

# St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Ballarat

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

1<sup>st</sup> October 2017

26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)



Parish Office hours  
Phone 5331 2933

Monday - Friday 10 am – 5.00 pm  
[ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto: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	7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> October	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 Noon	ACU Aquinas	12.05pm	Cathedral
Thursday	9.30 am	Redan	No Mass @ St John of God	12.05 pm Cathedral
Friday	9.30 am	Sebastopol	10.00 am St John of God – Foundation Day	
			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** Tuesdays at 7.00 pm in the MacKillop/Glowrey rooms  
Fridays at 8.00 pm in the Presbytery Meeting room

**Recent Deaths:** Mary Connellan, Fr Paul Mercovich, Dinny Murphy

**Anniversaries:** Maree Addison, ZM (Jack) Burcon, Iris Burgess, Maria Daniele, Giesela Gotthold, Ray Harman, Maria Merzviniskis, Albert Rose, Marian Ward

**Next week's readings:** *Sunday October 8<sup>th</sup> 2017* *27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (A,)*  
Isaiah 5:1-7      Ps 79:9. 12-16. 19-20. R. Is 5:7      Philippians 4:6-9      Matthew 21:33-43

### **Cuppa & Chat after Mass**

There will be an opportunity for a cuppa & a chat after 10.30am Mass today in the Cathedral Hall. Everyone is most welcome.

### **Catholic Women's League**

Members of the Ballarat Cathedral Branch will meet at St Patrick's Cathedral Presbytery on Wednesday October 4<sup>th</sup> at 1.30 pm for the Annual General Meeting.

Members are encouraged to attend as election of office bearers will take place at the meeting.

### **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 Why and How should I tell others? 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.

**Collections**    Envelopes \$1,879.00      Parish Loose \$183.00      Presbytery \$2,089.85  
Caritas Leaving Collection for Famine Relief in East Africa \$1,615.25

**Counters**    24<sup>th</sup> September    Team 3    Next week team 4. Thank you to all contributors and counters.

### **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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 11.00 am Skipton, 7.00 pm Beaufort, Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> 11.00 am Beaufort, 7.00 pm Snake Valley, Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Experience Loreto College Day – “Beyond the Historic Fence”**

This is an opportunity for prospective families to visit the College in action. You will be taken on a guided tour of the College by current students and staff who will show you the grounds and facilities and share their insight into being a student at Loreto College. Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> 9.00am – 12.00pm  
Must register to attend [www.loreto.vic.edu.au](http://www.loreto.vic.edu.au)

## **Centenary of Fatima Apparitions of Mary**

Evening of Recollection and Devotion, St. Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat Friday October 13<sup>th</sup>

- 6.30pm – Sacrament of Penance
- 7.00pm – Reflection – Fr. Gerard Ryan
- 7.30pm – Mass, Exposition and Benediction

A bus will leave Ballarat Cathedral Car Park at 8.45am for Mass in the Bendigo Cathedral at 11.00am on October 8<sup>th</sup>. BYO lunch. Contact Joan 53382484 or Maureen 0431273953 by October 2<sup>nd</sup> to book attend. Rosary for Our Lady Saturday October 14<sup>th</sup> 11.00am in the Sturt St rotunda between Dawson & Doveton Sts. All welcome

## **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 5<sup>th</sup>, 9am -3.00pm St Patrick's Cathedral car park. If anyone is unable to deliver their bikes please contact Alan West of St Vincent de Paul 0407 120 943 & collection can be arranged.

## **MENTal Brekky**

Friday October 20<sup>th</sup> at St Patrick's college OCA Pavilion from 7am – 8.30am, come and join a conversation about men's mental health. Tickets \$50 including breakfast. Funds raised will go to the Chris Yeung Fund which seeks to raise awareness of men's mental health issues and to support St Patrick's students impacted by it. Tickets at <https://www.trybooking.com/PJNX>

## **Season of Creation Ecumenical Service**

You are invited to attend an Ecumenical Service being held to celebrate the end of the Season of Creation (September 1 to the Feast of St Francis of Assisi October 4) on Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Wendouree at 2.30pm. Afternoon tea to follow.

