

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Ballarat

www.stpatscathedral.weebly.com

1st Sunday of Advent (A)

Sunday 27th November 2016



Parish Office hours Monday - Friday 10.00 am – 5.00 pm Phone 5331 2933

ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Bishop Paul Bird CSsR, Priests, Frs Justin Driscoll, James Kerr, Anthony Nagothu, Sajan Matthew

Parish Office Jacinta Westbrook, Finance Officer Jess Salazar

Family Ministry Anita Houlihan, Grounds Tony McVeigh

Cathedral Parish Pastoral Carer at Ballarat Health Services Tracy Sillekens

Principals of our three Parish Schools

[St Patrick's Primary](#) Mark Hogbin, [St Thomas More](#) Rosa Tocchet, [Siena](#) at Lucas Jo Brewer

| Cathedral Parish Masses | December 3 rd /4 th | Smythesdale | Linton | Skipton |
|-------------------------|---|---------------|--------|----------|
| 6.30 pm Vigil, 8.00 am, | 10.30 am, 5.00 pm | 6.30 pm Vigil | 9.00am | 10.30 am |

Next week's readings: *Sunday 4th December 2016 2nd Sunday of Advent (A)*

Isaiah 11:1-10 Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17. R. cf. v.7 Romans 15:4-9 Matthew 3:1-12

Masses during the coming week

| | | | |
|-----------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Monday | 12.05 pm Cathedral | Tuesday | 12.05 pm Cathedral |
| Wednesday | 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 | 1.30pm Benediction |
| Saturday | 10.00am Cathedral | | |

Sacrament of Reconciliation Friday 11.00 am, Saturday 11.30 am

Morning Prayer of the Church 8.00 am Tuesday – Friday in the Cathedral

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Monday & Tuesday 10.00 am – 11.45 am, Friday 12.30pm

Advent – our liturgical season to *prepare the way of the Lord. Next Sunday we commence the 4 week season of advent, a time to wait & prepare in joyful hope*

Wait in Joyful Hope

Wait in joyful hope, a Saviour will come, Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

Wait in joyful hope, a Saviour will come. Welcome to the Word of God.

Recent Deaths: Rosa Casella (Funeral Mass Thursday 1.30 pm), Ronald Rosser, Daisy Watson

Anniversaries: Jean Hayes, Basil Maher, Micchele Quagliato, Edo Sosic, Barbara Thomson, Helen Watt, Margaret Whelan, Fr Justin Woodford, Kevin John Woof

We welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism;

Bella Catherine Lynn Lubeek

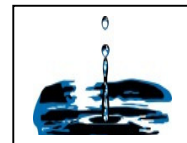
daughter of Lauren & Brendan

Cleo Margaret Millikan

daughter of Gabriel & James

Lennix Denis Gill

son of Emma & Eammon



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

St Vincent de Paul Society Jesse Tree Christmas Appeal 2016

The Cathedral Parish Conference of the Society will again be distributing hampers to those less fortunate than most of us this Christmas. Over the years Parishioners have been extremely generous when they have sought assistance not only at Christmas but also with the Winter appeal. Last Christmas over 100 families and individuals were supported as a result of your generosity. Jesse Tree symbols will be distributed after each Mass throughout the Season of Advent. Your support our Jesse Tree Appeal through the donation of non-perishable food items is again being asked for. *The Cathedral Parish thanks the Conference members for such great service*

St Patrick's Cathedral Preschoolers Christmas Gathering

Pre - Christmas morning tea, Thursday December 8th 10am – 12 noon in St Patrick's Hall. Parents and pre-schoolers all invited. Please bring a plate of morning tea for parents and children to share (nut-free food greatly appreciated) Please RSVP by text to Sarah 0408122173 or Karia 0407423682

Parish Anointing Mass December 9th

On Friday December 9th our Advent Mass of Anointing for the Parish will be held in St Patrick's Hall at 12.05 pm. 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. Assistance to prepare lunch at 10 am and help with the serving would be very much appreciated. If you require transport phone Jacinta in the Parish Office on 53312933.

Making a Scene at Christmas

A display of Christmas Nativity scenes will be held in St Patrick's Hall, Ballarat from Thursday December 15th – Sunday, December 18th. Over 300 nativities from over 40 countries will be on display. Opening hours are Thursday 12.00pm-5.00pm and Friday 10.00am – 5.00pm, Saturday 10.00am – 8.00pm and Sunday 9.00am – 7.00pm. The organising committee would like to hear from anyone who is willing to loan a nativity scene for display, in particular cribs from other cultures, previous eras or which 'have a story' would be most welcome. If you are able to assist please leave your name in the office.

