

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Ballarat

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4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)
Sunday 31st January 2016



Gospel Reflection – © Veronica Lawson RSM

This week's gospel reading continues the story of Jesus in the synagogue at Nazareth. At first he is universally accepted: the townspeople marvel at the gracious words he utters and identify him as Joseph's son. By the end of the story, however, these same people actually try to kill him. So, what happens in between to cause such a dramatic change of heart? These are religious people, not an unruly street mob. They are friends of the family. They are familiar with their sacred texts and traditions and presumably want to understand them more fully. In fact, they are like most of us who take time out on a weekly basis to come together in worship and prayer with those who share our faith.

Unfortunately, the people of Nazareth seem to be carrying a sense of exclusive entitlement to God's favour, as well as some deeply entrenched prejudices against the neighbouring Syrians and Phoenicians. Their history is largely one of conflict with neighbours, of struggle for survival, and some are unwilling to relinquish their unhealed local and national grievances. When Jesus suggests that God's prophetic and healing power is accessible to and may even be more readily received among foreigners than within Israel, their anger knows no bounds: it spills over into violence.

They have little patience with the implicit criticism and the prophetic challenge of his words. One of the problems with the narrative is that Jesus seems to deliberately provoke a negative reaction. There are other problems as well: there is no cliff in Nazareth from which the enraged crowd could cast him to his death, and it is highly unlikely that people of this tiny town of two to four hundred Galilean Jews would resort to murdering one of their own for what they perceive as a verbal assault. So what is going on? It would seem that the gospel writer is putting elements of later stories about the violent treatment of Jesus and his followers into this episode in order to foreshadow what is to come.

The story thus becomes a microcosm of the gospel as a whole. When the message is comforting, the messenger is well received. When it is less palatable, the messenger is in danger of being attacked, more often than not at the hands of people who are basically good, people like us. Unchecked assumptions, deep-seated biases, and uncontrolled emotions will function to bring the anointed prophet of the God of Israel to a violent death. This story invites us to check our assumptions and our biases lest we turn to physical, verbal, or emotional violence in the face of prophetic challenge.

Recent Deaths: Ella Edwards, Jim Rylance

Anniversaries: Eileen Bongiorno, Frank Burke, Malitta Legg, Mara Marnica, Bill & Mary Martin, Joanne Robertson, Ralph (Noel) Tiernan, Jeff Twomey

Next week's readings: *Sunday 7th February 2016* *5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)*

Isaiah 6:1-8 Ps 137:1-5. 7-8. R. v.1 1 Corinthians 15:3-8, 11 Luke 5:1-11

Cathedral Office will be closed on Monday 1st February.

Playgroup Weekly on Thursdays 10.00 am- 12 noon in the Cathedral Parish hall, gold coin donation and please bring a piece of fruit to share. Enquires phone Karia 0407423682

Standing in Solidarity with our Indian Community

The Cathedral Parish and the Knights of the Southern Cross will host a bbq on Sunday January 31st at 6.00 pm in the Cathedral grounds. All are welcome to join the gathering which will provide us with an opportunity to express our welcome to all who come to our Ballarat community and to take a stand against any form of racism, particularly in the light of the December bashing of Indian-born Ballarat man Sumeet Anand. This gathering will also provide us with an opportunity to meet and welcome Fr Sajan who has come from Kerala, India to minister in the Diocese of Ballarat.

CWL General Members

Meeting at the Cathedral Presbytery on Wednesday February 3rd at 1.30pm. Visitors welcome. Enquiries to Gertie Phone 5334 1670

World Interfaith Harmony Week

A flag raising ceremony will be held on Thursday, February 4th 2016 to mark World Interfaith Harmony Week. The ceremony will be at 11.00am in Sturt Street, Ballarat at Victoria Square, opposite the Ballarat Town Hall. Bishop Paul Bird CSsR will be in attendance and anyone else who wishes to attend would be very welcome.

Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA)

A review of the RCIA will take place on Sunday evening February 7th at 6.00 pm in the smaller hall at the Cathedral. Parishioners who have been involved in any way as catechist, sponsor, team member, or who have come through the RCIA as a baptised candidate or catechumen are welcome to join us to contribute to the review and planning for the 2016 year. A byo shared meal will commence the proceedings which will follow 5.00 pm Mass

Damascus College Open Mornings

Damascus College warmly invites all families to attend our upcoming Open Mornings. The Open Mornings will include a tour of the College by current Damascus students and the opportunity to ask questions. It is also a great way to see the inner workings of the College on a typical school day. Open Mornings - Thursday 4th and 11th February, 9.00 am – 10.30am
Enrolment Applications for Year 7 2017 close on Friday 12th February 2016
Students of all ages are welcome to attend open mornings

Gordon Parish Community Festival

The Gordon Parish Council will hold a special Picnic and Festival at the Springbank Football & Netball oval on Sunday, February 28, 2016 from 11.00am–4.00pm. Activities include jumping castle and climbing wall, Peppa Pig & George Pig for children. Expressions of interest are being sought from anyone who would like to have a stall at this event to promote or sell their products. Info: Margie Quinlan, ph. 0417 587 237.

Parish Youth Group: Youth Every Second Sunday (YESS)

The aim of YESS is to give young Catholics the opportunity to come together, make likeminded friends and grow closer to Christ. The group is open to secondary school aged youth typically meets every 1st and 3rd Sunday night after 5pm Mass for games, talks and discussions, supper and prayer, beginning 7th Feb. A short information session for parents will also be offered at 6:15pm to go over the plans for the year. New members very welcome. Any parent inquiries can be forwarded to ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Young Adults Group

The first Soul Food meeting for the year will be on Friday 5th of Feb for adoration in the Cathedral from 5.30pm followed by a BBQ dinner around 6.30pm. The group is a great way to find friends and contemporaries who share your faith and to be strengthened together through prayer and formation. Please feel free to join us, even if you can only make it for a few minutes of the adoration or only for dinner afterwards. Any inquiries can be forwarded to ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Ash Wednesday Masses (February 10th)

Cathedral 7.30 am, 10.00 am, 12.05 pm, 7.00 pm.

Beaufort 7.00 pm Ash Wednesday

Skipton 7.30 pm (Vigil Mass on Tuesday February 9th)

Snake Valley 7.30 pm Ash Wednesday

Lenten resources – **5 minutes with the Word**, a daily prayer guide for Lent is available for all.

New Music for the Year of Mercy

With Lent almost upon us (Ash Wednesday February 10th) and during this Year of Mercy, the Liturgy Committee has decided to introduce a new psalm to be sung throughout the Lenten Season. This setting for the Psalm "With You O Lord" was composed by Bishop Paul Bird and fits in so well with the Season and the Jubilee Year. The Cathedral Parish community is invited to attend a singing practice on Monday 1st February at 7.00 pm until 7.30 pm in the Cathedral.

Palms from Palm Sunday last year please place them in basket in the south transept to be burnt & used on Ash Wednesday (February 10th). Thankyou.

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

Collections Envelopes \$2,261.00 Parish Loose \$350.40 Presbytery \$2,091.70

Counters 31st January Team 2 Next week team 3

Counters required

If you are available to join a counting team that counts the Sunday collection (rostered on Sunday evenings once every 8 weeks) we would welcome your contribution. Contact the Parish Office.

Masses during the coming week

Monday	12.05 pm	Cathedral			
Tuesday	No Mass	Redan	12.05pm	Cathedral	
Wednesday	9.30am	Sebastopol	12.05 pm	Cathedral	5.30 pm Loreto Sisters
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	February 6 th / 7 th	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



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