

# St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Ballarat

[www.stpatscathedral.weebly.com](http://www.stpatscathedral.weebly.com)

7<sup>th</sup> May 2017

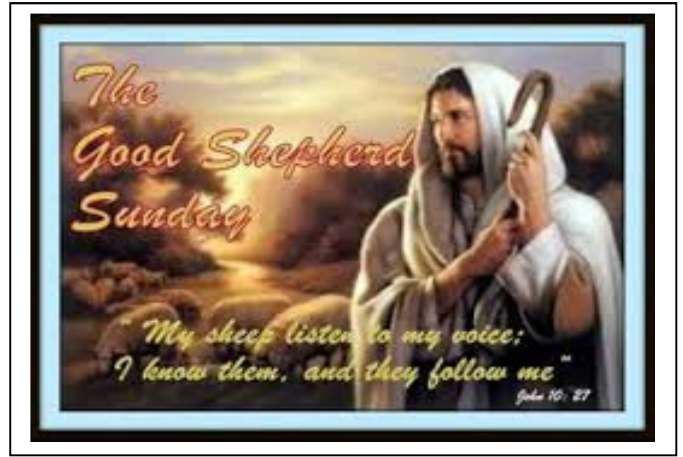


Parish Office hours

Monday - Friday 10 am – 5.00 pm

Phone 5331 2933

[ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto: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                   | 13 <sup>th</sup> /14 <sup>th</sup> May | Skipton | Beaufort | Snake Valley |
|---|--|---------|----------|--------------|
| 6.30 pm Vigil, 8.00 am, 10.30 am, 5.00 pm | 6.30 pm Vigil                          | 8.30am  | 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      | 11.30 am St John of God | 12.05 pm Cathedral |
| Friday    | 9.30 am  | Sebastopol | 12.05 pm                | 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 11.15 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 May 14<sup>th</sup> 2017

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (A,)

Acts 6:1-7

Ps 32:1-2. 4-5. 18-19. R. v.22

1 Peter 2:4-9

John 14:1-12

**Recent Deaths:** Marc Lavery, Emma McGrath, Marea (Maureen) Ward

**Anniversaries:** Mary Bettes, Fr Cyril Blake, Peter Hammond, Geordie Hayes, Robyn Lines, Gerard Madden, Tom Murphy, Nell O'Loughlin, Kevin Ratcliffe, Terrence Ratcliffe, Mark Ryan, Michael Ryan, Bernie Segrave

### **Cuppa & Chat**

There will be an opportunity for a Cuppa & Chat following 10.30am Mass today in the small hall. All welcome. This will be the last Sunday that Joan Bowman and Maree Toms who have coordinated the cuppa and chat in recent years will be doing so and we thank them for their service. For the monthly cuppa and chat to continue each month, parishioners are invited to volunteer. Please contact Jacinta in the Parish Office if you would like to be part of this hospitality.

### **Formation of a Pastoral Council for the Cathedral Parish**

[A Pastoral Council](#) consists of the Pastor together with a group of parishioners chosen by the parish community. The Pastoral Council's role is to promote the Church's mission to live and communicate the love and values of Christ in our world. The Pastoral Council shares in the responsibility for the ongoing life and development of the faith community, working together with parishioners to provide support for their efforts to live as followers of Christ. During the Easter season, Cathedral parishioners are invited to nominate to become members of the Council which will be convened in May 2017. The [handbook for Parish Councils](#) from the Archdiocese of Brisbane will guide the formation of our Council – please go to the parish office for details.

### **World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood – May 6<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup>**

World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood is celebrated on this Fourth Sunday of Easter. Seminarians from Corpus Christi College will be visiting the six parishes of Ballarat to speak about Vocations, they are: Chathura Silva to St Alipius Ballarat East, Vinco Muriyadan to St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat, Steven Smith to St Columba's Ballarat North and Our Lady Help of Christians Wendouree, Fidelis Udousoro to St Aloysius Redan and St James Sebastopol

### **Charismatic Prayer Group.**

7.00 pm each Tuesday evening in the front meeting room of St Patrick's Cathedral Hall. If further information is required contact 0408341911.

### **First Spiritual Exercises (of St Ignatius) retreat in Daily Life 24<sup>th</sup> April – 20<sup>th</sup> May (in Ballarat)**

We continue to pray for Fr Robbie Sian SJ and Doreen Roache as they lead this retreat and all participants.

### **Our Lady of Fatima Anniversary Prayer**

On Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup> monthly celebrations for the 100th Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima will commence in the Cathedral after 10.00 am Mass and at 6.00 pm on the 13<sup>th</sup> of each month.

## **Bishop Peter Connors 30th Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination**

Mass will be held on Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> 2017 at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat at 10.30am.

Morning Tea will follow in St Patrick's Cathedral Hall. All welcome.

