

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Ballarat

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Palm Sunday of the Passion of Our Lord (C)
Sunday 20th March 2016



Gospel Reflection – © Veronica Lawson RSM

Jesus of Nazareth is executed in Jerusalem when the city is filled with pilgrims who are there to celebrate the Jewish festival of Passover. A year after his execution, when his friends and family gather once more for Passover, they find new meaning in the celebration of the feast. Every Passover from now on will mark the anniversary of the death of Jesus and will be celebrated through the lens of their experience of his life and death. They share their memories of the one they loved so deeply and reflect on the meaning of his life and death in the light of their wisdom traditions. Every element of their Passover story, the ancient story of God's deliverance of God's people from slavery, will echo with resonances of the life and death of Jesus who is now present to them in a new way. It is not surprising, then, that these final events of Jesus' life were probably the first part of the Jesus' story to be committed to writing. Neither is it surprising that each of the canonical gospels includes an account of Jesus' suffering and death and that each approaches the events from its own particular perspective.

There are several unique features in Luke's account. The most remarkable to my mind is Jesus' readiness to forgive his executioners even while they continue to mock him. Another is his capacity to reach out to others: to 'turn towards' the women of Jerusalem, to receive their compassionate mourning, and to express his own concern for them. In line with his overall intention to demonstrate that Christianity is no threat to the Roman Empire, Luke repeatedly points to the innocence of Jesus. The Lukan Jesus is the rejected prophet who trusts utterly in God and into whose hands he entrusts his spirit. He dies with the same sort of dignity that has characterised his life.

It is easy to let our own hurt find expression in criticism or mistreatment of others whom we fail to understand. It is also easy to retaliate in the face of unjust accusation and insult. It takes more courage than most of us can muster to name unjust treatment for what it is, to truly forgive, to retain our peace of mind in such circumstances, and to trust in the power of God to break through the ignorance that engenders violence. Palestinian activist Lucy Nusseibeh (founder and director of MEND, Middle East Nonviolence and Democracy) and the members of the Israeli Coalition of Women for a Just Peace have learned that lesson and are showing others the way of non-violence. As we enter into the mysteries of Holy Week, we might pray for the grace to act with the dignity of the Lukan Jesus and thus circumvent the cycles of violence in our own contexts.

Preparing for the Triduum (the great 3 days)

Fr Justin will be speaking about the Triduum and its significance in the Catholic Liturgical year, on Wednesday March 23rd at 7.15 pm in St Patrick's Cathedral Smaller Hall. All are welcome.

Appointment of Foundation Principal of new Lucas Catholic Primary School

Bishop Paul Bird has ratified the appointment of **Mrs Jo Brewer** as Foundation Principal of the school which will open in 2017. Jo has over thirty years of experience as an educator and leader in Catholic schools. During the last fifteen years, she has been Principal of three schools and is currently leading at Lumen Christi Catholic Primary School, Churchill, in the Sale Diocese.

Thanks to parishioners Stephen Carey and Liz Herrnan, together with Tony Perkins from the Catholic Education Office and Jennifer Poon, a foundation Principal from Melbourne who have worked with Fr Justin towards this appointment. Jo will commence at the beginning of term three 2016.

St Patrick's Cathedral Community Space

Community engagement forums were held on St Patrick's Day with a facilitator from dirtscapedreaming.com.au. Those who gathered in the morning and evening forums were invited to consider the follow questions in considering our Cathedral grounds and how we might develop a space and gardens for healing and reconciliation.

What makes you feel safe?

What helps to still you?

What makes you peaceful?

How do we honour memories and events from the past?

The feedback from the forums will be developed into themes and concept and then developed into design which will be presented to the Cathedral precinct environment group. Thanks to the steering committee – Bernadette Brouwers, Deneise Walsh, Frank Stuart, Jillian Hogbin, Joe De Losa, Leo Styles and Patrick Styles.



Sixth
Sunday
of Lent

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF
PROJECT
COMPASSION



Since becoming involved in the Hamara Haq ('Our Rights') project, Dhaniram and his community in India have learnt about their rights and have been empowered to speak up for themselves. Now, real change is taking place.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2016 and help vulnerable communities in India learn more about their rights so they are empowered to speak up, ask for their rights and create lasting change. <http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion> 1800 024 413

Holy Week in the Cathedral Parish

Monday, March 21st Mass of the Oils, 6.30 pm

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 significance for those who will use the blessed oils in 2016 – the sick, those to be baptised and confirmed. Followed by supper in the hall (no 12.05 pm Mass this day).

Tuesday March 22 nd	8.00 am	Morning Prayer of the Church
	12.05 pm	Mass
	5.30 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation
Wednesday March 23 rd	8.00 am	Morning Prayer of the Church
	11.15 am	Stations of the Cross followed by 12.05 pm Mass
	5.30 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation
Holy Thursday, March 24th	8.00 am	Morning Prayer of the Church
	7.00 pm	Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper
	9.30 pm	Prayer in the Cathedral Hall concluding the watch
Good Friday, March 25th	8.00 am	Morning Prayer of the Church
	10.00 am	Way of the Cross from St Columba's to Black Hill
	3.00 pm	Celebration of the Lord's Passion
Holy Saturday, March 26th	8.00 am	Morning Prayer of the Church
	10.30 am	RCIA Preparation Rites (in the Cathedral Hall)
	8.00 pm	Easter Vigil Mass (commencing with fire outside) Followed by supper in the smaller hall
Easter Sunday, March 27th	8.00 am,	10.30 am and 5.00 pm Masses
	8.30 am	Beaufort, 10.30 am Skipton Easter Masses

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

Collections Envelopes \$1,722.00 Parish Loose \$266.60 Presbytery \$2129.00

Counters 20th March Team 1 Next week team 2

Thankyou

Corpus Christi College would like to thank parishioners for the contributions, totalling \$2,640.00, to the building appeal.

Collections Envelopes \$1,722.00 Parish Loose \$266.60 Presbytery \$2,129.00

Counters 20th March Team 1 Next week team 2

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