

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Ballarat

www.stpatricscathedral.weebly.com

21st May 2017



Parish Office hours

Monday - Friday 10 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	27 th /28 th May	Snake Valley	Beaufort	Skipton
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	12.05pm	Cathedral		
Tuesday	12.05 pm	Cathedral		
Wednesday	12 Noon	ACU Aquinas,	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

Charismatic Prayer Group 7.00 pm each Tuesday in the front meeting room of the Cathedral Hall.

Next week's readings: *Sunday May 28th 2017* *The Ascension of the Lord (A,)*

Acts 1:1-11 Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6 Ephesians 1:17-23 Matthew 28:16-20

Recent Deaths: Ken Boland, Bill Gorgan, Bernie Hogan, Peter Lavery, Dorothy Nolan

Anniversaries: Stefan Burcon, Loyola McKenzie, John Kennedy, Mary McInerney, Michael John Myers, Jessie Nestor, Stanley Alfred Russell, Fr Barry Stickland, Diny Verdoorn

We welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism;

River Michael Fedke

son of Michael & Natasha

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



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 June 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.

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 in a different format from previous years, at different locations and with younger presenters as well as Nicky Gumbel. 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.

The RCIA Journey of our Neophytes

The group of Neophytes and sponsors continue to gather every fortnight to reflect on their new experience and explore various aspects of life in our Catholic Church Community. On May 24th at 7.00 pm Audrey Brown will present a session on Spirituality in Everyday life. These gatherings would present a great opportunity for our Neophytes to get to know members of the Parish and have a chat over supper.

An inquiry season for the 2017 – 2018 RCIA will be held in the second half of the year.

Celebrating 30 years since Ordination as a Bishop – Congratulations to Bishop Peter Connors!!!

Family Matters – Strengthening Respectful Relationships

All are welcome to attend this forum with Fr Frank Brennan SJ as the guest speaker which will be held on Saturday, June 24th 9.00 am – 3.00 pm in St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Ballarat. The free event is being hosted by the Social Justice Commission of the Diocese of Ballarat. Details about workshops and how to register will be released soon. social.justice@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Choral Festival

Sunday May 28th at 1.30 pm in St Patrick's Cathedral. Free entry, all welcome.

Choirs include: Ballarat Choral Society, Beaufort Secondary College Singers, CWA choir, Federation University, Word of Mouth, Pyrenees Chorale, Regina Caeli Schola choir, St Columba's Primary, St Patrick's Cathedral Choir, Sing Australia Ballarat & Ballarat North, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints youth choir, U3A Choristers.

Catholic Education Week *Strive for the Greater Gifts*

We congratulate & thank the staff in the Catholic Schools and Colleges within our Cathedral parish who are the recipients of presentations acknowledging their 30 years of service to Catholic Education - Mark Hogbin (Principal) and Cathy Whelan from St Patrick's Drummond St, Pauline Doran of St Thomas More Alfredton, Jo Brewer (Principal) Siena at Lucas as well as Dennis Boyle, Julie Pollock and Megan Poulton of Loreto College and well as Glenn Fisher, Melissa Griffin, Danny Moore, Christine Smardon of St Patrick's College.

St. Patrick's Primary School in Drummond St will be conducting its annual Catholic Education Week School Open Morning next Wednesday 24th May, 9.00 am -11.00 am. Family, friends and parishioners are invited to this open morning.

Change of Saturday evening Vigil Mass Time

Parishioners who attend the Saturday evening Vigil were given the opportunity to indicate their preferred times for the Vigil during the three Winter months June, July and August. The time of **5.30 pm** was deemed the most popular and will be the new time for the Mass from June 3rd.

From the Cathedral Environment Team

The team met this past week to consider the feedback from parishioners to the draft concept plans for the garden of healing and reconciliation – thank you to all who have contributed. The team will seek to have further asphaltting completed on the Sturt St side of the Cathedral. More seating will be placed in the grounds, with the trees behind the Cathedral pruned. Opening the pedestrian gate from Lyons St into the garden will be explored. The team invites designs for the construction of a sheltered area (between the Cathedral and Hall), perhaps using the belltower.

Collections Envelopes \$2,712.00 Parish Loose \$331.60 Presbytery \$2,269.85

Counters 21st May Team 6 Next week team 7 Thank you to all contributors and counters.

Preparation for first communion

The Parish coordinated, family based, Catholic school supported Eucharist program continues this week and we welcome all of the families to the Masses this weekend. First Communion will be celebrated at 5.30 pm, 10.30 am and 5.00 pm Parish Masses over the two weekends of June 10th – 11th and June 17th – 18th. Please pray for these children, the families, catechists and teachers.

Celebrating the Feast of Pentecost – *How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language?* Increasingly the Cathedral parishioners are from a great diversity of cultures and backgrounds – including Croatian, Dutch, English, Filipino, German, Indian, Irish, Italian, Maltese, Scottish, South African, Spanish, Welsh... How might we celebrate our Christian Unity in Cultural Diversity when we come to celebrate the “birthday of the Church” at Pentecost on June 2nd – 3rd?

Gospel Reflection

Sr Veronica Lawson rsm

Those who defend themselves in court run the risk of being outsmarted by clever and sometimes unscrupulous adversaries. It is never a good idea to be too self-reliant even in a country with a basically sound legal system such as ours. Today’s gospel implies that the disciples need a defense attorney or lawyer. Jesus has acted in that capacity for them in their struggles with the anti-gospel forces arrayed against them. Now he is close to death and he gives them instructions that begin and end with reference to loving him and keeping his commandments. Jesus has given them “a new commandment” (13:34-35): “...that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.” Later in this discourse (15:12-14) the reader of the gospel learns what the actors in the drama already know about Jesus’ commandments. “This is my commandment,” says Jesus, “that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.” This is no small demand, to be prepared to die for one another.

Given the opposition they are likely to face, the disciples cannot live out such a commitment on their own. Neither is Jesus leaving them “orphans” who have to fend for themselves. He will ask his Father to provide “another” defender or advocate who will act on their behalf, an advocate who will always be there. This new advocate is the “Spirit of truth”. As we approach the end of the Easter season, the liturgy thus points us in the direction of Pentecost and the gift of God’s Spirit. It is good to know we are never on our own. It is also good to reflect on the capacity we have for love. Most of us will never find ourselves in a situation where our love is tested to the point that we have to die for another. On the other hand, we are constantly being called on to put the well-being of others, even their survival, before our own comfort. With global warming and the life-style changes that will inevitably come sooner rather than later, we may well find ourselves “laying down our lives” in various ways for the sake of our friends, humankind and other-kind, across the planet. Even now, we have countless opportunities to “lay down our lives” to mitigate the effects of climate change or to protect the rights of those displaced by war or persecution. With the help of the Spirit, our Advocate, we can surely rise to the challenge.