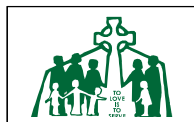
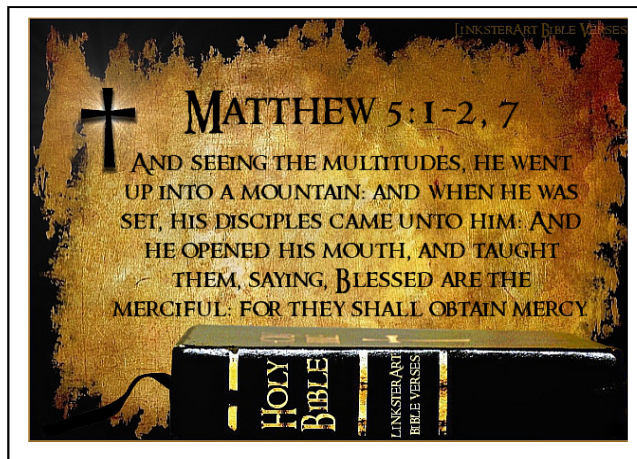


St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Ballarat

www.stpatscathedral.weebly.com

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

29th January 2017



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, 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	February 4 th /5 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

Masses during the coming week

Monday	12.05 pm	Cathedral	
Tuesday	12.05 pm	Cathedral	
Wednesday	12.05 pm	Cathedral	
Thursday	9.30 am	Redan	12.05pm Cathedral
Friday	9.30 am	Sebastopol	12.05pm Cathedral
Saturday	10.00 am	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

The Rosary is prayed in the Cathedral at 11.30 am Wednesday – Friday

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena - 7.00 pm each Wednesday evening at Nazareth House and prayers on the 1st & 3rd Friday in the Cathedral at 11.00 am.

First Saturday Devotion to Our Lady - 10.30 am in the Cathedral

Next week's readings: Sunday 5th February 2017 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 58:7-10 Ps 111:4-9. R. v.4 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 Matthew 5:13-16

Recent Deaths: Fr Joe McMahon, Sr Ellen Holland (Cluny), Graeme Phillips, Linda O'Reilly

Anniversaries: Eileen Bongiorno, Con Cahill, Elizabeth Wansink

St Vincent de Paul Society

The society extends an invitation to Parishioners who might like to join us either as members or associate members in our work of providing assistance to people in need. In particular we need extra volunteers to conduct interviews at the Assistance Centre. To find out more please contact Kevin Cooper 0435 080 483 or Allen Moloney 0447 578 390

Catholic Women's League

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the monthly meeting scheduled for Wednesday February 1st at the Cathedral Presbytery has been cancelled. The next meeting will be on Wednesday March 1st
Enquiries to Gertie Mangan Ph 5334 1670

Child Safety Standards

New state government legislation has come into effect with the New Year which sets standards for child safety. The Cathedral parish has appointed Mr Jess Salazar as our Safeguarding officer and have a [Child Safety Policy](#) to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children in our care.

A [Child Safety Code of Conduct](#) has been adopted for all who work with children in the Parish.

Youth Ministry Formation - *Called and Sent: Developing foundations in youth ministry*

Youth leaders are invited to a youth ministry formation camp. February 10-12, Safety Beach (south of Melbourne, equipping you with practical ideas and helping you set goals for 2017.

Phone 9287 5565 or email amanda.smith@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Youth Ministry in the Cathedral Parish

Thank you to Michaela Corrigan, Daniel Van Styn and Esther De Losa who will be the young adults leading the YESS (Youth Every Second Sunday) Cathedral youth ministry for secondary college age young people (including a monthly 5.00 pm Mass). Fr Anthony will provide support to this ministry.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

To be re-introduced into one of the Sunday Masses on a regular basis. Parents interested in being part of this are asked to contact Fr Justin through the Parish Office.

Counters 29th January Team 4

Next week Team 5

Catholic Education in the Cathedral Parish

Bishop Paul will celebrate Mass in the Cathedral on Monday morning with the staff of all of the Catholic schools in the greater Ballarat area as they commence the 2017 school year. Amongst those will be the staff of Siena Catholic Primary School Lucas which opens on Friday for the 70 students enrolled. We pray for Jo Brewer (Principal), the whole staff, the students and their families as our third Catholic Primary School in the Cathedral Parish opens. We continue to pray for Mark Hogbin (Principal) and all staff, students and families of St Patrick's Primary and for Rosa Tocchet (Principal) and all staff, students and families of St Thomas More Alfredton.

