

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Ballarat

www.stpatscathedral.weebly.com

17th September 2017

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)



Parish Office hours
Phone 5331 2933



Monday - Friday 10 am – 5.00 pm
ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Bishop Paul Bird CSsR, Priests, Frs Justin Driscoll, Anthony Nagothu, Sajan Mathew
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	23 rd /24 th September	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	12.05 pm	Cathedral		
Tuesday	12.05 pm	Cathedral		
Wednesday	12 Noon	ACU Aquinas	12.05pm	Cathedral (Anointing)
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 12.30 pm

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 Tuesdays at 7.00 pm in the MacKillop/Glowrey rooms

Next week's readings: Sunday September 24th 2017

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A,)

Isaiah 55:6-9

Ps 144:2-3, 8-9, 17-18, R. v.18

Philippians 1:20-24, 27

Matthew 20:1-16

Recent Deaths: Clarrie Maher, John (Jack) Nunn, Norm Wallis

Anniversaries: Thomas Cafarella, Gerard Cranage, Francis Curran, Ella Franklin, Kathleen Hill, Mark Leonard, Sr Barbara May CSB.

Baptism Preparation

The six parishes of Ballarat (Ballarat, Ballarat East, Ballarat North, Redan, Sebastopol and Wendouree) come together to prepare parents for the baptism of their child. Two preparation sessions are held at the Cathedral on the first Thursday of each month – 10.00 am and 7.00 pm.

The next preparation session will be held on Thursday October 5th

Celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation

Over these two weekends 104 children from our Parish will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. Bishop Paul Bird is the celebrant this weekend. These celebrations will be at the 6.30 pm, 10.30 am and 5.00 pm Masses. Welcome to the children, their parents, sponsors, families and friends who are with us for these celebrations. Many thanks to Anita Houlihan, our Family Ministry Coordinator and the members of the Cathedral Parish Sacrament team.

Parish Anointing Mass

On Wednesday 20th, next Wednesday, our Mass of Anointing for the Parish will be held in St Patrick's Hall at midday. It is our 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. This is a great opportunity to catch up with other parishioners and have a chat over lunch. All are welcome. If you require transport on the day do not hesitate to phone Jacinta in the Parish Office on 53312933.

Australian Pastoral Musicians Network Conference – October 5th - 7th 2017

The APMN National Conference will be held in Perth from October 5-7, 2017. The conference will feature keynote address from David Haas, workshops, prayer and liturgy, showcase concert, conference dinner and resource display and sales. Further information & registration www.apmn.org.au

Marriage according to Pope Francis. A Pastoral Letter from Bishop Paul Bird

Copies of the pastoral letter from Bishop Paul which offers some reflections about marriage, drawing on the writings of Pope Francis are available from the Cathedral Foyers.

Alpha - Got questions, try Alpha? Adult Faith Opportunity

Thursday evenings, 7.00 pm – 8.30 pm in the Cathedral presbytery, you are invited to join with others to explore your own adult faith. This week's presentation is How can I resist evil? Those who are inquiring into the Catholic faith are part of these Alpha gathering. The format is a viewing of the session from the Alpha film series (you can view these on youtube) followed by small group conversation concluding with prayer.

Season of Creation

On September 1st, Christian Churches (Major Orthodox, Catholic, Anglican, Uniting) around the world came together to celebrate World day of Prayer for the Care of Creation and the start of the Season of Creation between September 1st to October 4th the feast of St Francis of Assisi.

An ecumenical service to complete the Season of Creation 2017 will be held at OLHC Church Wendouree on Sunday October 1st at 2.30pm. Afternoon tea to follow. All welcome

Centenary of Fatima apparitions of Mary

Evening of Recollection and Devotion - Fr Gerard Ryan will lead this evening in St Patrick's Cathedral on Friday October 13th, commencing with Reconciliation from 6.30 pm, 7.00 pm Fr Gerard introduces the evening, 7.30 pm Mass followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament concluding with Benediction.

30th Anniversary of Ordination of Fr Gary Jones

The Parish of St Peter's Daylesford will be celebrating the 30th Anniversary of Fr Gary's Ordination at 10.30am Mass on Sunday, October 15th 2017 followed by morning tea in the Parish Centre.

All welcome. Please RSVP to daylesford@ballarat.catholic.org.au to assist with catering.

