

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Ballarat

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*2nd Sunday of Easter (C)
Divine Mercy Sunday
Sunday 3rd April 2016*

Gospel **Reflection** – Veronica Lawson RSM

Some of you may remember when we spoke of the Sundays “after Easter”. The terminology has changed and we now speak of the Sundays “of Easter”. In other words, we now recognise that the liturgical readings and prayers for each Sunday between Easter and Pentecost invite us into a different movement of the one great symphony of resurrection faith.

The first scene in today's gospel has the disciples hiding behind closed doors “for fear” of those who had handed Jesus over to be executed by the Roman authorities. Jesus appears among them, offers a greeting of peace, and tells them that he has been sent by God, his “Father”. They receive from him the gift of the Holy Spirit. He sends them in turn to bring peace and to mediate the forgiveness of God through the power of the Spirit.

The story invites us as believers to place ourselves in the shoes of the earliest disciples. It invites us to receive the gift of the Spirit, to emerge from behind the doors that close us in on ourselves, and that prevent us from rising above the fear of reprisals in our pursuit of justice and peace. It also invites us to ponder the consequences of forgiving on the one hand and of not forgiving on the other. To forgive another is to release that person from the burden of guilt and shame. Forgiveness opens up the possibility of healing for all concerned. To refuse forgiveness or to “retain” the sins of another is to leave that person unforgiven and so unhealed. We might also consider the consequences of refusing to open ourselves to forgiveness. More often than not, those who refuse to forgive others have failed to forgive themselves for their own failures.

The second and third scenes in today's gospel focus on Thomas who was not with the other disciples when Jesus first appeared in their midst. Thomas is not exactly the trusting type. He seems to trust only his own first hand experience. We all know people like Thomas. They test our patience because they seem to lack imagination. Then they make big statements when they come around to understanding what everyone else has known for a while. If we think, however, that those who hear from the outset are any better than Thomas, we need to note that the doors are still closed eight days later! The simple fact of knowing has not dispelled their fears. Even those who do believe and trust may need a bit of time to take the gospel message on board.

Recent Deaths: Sr M. Camillus Parker RSJ, Roslyn Lench (Funeral Prayers 10.30 am Tuesday in the Cathedral), Audrey Lorkin, Stephen Pollock

Anniversaries: Barry Davies, Patricia Scanlon, John Vernon Woof

Next week's readings: *Sunday 10th April 2016* *3rd Sunday of Easter (C)*
Acts 5:27-32. 40-41 Ps 29:2. 4-6. 11-13. R. v.2 Apocalypse 5:11-14 John 21:1-19

We welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism;

Francesca Mae Ballinger-Gledhill daughter of Luke & Julia
Jayce William Butcher son of Andrew and Mikahla
Clyde Cecil Nairn son of Shane and Stacey



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

Lucas Catholic Primary School Information

On Tuesday April 12th at 7.00 pm in the Community Health Centre at Lucas, there will be a further community engagement forum for prospective parents and friends of the new Catholic Primary School that will be opening in Lucas at the commencement of the 2017 school year. Newly appointed Principal, Mrs Jo Brewer will be introduced. Enrolments are now open and the website for the new school has much information <http://www.lucascatholicprimaryschool.com.au>

Alpha in a Catholic Context

[Alpha](#) is a series of interactive sessions that explores the Christian faith for adults. It is a parish tool for evangelisation based on welcome and hospitality, sharing and prayer. Each session includes a meal, a talk and small group discussion, where no question is too simple and no answer pre-packaged. Offering a meal or snack is an essential part of Alpha. Guests are welcomed into a relaxed and friendly setting and have the opportunity to get to know one another. After the meal, a short talk is given on the Christian faith. The talks are based on the teaching of the Church, the Bible, and the personal testimony of the speaker. Topics vary from 'Who is Jesus?' to 'How Can I Make the Most of the Rest of My Life?' The small groups provide the opportunity to build trust and friendship. The role of the host (leader) is to facilitate discussion, inviting guests to share openly and honestly, without any criticism or judgment. Within the group, guests learn the art of listening, reading the Scriptures and praying. Alpha will be offered in the Cathedral Parish for those who express interest in being part of this adult faith opportunity – contact the Parish Office if you would like to be part of Alpha in our Parish over the coming months.