Clergy Appointments

Bishop Paul has appointed Fr Matthew Thomas as Parish Priest of Swan Hill Parish with effect from February 25th 2017. Fr Matt will replace Fr Marcello Colasante who will become the Parish Priest of the Parishes of Ballarat North and Wendouree. Fr Peter Sherman has commenced as Parish Priest of Ballarat East. Bishop Paul has invited expressions of interest from the priests of the Diocese who wish to be considered for the Camperdown Parish to replace Fr Matt.

Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

Francis Sullivan writes The final hearing into the Catholic Church begins in Sydney on February 6th and is expected to run for three weeks. Unlike the case studies this hearing will be less forensic in nature and more of an exploration of the causes and contributing factors for the institutional responses from Church Authorities to child sex abuse cases. This is an important hearing is vital to the overall assessment the Commission will make of the Church's response to this scandal. All need to be mindful of the 'time warp' that can trap our thinking about the incidence of and response to child abuse. The history of abuse in the Catholic Church has been confronting and shameful. There is no excuse for it. There may well be reasons why it occurred but the fact that it did cannot be merely contextualised away. In its private sessions and through its data collection the Royal Commission has an estimate of the extent of the sexual abuse of children within the Church. I am sure this will be made public in the hearing and I for one am bracing myself for this revelation.

This will be the first time anywhere in the world that the data of the Catholic Church on child sexual abuse has been compiled and analysed for public consideration. The data and the evidence from expert witnesses will make for an intense examination of the abuse scandal. It will point to cultural and sociological issues in the Catholic Church in Australia – how decision making occurred, who was involved and why. It will look at where responsibility fell and to what degree accountability and compliance processes were effectively deployed. The hearing will seek to provide an understanding of how priests and religious were selected and trained in decades past as well as in current times All this within the general understanding that sexual abuse of children has occurred across institutions, and almost universally those institutions had cultures of cover up and obfuscation. We have engaged in this Commission process openly and in a spirit of co-operation.

This will be the 20th public hearing involving the Catholic Church and the 15th directly focused on the Catholic Church. It will be an important exploration of a devastating chapter in the history of the Catholic Church in Australia. And it will be difficult for the Catholic community. But the revelations will provide a litmus for how we as Church recover and move on from this low point.

Gospel Reflection: Matthew 5:1-12

We have become so familiar with the beatitudes that there is a danger of our listening only to the mellifluous flow of language and of failing to attend to the extraordinary present and future reversal that they offer to all that suffer injustice, including the earth itself, and to those who choose non-violent ways of addressing the pain of the Earth community. With the escalation of violence across the globe and with powerful leaders opting for military rather than diplomatic solutions to global conflicts or threats, it is time to listen anew to these opening words of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.

The mountain setting establishes Jesus as wisdom teacher like Moses of old. God's favour rests on the poor, on the humble, on those who grieve for the pain of the world, on serious justice seekers, on those who know how to mercy, on the pure in heart or single-minded, on peacemakers, and on those who suffer in the cause of right. The repetition of "blessed are..." (a better translation of the Greek makarioi than "happy are...") provides multiple links with Israel's collection of sacred songs, the Psalms. For Israel's lyricists, God's favour or blessing is on those whose hope is in God, on those whose delight is in God's way, on those who take refuge in God, on the guileless in spirit, and on those whom God forgives. The content of the beatitudes echoes the voice of Israel's prophets, especially Isaiah 61. God's spirit is upon Jesus. He brings the good news of God's present and future favour or blessing to the destitute and to those who mourn. The distinguishing mark of God's favoured ones is right relationship.

God's favour or blessing comes in diverse forms: the basileia or empire of the heavens; comfort in the face of grief; the earth for a heritage; the joy of being mercied; face to face encounter with God; a great reward "in heaven". If heaven is only a place to be enjoyed in the afterlife, it is little consolation for the desperately poor or for those who are persecuted or misrepresented to know that "the empire of the heavens is theirs" or that their "reward is great in heaven". Heaven is better understood as a way of talking about God or God's empire of justice and compassion in contrast with the heartless empire of Rome and its modern equivalents. Maybe the most urgent invitation in our present context is to mourn strategically the displacement of so many of earth's inhabitants who long for the blessing of God's kin-dom in the form of comfort and mercy and the opportunity to share the fruits of the Earth.

Sr Veronica Lawson rsm