

Legion of Mary

The Acies Ceremony, Consecration to Our Lady will be held on Saturday 19th March, after the 10.00 am Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral. All are welcome to participate.

10th Anniversary of Ordination for Fr Matthew Thomas

Mass will be held at St Patrick's Church, Camperdown on March 17, 2016 at 7.00pm to celebrate Fr Matthew's 10th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood. Supper will follow. RSVP to Michael McKenzie, ph. 0409 962148

Walk for Justice for Refugees 2016

Palm Sunday, March 20, 2016 at 2.00pm at the State Library, cnr Swanston and La Trobe Streets, Melbourne. More information at www.facebook.com/palmsundaywalk.

St Mary's College, University of Melbourne,

Acknowledging 50 years on Swanston St and the Loreto Sisters' leadership of the College (1918 – 2013) with a Jubilee Mass to be celebrated by Archbishop Hart at the Chapel of the Holy Spirit at Newman College, 887 Swanston St, Parkville commencing at 3pm on Sunday 13 March, followed by a Garden Party in the St Mary's Courtyard. The Musical Directors are Ms Fiona Dyball & Sr Deirdre Browne ibvm. Alumni, friends and supporters of St Mary's are all warmly invited. RSVP for catering purposes to the College on 9349 9555 or secretary@stmarys.unimelb.edu.au

Prayer of Trust (Michael Herry)

You know the way for me you know the time, Into your hands I trustingly place mine.

Your plan is perfect born of perfect love You know the way, your way is love.

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Psalm (Paul Bird)

With you O Lord there is fullness of redemption; With you O Lord there is mercy for all. (Repeat)

Make our hearts (Michael Herry)

Make our hearts O Lord, rich soil for your word. Plant new seeds of hope and love,

Make our hearts O Lord rich soil for your word. Welcome to the Word of God.

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Heart of Jesus, Heart of Mercy - A hymn for the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Refrain: Give us new hearts O Lord. Give us new hearts O Lord.

Give us hearts of flesh, remove our hearts of stone.

Taste and See (Michael Herry)

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord, taste and see the goodness of the Lord, Taste and see the goodness of the Lord. ceive the living bread of heaven.

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This is My Body (Michael Herry)

This is my body, given for you. Go now and serve in my name.

This is my body, given for you. I have no hands but yours.

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St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Ballarat

www.stpatscathedral.weebly.com

4th Sunday of Lent (C)

Sunday 6th March 2016



Gospel Reflection – © Veronica Lawson RSM

Parent-child conflict is part of life and every parent's dream is to be able to deal effectively and lovingly with children behaving badly, including adult or adolescent children. Unfailing forgiveness and arms open to welcome back wayward sons and daughters: that is the way proposed in today's gospel story.

There is no room in the hearts of Jesus' critics for such forgiveness: upright law-abiding people should exclude "sinners" from their company. In a first-century Jewish context, it was easy enough to be a sinner. Whole groups of people, depending on their occupation, fell into that category simply because they failed to observe one or more of the 618 prescriptions of the law. Jesus' response to critics is the story of a parent both of whose sons lose their way for a time. One son finds his way back to the centre of family life and the support of the wider community while the other more law-abiding son seems to place himself outside the family circle, holding on to the resentment he feels at his brother's return.

We need to fill in the gaps in the story: there may be daughters as well as sons; there is surely another parent, a mother who shares the heartache of her husband when their younger son requests his one-third share of the estate. To make such a request in this context is unthinkable: it is tantamount to wishing his parents were dead. To accede to such a request is likewise unthinkable, even shameful in that society. The head of a patriarchal household who acts thus stands to lose honour, status, and authority. [It is important to note that the older brother is not disadvantaged: he is assured of a two-thirds share according to the law as well as the ongoing love and support of his family, as his father makes clear]. The parable of the non-productive fig tree in the vineyard approaches the same topic from another angle. The owner of the vineyard wants to get rid of a fig tree that fails to bear fruit after three years. From an economic perspective, his position is perfectly reasonable: why should a non-fruiting fig tree continue to sap the goodness of the soil? Why not go for more vines, more grapes, more wine, and forget about the fig tree? The faithful or constant gardener, on the other hand, is like the womb-compassionate God of Israel who cares about the soil itself and wants to give the fig tree another chance, to turn it around and assist it to bear fruit, if the owner will relent. At this mid-point in our Lenten journey in the Jubilee Year of Mercy, we might get in closer touch with our compassionate "gardener" God and open ourselves to a more expansive understanding of the pain of the planet.

When things turn out disastrously in the distant country, the younger man shows no real interest in a restored relationship with his family. Rather, he devises a plan that will put food in his empty belly-not a particularly lofty motive for returning home. He thinks up a speech about sharing the status of the family employees. Thanks to the expansive heart of an amazingly compassionate parent, he does not have to deliver the speech he has prepared, but is gathered into the heart of family and local community. That's how it needs to be with us. It is certainly how it is with our merciful God. We can abandon, even betray; our motives for returning home can be very mixed; we may even be like the unwelcoming older brother; but the God of mercy and compassion is always there for us.

