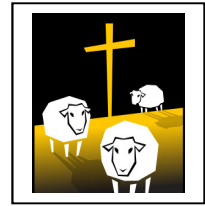


St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Ballarat

www.stpatscathedral.weebly.com



4th Sunday of Easter (C)
Sunday 17th April 2016



Gospel Reflection: Sr Veronica Lawson RSM

One of the blessings of my life has been the opportunity to work in several different cultural contexts. My ministry has taken me twice to the Good Shepherd Centre in Angers in France. The Sisters of the Good Shepherd were founded in post-revolution France to shepherd God's people, especially young women at risk. Taking their inspiration from the gospel image of the Good Shepherd, they continue to shepherd God's people, including women who have been trafficked as sexual slaves. In recent years they have expanded their mission and, together with their associates and partners in ministry, have decided "to shepherd God's creation".

Good Shepherd foundress, Sr. Mary Euphrasia Pelletier, understood the ways of shepherds in mid-19th century rural France: "How, in fact, do good shepherds act? They forget themselves and often have to endure hunger and thirst. They are crushed by fatigue and difficulties – no matter! They are happy if their sheep do not suffer and if they find those that are lost. What trouble they take to lead their sheep to good pastures! In summer they seek out places where there is water and shade; in winter they lead them to where the cold is less biting and the grass more abundant. If they notice poisonous plants near the little lambs they hasten to pull them up. Day and night they are on guard against wolves – they never completely relax." The same respectful stance is needed as we seek, like the Good Shepherd family, to care for our threatened Earth community.

Strangely enough, for the earliest readers of John's gospel, the term "good shepherd" was a contradiction in terms. Most shepherds were known to trespass on the property of others in their search for feed. They thus broke the Jewish purity laws and were considered unclean. A positive image of the shepherd is nonetheless part of Israel's prophetic tradition. It is that tradition that the gospel evokes. Today's gospel has Jesus say: "The sheep that belong to me hear my voice...." Later in John's gospel, Mary Magdalene will hear Jesus' voice and recognise him when he calls her by name. She is one of Jesus' "own", one who knows his voice. Her faithful following of Jesus will find expression in her presence at the foot of the cross and her visit to the empty tomb. Eternal life and the oneness of Jesus with God are also features of today's gospel. Jesus announces: "I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly." Eternal life is never-ending life. It is the inheritance of those who hear his voice. To hear is to follow through with action. That is the way of those inspired by Jesus, the Good Shepherd. It is the way of the Good Shepherd family and of all who hear the voice of the Shepherd.

Recent Deaths: Antica Svilicic (Vis, Croatia), Alojz Tos

Anniversaries: Kevin Foley, Leigh Gillett

Next week's readings: *Sunday 24th April 2016* *5th Sunday of Easter (C)*
Acts 14:21-27 Ps 144:8-13. R. cf. v.1 Apocalypse 21:1-5 John 13:31-35

We welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism;

Angus William Beseler	son of Bryce and Alicia
Hugh Ryan Cleary	son of Joseph and Joanna
Harry Jack Mark Cummings	son of Christopher and Caitlin
Riley George Langley-Ward	son of Shawn and Kelly
CJ Wayne Stewart	son of Cori and Kelly
Lilly Marie Stewart-Ward	daughter of Cori and Kelly

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

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 10.00 am and 7.00 pm 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

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 prepackaged. 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. 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 which will be conducted on Thursday evenings in the smaller hall at the Cathedral.

Project Compassion

Thank you to those who have donated towards the Caritas Australia's annual appeal, Project Compassion. Your gift, both prayer and financial giving, ensures the world's poorest and marginalized communities are supported through Caritas Australia's transforming and self-sustaining programs. If you have not already donated and wish to do so, could you please place your gift in a clearly marked envelope and place it on the collection plate next week so that the appeal can be finalised and donations forwarded to Caritas Australia.

St Patrick's Cathedral Community Space

Following Maureen Hatcher (Loudfence coordinator) and Phil Nagle (Survivor) joining with St Pat's College Headmaster John Crowley and School Captain John Brodie to remove the ribbons from the entrance to the College (the ribbons will be kept and stored) a similar event will be planned for the Cathedral which will coincide with the launch of our plans for a garden (behind the Cathedral) dedicated healing and reconciliation, acknowledging the experience of Victim survivors through a permanent memorial. Thanks to the members of the Cathedral precinct environment group for their ongoing work on this project (Bernadette Brouwers, Deneise Walsh, Frank Stuart, Joe De Losa, Leo and Patrick Styles and Fr Justin).

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

Lucas Catholic Primary School Forum

The community engagement forum for the new Catholic Primary School to be opened in Lucas at the beginning of 2017 was held at Community Health Centre at Lucas during this past week. Up to 70 people attended the forum which was facilitated by the Lucas School Steering Committee (Catholic Education Office Staff - Brad Carr, Julie Duynhoven, Tony Perkins, Principals of our existing Cathedral Parish Primary Schools - Mark Hogbin and Rosa Tocchet and Frank Stuart and Fr Justin from the Cathedral Parish). The newly appointed Principal, Mrs Jo Brewer was introduced and spoke to the forum about her hopes for the new school. Principal of Emmaus Catholic Primary School in Mt Clear Mr Brendan Maher, together with some parents and staff from Emmaus spoke about their experience of beginning a new school. The architects from the company Y2 presented the masterplan for the school site and the modular buildings that will be built and then delivered to the Lucas site in the latter part of this year. An opportunity to dialogue, question and answer also took place. Enrolments are now open and the website for the new school has much information <http://www.lucascatholicprimaryschool.com.au>

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

Counters 17th April Team 5 Next week team 6

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 23rd/24th

	Snake Valley	Beaufort	Skipton
6.30 pm Vigil, 8.00 am, 10.30 am, 5.00 pm	7.30 pm	8.00am	10.30 am

Masses during the coming week

Monday	12.05pm Cathedral		
Tuesday	No Mass Redan	12.05 pm Cathedral	
Wednesday	No Mass 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	10.00am Cathedral		

Sacrament of Reconciliation Friday 11.00 am, Saturday 11.30 am

Morning Prayer of the Church 8.00 am Monday – Friday in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 10.00 am – 12 Noon Monday & Tuesday, 12.30 pm Friday

Monday April 25th is ANZAC Day which is a Public holiday – Mass will be celebrated in the **Cathedral at 9.30 am on ANZAC Day**. Thanks to Bruce Clifton who arranges this Mass each year.

Faith Circles Resource?

From the Diocese of Wollongong comes *Faith Circles*, double-sided A4 sheet, based on Pope Francis' Weekly Catechesis, with reflection questions and prayer points. It will be available to download via email subscription or on their website at faithcircles.dow.org.au. Click the website link to subscribe to the Faith Circles email list. It takes less than 30 seconds!

Faith Circles is free, no strings attached, we just want Catholics to be nurtured by doing life and faith in groups, not on your own! You can print as many copies as you like.

Apostolic Exhortation (papal document)

Pope Francis has published an Apostolic Exhortation on marriage and family life, in which he presents and develops the outcomes of the two Synods on this subject. The title of the Apostolic Exhortation is *Amoris Laetitia*, 'The Joy of Love: On Love in the Family'. The Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation was published during a press conference at the Vatican on Friday 8th April 2016. You can download the text of the Exhortation below or read the summary document and Q&A provided by the Vatican. <https://www.catholic.org.au/synod-2015/blog>