## **Ballarat Parishes Baptism Preparation**

Increasingly the six parishes of Ballarat will work together. Over recent months the clergy, staff & Baptism coordinators from the Parishes of St Patrick's Cathedral, St Aloysius Redan, St James' Sebastopol, St Alipius Ballarat East, St Columba's Ballarat North, Our Lady Help of Christians Wendouree have been meeting to discuss the possibility of the Baptism preparation process. It is proposed to hold combined Baptism preparation sessions at the Cathedral for parents each month on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month at 10.00am & 7.00pm, commencing in August for all families wishing to have their children, under the age of 7, baptised in the Ballarat area.

A gathering will be held soon in the Cathedral Parish to discuss the continuing role that our Parish Baptism sponsors will have in this new process.

## **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 talk and small group discussion, where no question is too simple and no answer prepackaged. Participants are welcomed into a relaxed and friendly setting and have the opportunity to get to know one another. Within the group, we learn the art of listening, reading the Scriptures and praying. Alpha will be offered again in 2017 in the Cathedral Parish but a different format from different locations and has younger presenters as well as Nicky Gumbel. There are also interviews with several leading Catholics, including Fr Raniero Cantamalessa & Cardinal Schonborn. The link for a preview is <http://australia.alpha.org/watch/>. For those interested in being part of this adult faith opportunity – contact the Parish Office. Alpha will be offered in our Parish over the coming months which will be conducted on Thursday evenings in the smaller hall at the Cathedral.

## **Lay Pastoral Ministry Program – new study opportunities**

The Lay Pastoral Ministry Program in the Diocese of Ballarat offers low-cost opportunities for online study and formation for parishioners in the diocese. Registration for the May study cycle closes on 22 May, 2017. See the details on the diocesan website (link is on lower part of front page), then contact Amanda, ph: 5337 7125 or email [amanda.smith@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:amanda.smith@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

**Collections**   Envelopes \$2,932.00   Parish Loose \$335.60   Presbytery \$1,864.90

**Counters**   7<sup>th</sup> May   Team 4   Next week team 5   Thank you to all contributors and counters

**Mass Count starts on weekend May 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>**

The Annual Diocesan Mass Count will take place over the 4 weekends of May commencing on the weekend of May 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> at each of the four Masses celebrated each weekend.

## **Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF)**

ACYF is in Sydney December 7-9, 2017. A joyful 3 day immersion in faith with 15,000 other young Australians. Young people (yr 9-30yo) are encouraged to go. Preparations are underway for the young people of the Cathedral Parish to participate in this National Catholic Youth Festival with 25 young people interested in attending. Information is on the diocesan website Youth and Young Adult pages: [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) or contact Amanda on 5337 7125 or [youth@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:youth@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

### **Gospel Reflection:**

*Sr Veronica Lawson rsm*

My brother and sister-in-law were farmers who woke up one morning to find that all their sheep had disappeared. It seems that some enterprising thief or thieves had managed to load their sheep on to transports and move them interstate in the few hours between dusk and dawn. The unwelcome visitors had actually come in by the front gate, crossed the cattle pit, worked swiftly, and driven out again. In ancient Palestine, the flock would have been much smaller, the entrance would have been guarded and comings and goings would have been monitored closely by the gatekeeper. A thief would have had to scale the wall of the small enclosure and watch carefully for a chance to get away with a few of the sheep.

In John 10, Jesus presents a parabolic image about sheep and shepherds. His hearers fail to understand. This is hardly surprising because of the unusual mixing of metaphors, but also because they are hostile and choose not to understand. He proceeds to offer explanations of various aspects of the image he has created, two of which are included in today's reading. In the image, Jesus is both the gate to the sheepfold and the shepherd of the flock. He contrasts the access he provides as "the gate" with the unauthorized access gained through others "who have come before" him, namely the religious authorities featured in the previous chapter. They are unauthorized shepherds who gain access to the sheepfold on false pretences and lead God's flock into pastures that fail to satisfy.

There are echoes of the Psalms of Israel in this reading. In Psalm 23, God is the shepherd of Israel who leads the people into nourishing pastures and restores life to the depths of their nephesh or being. Nephesh is the word used in Genesis 2 for the life that God breathes into all beings. God leads the people in the way of justice or righteousness. Psalm 118 sings of God's gate through which the just or righteous will enter and give thanks. As the gate to the little sheepfold, Jesus offers the way to and from abundant life. As the shepherd, he monitors the movement of the sheep so that they are not tempted to stray along the paths of unrighteousness and destruction. As usual, the gospel text is multi-layered. The images pulsate with life and energy. They invite to vigilance on the one hand and gratitude on the other. They offer yet another way of thinking about Easter. At this time of Earth's distress, we might spare a thought for our farmers who, often in the face of adversity, struggle to care for their animals, to ensure the sustainability of the land entrusted to them, and to provide the produce we so often take for granted.