat).

Gathering of Support

Kath Morton invites Cathedral parishioners and friends to please support our Tamil family who have lived here for over two years, and are now facing deportation. This family has made a fine contribution to our community and integrated well, making lots of friends. Please come to Alfred Deakin Place on Monday from 5.00 pm – 7.00 pm for a "*Gathering of support*" for them. There will be speakers, some musical entertainment, activities for the children, and more. All are welcome to this public event.

Words of thanks

Frs Justin, Anthony and James together with Jacinta, Philip, Anita and Tony, thank all parishioners for their cards, good wishes and Christmas gifts and well as through the *Christmas offerings*. We appreciate the generosity and good will of so many parishioners and thank you most sincerely. Thank you also to the many who have made the celebration of Christmas such a wonderful one in the Parish through the Christmas Masses and the outreach through the St Vincent de Paul Jesse tree. At the Christmas Masses, \$3261.75 was contributed to the annual Diocesan Christmas collection which will be distributed by the Diocese to many communities throughout Australia and across the globe. Thank you to all involved in working with the environment team to create in the Cathedral a beautiful liturgical environment for Christmas. We thank those who worked so hard to clean the Cathedral in readiness for this great feast. To all liturgical ministers – altar servers, collectors, leaders, musicians, ministers of holy communion, readers, offertory processors, sacristans, singers and welcomers we thank you for your service to our liturgical assemblies.

Welcome to Fr Sajan

Fr Sajan Ezhunnootil recently arrived in Australia from Kerala, India to commence ministry in the Diocese of Ballarat. Fr Sajan will be appointed as a part time Chaplain to the Syro-Malabar Indian community in the Diocese as well as being part time assistant priest in a parish. He will stay with us in the Cathedral Parish as part of his induction to Australia and the Ballarat Diocese until he receives his appointment by Bishop Paul to a parish. Welcome Fr Sajan!

Mercy Connect Ballarat

Supporting refugee students in local schools. Volunteer mentors needed. Mercy Works is currently recruiting volunteers to support refugee students in Ballarat Schools through their Mercy Connect Project. The volunteer commitment is for approximately three hours per week for four school terms. Experience working in an educational setting is preferred, but you will receive ongoing training and support. Initial training for new volunteers will be held in February 2016.

Contact Paulene Barton - Mercy Connect Project Coordinator on 0417 624 330 or email: mercyconnectb@gmail.com for information and application form.

Applications close on February 5th 2016.

Stewardship Time and Talent

Following from the renewal of Stewardship in the Cathedral Parish, the time and talent sheets have now been returned to the Parish office. Thank you to all who have offered themselves through the time and talent. Over the coming weeks, the coordinators of parish groups and ministries will receive those belonging to their ministry so that they can follow up with all who have offered. Several new groups and initiatives have emerged as possibilities including Social Justice & Parish Communication as well as ideas for improving our pastoral care and support at various stages of life. If you haven't had the opportunity of completing a time and talent sheet, please contact the Parish Office where your interest will be warmly welcomed.

Organs of the Ballarat Goldfields

Welcome to all visiting the Cathedral as part of the Twenty First Annual Festival, Friday 8th January to Sunday 17th January 2016. The program for Festival 2016 is comprised of:

25 recitals in Ballarat and the region • demonstrations on heritage church organs • visits to historic and tourist sites • social functions and dinners.

The 2016 Festival commenced in St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat on Friday, January 8th with J S Bach Mass in B minor, directed by John O'Donnell. On Wednesday January 13th at 8.00 pm there will be an organ recital in the Cathedral by Pavel Kohout. The festival will conclude on Sunday, January 17th with the final recital also in St Patrick's Cathedral at 8.00 pm with music from the Basilica of San Marco, Venice by The Australian Chamber Choir directed by Douglas Lawrence. Supper will be served in the Cathedral Hall following both the opening and closing recitals.

New Stewardship Envelopes are available for collection from the Parish Office.

Collections Envelopes \$2,315.50 Parish Loose \$376.45 Presbytery \$2,042.90

Counters 10th January Team 7 Next week team 8

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	11.30 am	St John of God	12.05 pm Cathedral
Friday	9.30am	Sebastopol	12.05 pm	Cathedral	1.30 pm Benediction
Saturday	10.00 am	Cathedral			

Sacrament of Reconciliation 11.00 am Friday 11.30 am Saturday

Cathedral Parish Masses	January 16th/17th	Smythesdale	Skipton	Rokewood	
6.30 pm Vigil, 8.00 am,	10.30 am,	5.00 pm	7.30 pm Vigil	8.30am	10.30 am

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

"If the door of God's mercy is always open, even so must be the doors of our churches, the love of our communities, our parishes, our institutions, our dioceses, for when they are, we can all go out to bring this mercy of God [to those who most need it]. The Jubilee Year recalls the great door of God's mercy, but also the small doors of our churches – open to let the Lord in – or to let the Lord out, who is often the prisoner of our structures, our selfishness, and of so many things." Pope Francis