Proclaim 2016

The Legion of Mary invite Parishioners to share the experience of the 3rd Proclaim Conference 2016, on 'Evangelisation in the Parish' on Tuesday December 6th, smaller hall at the Cathedral at 12.30 pm for a light lunch, followed by the Presentation. The Legion extends a special warm invitation to all young adults and families. Judith O'Sullivan, Pastoral Leader, St Columba's Parish Ballarat North and Sarah Kuek, are the Key Speakers.

Closing St Michael's School Springbank

6.30 pm Mass at Springbank, December 3rd (afternoon tea at 4.00pm) then a spit roast tea, meeting old friends, colleagues and dance the night away. Please register your interest to attend to one or all of the events by email to quinlanwater@gmail.com or by message to Margie Quinlan, ph. 0417587235. Please note that you will not be catered for if your name is not on the guest list.

Discernment retreat for young women

Nazareth House Ballarat, 7.00 pm Friday 2nd to 2.00 pm Sunday 4th December, with Fr Joseph Chua OSCO Cost is by donation Register by 25th November, 2016 srlinh@hotmail.com or 0450 355 014

An Invitation to join a combined Choir for Carols in the Cathedral

The Service of Carols will take place in our Cathedral on Friday December 23rd from 7.30 pm. In addition to various choirs singing, a combined choir will be formed. To prepare, rehearsals have been scheduled at St Patrick's College on the following days commencing at 5.00 pm, November 27th, December 4th, 11th & 18th. Parishioners welcome to join the combined choir.

Developing a Culture of Safety

The Cathedral Parish continues to work towards developing a culture of safety for all, especially Children and Vulnerable adults. Guided by the policy of the Ballarat Diocese for *Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults* and the *Code of Conduct for Working with Children*, Cathedral parishioners who work with children and vulnerable adults are required to have a current Working With Children Check and to have completed the Online training module about protecting children and vulnerable adults. To assist us we are seeking expressions of interest from parishioners who would be interested in being the Parish Safeguarding Officer to provide support to other parishioners and ensure that all safeguarding procedures outlined in the Code of Conduct for Caring for Children and the new Child Safe Standards are complied with. Training will be provided through Michael Myers, the Professional Standards Coordinator for the Diocese of Ballarat. Contact Fr Justin for further information.

St Vincent de Paul Piety Shop Christmas Card packs & Columban Calendars are now available.

Counters 27th November Team 2 Next week Team 3

Divine Renovation? Fr James Mallon (Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada), the author of the book *Divine Renovation: From a Maintenance to a Missional Parish*. His recent presentation in Melbourne will be shared with parishioners on Thursday December 1st from 7.00 pm in the smaller hall. This focus on evangelisation is an important one for our Cathedral Parish as we continually seek ways of being a welcoming and hospitable evangelising faith community.

1st Sunday of Advent Gospel Reflection (Sr Veronica Lawson RSM)

“Where is the Life we have lost in living?” asks the Chorus in T. S. Eliot's *The Rock*. The Jesus of Matthew's gospel is implicitly asking much the same question as Eliot's Chorus. He is making much the same observation as Henry David Thoreau, “Most [people] lead lives of quiet desperation and go to the grave with the song still in them.” We are invited to find Life in our living and to sing the songs that are in us. We are to be agents of our own future rather than unthinking participants in the inevitable round of daily activities that have preoccupied humans from time immemorial.

As we begin a new liturgical year, Matthew's Jesus invites us to contemplate the ultimate realities even as we attend to the demands of the present. He tells us to be “awake”, to be “ready” all the time, not because death or the end of the world are around the corner, but because we need to recognise the multiple “advents” or arrivals of the Christ, the Human One, who calls us beyond self-absorption to Life. He reminds us that we are no different from our forebears who from earliest days have gone about their daily business without being sufficiently attentive to what really matters.

In our times, we have allowed thieves to break in and plunder our planet, our common home, because thieves come in guises that we fail to recognise. They so often look just like us and do the things we do. It may be that we must first be attentive to our own ways of plundering the house that is home to all of God's creatures.

We spend much of our time looking back. That has its place, since our history informs our present and helps us in shaping our future, though all the while we know with Auden that ‘[t]he past is foreign country: they do things differently there’. Advent invites us to look forward rather than back and to dream gospel-inspired dreams that will enable creative change in our own lives and in the life of our planet. It invites us to be awake, to be ready for any eventuality.

Dreams and visions have always been the precursors to effective and life-giving change. We need the grace to see visions and to dream dreams that make for justice and peace and that permit us to walk more freely in the light of God's ways. We seek the grace to “see” God's word as did the prophet Isaiah in the first reading (Isa 2:1-5). We need to put our energy into creating life-generating systems that enable us to move forward in the paths of gospel compassion and love.