Recent Deaths: Jim Conway (Funeral Mass 12.05pm Tuesday 8th March in Cathedral), Tommy Simpson, Ante Tudorovic

Anniversaries: Patrick Joseph Duggan, Patrick Elliott, Jack Alan Flynn, Phil Franklin, Peter Gaylor, Joseph & Winifred Jess, Una Khan, Brian Lewis, Leonard Mallia, Leanne Mills, Maree Rantall, Joan Shannon

Next week's readings: *Sunday 13th March 2016* *5th Sunday of Lent (C)*
Isaiah 43:16-21 Philippians 3:8-12 John 8:1-11



We welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism;

Kai Oliver Longhurst son of Darryl & Monica
May he grow in faith in his loving family and our Catholic Community.

Welcome to Fr Peter Sherman (PP OLHC Wendouree) to the Cathedral this weekend for Masses while Fr Justin celebrates Masses in OLHC Parish as part of the renewal of their Parish Stewardship.

Cuppa & Chat following 10.30 am Mass today, in the Cathedral Hall. All welcome.

Lenten Anointing Mass

The 12.05 pm Mass on March 9th will be the Anointing Mass for the Parish and will be held in St Patrick's Hall. It has been the custom to serve lunch to the Parishioners following Mass. Donations of cakes or slices would be appreciated for this occasion. If convenient they could be left at the Hall before Mass and assistance to help serve the lunch would be gratefully accepted. If you require transport on the day do not hesitate to phone Jacinta in the office.

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Primary Schools

Now taking enrolment enquiries for Foundation (Prep) classes for next year. Please contact the school offices, St Patrick's on 53327680 to arrange an interview with the principal, Mark Hogbin. St Thomas More Primary School on 5334 2240 to make an appointment for an information session. Enrolments are also being accepted for the new Parish Primary school to be opened in Lucas in 2017. Contact the Catholic Education Office for details, cklain@ceoballarat.catholic.edu.au. The next Lucas School community consultation will be held on Tuesday April 12th 7pm (Community Health Centre), Lucas

A Personal Note from Fr James

My family has been shaken recently by the tragic loss of my nine month old nephew Hugh. A sincere thank you to all who have offered prayers and passed on condolences to the family. Thank you too to those who have generously helped out in other ways too. We greatly appreciate your support during this time.

Nazareth House St Patrick's Day Coffee Party, Thursday March 17th, 1.30 pm, Nazareth House Hall. All welcome.

St Patrick's Cathedral Community Space

In a spirit of healing and reconciliation, the St Patrick's Cathedral Parish invites parishioners, neighbours, local community members, organisations and businesses to a community ideas workshop for the Cathedral garden and surrounds, particularly the area behind the Cathedral, on the corner of Sturt and Lyons St. The workshops will be facilitated by *Dirtscape Dreaming* (www.dirtscapedreaming.com.au) and you are welcome to attend one of the two parallel sessions offered on St Patrick's Day. Light refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP to the Parish Office.

St Patrick's Cathedral Hall (Dawson Street end), Thursday, March 17th 10.30 am-12 pm
Mechanics Institute - Humffray Room, (117 Sturt Street) Thursday, March 17th 5.30 - 7.00 pm

These community engagement forums are part of the ongoing work of the Cathedral Parish environment group (Bernadette Brouwers, Joe De Losa, Jillian Hogbin, Frank Stuart, Leo and Patrick Styles, Deneise Walsh & Fr Justin). Last year this group began to identify ways that the Cathedral precinct could become more hospitable, open, inclusive and welcoming to all. The Sturt street entrance was re-opened, with asphaltting completed and the gate of mercy opened and new seats placed around the grounds.



Fourth
Sunday
of Lent

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF
PROJECT
COMPASSION

Please donate to Project Compassion 2016 and help First Australians in remote communities of Australia gain new skills and renewed passion to preserve and celebrate traditional culture. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413. .

Mass of the Oils Monday, March 21, 2016

The Mass of the Oils will be celebrated in St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat at 6.30pm on Monday, March 21, 2016. This Mass is a celebration of the whole Church of the Diocese of Ballarat. We celebrate the unity and ministry of the ordained priests in the midst of the entire priestly people of God of the Diocese. This Mass also has special significance for those who will use the blessed oils in 2016 – the sick, those to be baptised and confirmed. All members of the Diocese are invited to participate in this celebration which truly expresses the unity of the Diocesan Church. Ministries required for the Mass of the Oils include Ushers, Readers, Oils Bearers, Presentation of the gifts, Collection of Oils, Musicians and Singers. For further information contact the Pastoral Ministry Office, ph. 5337 7159 or pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Diocesan RCIA & Sacrament Facilitator

Applications are sought for a new position within the Ballarat Diocese - Diocesan RCIA and Sacrament Facilitator (3 days per week). Please contact the Cathedral office for a detailed position description. Applications close March 15th, 2016

Stewardship Envelopes available for collection from the Office.

Collections	Envelopes \$2,387.00	Parish Loose \$380.00	Presbytery \$2,1046.85
Counters	6th March Team 7	Next week team 8	

Weekday Masses this week Monday 12.05pm, Tuesday 10.00 am (St Thomas More School), 12.05 pm (Funeral Mass), Wednesday 12.05 pm (Anointing), Thursday 11.30 am St John of God, 12.05 pm Cathedral, Friday 7.30 am and 12.05 pm (with adoration to follow concluding with Benediction at 1.30 pm).

Morning Prayer of the Church 8.00 am Monday – Friday

Stations of the Cross 11.15 am Wednesday, 7.00 pm Thursdays

Reconciliation 11.00 am Friday, 11.30 am Saturday

Cathedral Parish Masses	March 12th/13th	Skipton	Beaufort	Snake Valley		
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