## **Fr Paul Mercovich RIP**

Bishop Paul Bird, the priests and people of the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat are saddened by the death of their brother and friend Fr Paul, who died in Alice Springs on September 22<sup>nd</sup> 2017, aged 80. Fr Paul was ordained priest for the Diocese of Ballarat at Ararat on May 31<sup>st</sup> 1969. He served as an Assistant Priest in the Parishes of Koroit, Camperdown and Colac. He was appointed Administrator of the Parish of Birregurra, followed by appointments in Inglewood and Ballarat. Fr Paul has served as the Parish Priest of the Parishes of Ouyen (1977), Charlton (1984), (2002), Ballarat East (1987) and St Arnaud (1998). He also served as Chair of the Diocesan Education Board. May he rest in peace

Funeral Mass for Fr Paul Mercovich will be celebrated in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, St Arnaud on Friday October 13<sup>th</sup> at 10.30 am. Committal will follow at the Ararat Cemetery at 3.00 pm. Vigil Mass will be celebrated at St Joseph's Church Charlton on Thursday October 12<sup>th</sup> at 7.00 pm.

## **Building a Healthier Church – Where to from here?**

An evening of conversation with Bishop Vincent Long, Maria Kirkwood and Francis Sullivan, asking What are the challenges that are coming from the Royal Commission? Sharing Leadership in a Collaborative Church? What sort of Church should we be? Thursday October 12<sup>th</sup>, 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm YTU Box Hill.

## **Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program – now open for new participants**

Low-cost opportunities for online study and formation for people of the Diocese. A wide range of subjects: Scripture, Sacraments, Social Justice, Leadership skills, Youth Ministry, many more. Registration for the October study cycle closes on **October 16<sup>th</sup>**. A study cycle means you do one subject over 5 weeks. There are 6 study cycles each year, you can start at any one. [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) (link is on home page), or contact Amanda, phone 5337 7125 or email [amanda.smith@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:amanda.smith@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

## **Gospel Reflection**

**Sr Veronica Lawson RSM**

While the international community has long-since outlawed slavery, we have become increasingly aware of the persistence of a lucrative global industry structured around the sexual and labour enslavement of vulnerable people. Groups such as MGA (Mercy Global Action) and ACRATH (Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking of Humans) are taking action on behalf of those enslaved. Today's gospel features a parable about an absentee landowner with slaves to do his bidding. Commentators focus on almost every aspect of this parable: the landowner, the tenants, the fate of the "servants" and of the landowner's son, the interpretive comments that Jesus offers the chief priests and elders to whom the parable is addressed, the prophetic inter-texts and the allegorical elements in the text. Few consider the role or the fate of the slaves as slaves in the parable. Our contemporary sensibilities in relation to slavery invite a new reading of such texts, a reading that at the very least critiques the power that some in the Earth community exercise over others.

The frequent translation of the Greek *doulos* as "servant" rather than as "slave" masks the underlying reality that some members of the community, even within the circle of believers gathered at the Eucharistic table, were actually the property of others in the community. The fact is that nobody in the ancient world, not even Jesus of Nazareth, questioned this situation. It is not surprising, therefore, that the slaves in today's parable are considered by the "tenants" to be dispensable. Their role is to collect the produce from the harvest on behalf of the absentee landowner.

We can surmise that the "tenants" have legitimate grievances against the landowner. They clearly have no intention of parting with any portion of the produce, presumably the tax imposed on them as a condition of their tenancy. They react violently when confronted by the three slaves who are the landowner's emissaries. They beat one slave, kill another and stone yet another. Their treatment of the slaves is an implicit acknowledgement that the slaves represent the landowner whose demands they refuse to meet. The landowner risks the lives of other slaves by sending yet another and bigger delegation. This second group of emissaries meets the same fate as their predecessors. Finally, the landowner sends his own son in the expectation that the tenants will show him the respect they have denied the slaves, his property. In fact, the son receives the same treatment as the slaves. He too is dispensable from the perspective of those wanting to seize "the inheritance", those wishing to take control of the vineyard for their own purposes. As we reflect on gospel stories that take slavery for granted, we might commit ourselves to eliminating all exercise of power over others or over any "vineyard" entrusted to our care.