Bikes for Humanity Collection Day

International charity *Bicycles for Humanity* gives old bikes a new home. They collect old bicycles, refurbish them and send them to Africa where the shipping container they came in transforms into a bike workshop providing employment, skills, training, economic development and ongoing benefits to the local community as well as all the 'new' bikes! Collection of your old bikes and parts Thursday October 6th, 9am -3.00pm St Patrick's Cathedral car park.

Ballarat Catholic Secondary College Information evenings

Loreto College Tuesday October 24th 7.00 pm

Damascus College Thursday October 26th 6.30 pm (Registrations by 6.15 pm)

St Patrick's College Thursday October 26th 7.30 pm Please register <https://www.trybooking.com/RCPH>

Caritas responds to the Famine in Africa affecting millions of people

The world faces the largest humanitarian crisis since the second world war with more than 20 million people facing starvation and famine. Please support this humanitarian effort on Social Justice Sunday September 24th. Enquiries to Sue Searls, 0409 401 329 or email sue.searls@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Parish Mission with Fr Richard Leonard SJ

Cathedral parishioners are invited to a mission led by Fr Richard Leonard SJ which is being held across the Beaufort and Linton parishes commencing Saturday, October 14th with 6.30 pm Mass at Smythesdale, Sunday 9.00 am Mass at Skipton and 6.00 pm Mass at Beaufort. Weekday sessions will be on Monday 16th 11.00 am Skipton, 7.00 pm Beaufort, Tuesday 17th 11.00 am Beaufort, 7.00 pm Snake Valley, Wednesday 18th 11.00 am Skipton, 5.00 pm Beaufort. The morning session is repeated in the afternoon. For times and places please see the flyer on the notice boards or contact the Beaufort Parish Centre on 5349 2880.

50 year celebration of Mercy education at Damascus College Mt Clear site

Past students and staff of Damascus College and the three foundation Colleges, Sacred Heart College, St Paul's Technical College and St Martin's in the Pines are invited to the opening of the Commemorative Walk, a 240 metre bush walking track. Please register your attendance by Friday 27th September, by going to the Damascus website: <http://www.damascus.vic.edu.au/news-and-events-50-year-celebrations>

Counters 17th September Team 2 Next week team 3. Thank you to all contributors and counters.

Gospel Reflection Veronica Lawson RSM

While the opening verses of this Sunday's gospel reading have Jesus advocating endless forgiveness (not seven but seventy-seven times), the parable that follows is anything but consistent with this teaching and the teaching of Jesus in the gospel as a whole. We are all familiar with the beatitude, "Blessed are the merciful for they shall be mercied" (5:7) and with the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples, "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors" (6:12).

How then do we read today's story of a king who is prepared initially to forgive the debt that his slave has incurred, only to resort to torture when that slave fails to forgive his fellow slave? This story raises more problems than we can address in this short reflection: the unquestioning acceptance of slavery and the plight of slaves; the absolute power of the king over his subjects; the institution of debt slavery; the treatment of women and children; the collection of crippling taxes to finance the power of the king; an unjust and cruel ruler as an image of the God of Israel; imaging God as a loving father who nonetheless acts in tyrannical ways.

In other words, the parable encodes institutions and practices of the time that Jesus and/or the Matthean community seem to accept without question.

Does this parable come from the lips of Jesus or from the Matthean community? It would be anachronistic to expect a critique of slavery from Jesus or from Matthew's community since the institution of slavery was simply taken for granted. It persisted without critique for some 1800 years. It is totally out of character, however, for Jesus to image his "heavenly Father" as a merciless torturer. It may be that Jesus did in fact tell such a story in another context and that the Matthean author has rather arbitrarily linked the sayings on forgiveness (forgiving 77 times and forgiving brothers and sisters from one's heart) with this story. It is conceivable that Jesus insisted on the consequences of refusing to forgive. While God is merciful and forgiving, disciples must not exploit God's capacity to forgive. Bad behaviour is not to be tolerated. It has its consequences and those who continually fail to forgive can expect to suffer the consequences of their actions.

Whatever we make of the story of the less than forgiving king and the unforgiving slave, we might take on board Jesus' response to Peter's question. "How often should I forgive?" We might also note the reminder at the end of the gospel that true forgiveness is "from the heart". In the biblical world, the heart was the core of the person's being, the seat of cognition as well as of emotion. To forgive from the heart is to forgive with the whole of one's being.