Cuppa & Chat after Mass after 10.30am Mass today in the Cathedral Hall. Everyone is most welcome.

First Eucharist

Children who have already celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and Reconciliation will be preparing for First Eucharist shortly. A parent information session for families of these children will take place on Tuesday 19th April at 10.00am and 7.00pm in the Cathedral Hall (small hall). Families must attend one session for their child to be included in the program for this sacrament. For further information please phone the Parish office on 53 312933 or email anita.houlihan@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Mercy Associates Pilgrimage

On Wednesday 20th April, the Mercy Associates invite you to join them on a Pilgrimage to the first Sisters of Mercy establishment in Victoria- the Academy of Mary Immaculate, Nicholson St., Fitzroy founded on April 20th, 1857.

Contact Ursula Diamond-Keith gudiamond-keith@live.com.au. 0407717626

'Come to Common Terms'

Ballarat Interfaith Network is happy to promote an opportunity to visit the Islamic Mosque of Ballarat on 16th April 2016 at 116 Elsworth St East, Canadian 12.00 pm – 3.00 pm. Free bbq meal, mosque tour and presentation on interfaith dialogue.

Infant Viability Bill

On Sunday April 3rd at 11.30am (following 10.30 Mass) parishioners are invited to St Patrick's Cathedral Hall to hear Dr Rachel Carling-Jenkins, MLC, discuss the 20 Week Movement & the Infant Viability Bill. In October 2015, Dr Rachel Carling-Jenkins introduced the Infant Viability Bill into the Victorian parliament. This is the first formal attempt at pro-life legislation in Victoria in decades, and the first legislative attempt to remedy the abortion law reforms of 2008. A light lunch will be served and all are welcome. *Organised by Frances Beaumont and Christina Meade.*



Thank you!



Caritas Australia would like to thank you for supporting Project Compassion. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please bring them back next week or visit www.caritas.org.au to make your donation online.

Thank you for supporting us this year as we celebrate 50 years of Project Compassion. You are helping to empower the world's poorest children, women and men with vital learning and renewed hope.

www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion 1800 024 413

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

Counters 3rd April Team 3 Next week team 4

Parish Office hours Tuesday - 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

Cathedral Parish Masses	April 9 th /10 th	Skipton	Beaufort	Snake Valley
6.30 pm Vigil, 8.00 am, 10.30 am, 5.00 pm		7.30 pm	8.30am	10.30 am

Masses during the coming week

Monday	12.05pm Cathedral			
Tuesday	9.30am Redan	12.05 pm Cathedral		
Wednesday	9.30am Sebastopol	12.05 pm Cathedral		
Thursday	9.30am Redan	11.30 am St John of God	12.05pm Cathedral	
Friday	9.30am Sebastopol	12.05 pm Cathedral	1.30 pm Benediction	
Saturday	Australian Catholic University Graduation Mass			

Sacrament of Reconciliation Friday 11.00 am, Saturday 11.30 am

Dear Friends,

The season of Lent is a particularly appropriate time for us to celebrate the Lord's mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Pope Francis has highlighted this for the Holy Year. "The season of Lent during this Jubilee Year should be lived more intensely as a privileged moment to celebrate and experience God's mercy . . . Let us place the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the centre once more." (*Misericordiae Vultus*, 17)

While encouraging the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, I note a point in relation to professional standards. The sacrament should be celebrated in an open setting. Where there is a distinct confessional or reconciliation room, this should only be used if the room is open to view from outside, for example, through a glass door. Otherwise, the confession should be heard in an open area. If necessary, reflective background music may be played so that what is said in confession is not heard by others.

May our celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation during this time be a great experience of the Lord's mercy.

God bless you all.

Yours in Christ,

Paul Bird CSSR

Bishop of Ballarat