

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Ballarat

www.stpatscathedral.weebly.com

December 3rd 2017

1st Sunday of Advent (Year B)



Parish Office hours

Monday - Friday 10 am – 5.00 pm

ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Phone 5331 2933

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 Cathedral
Our Parish Safeguarding Officer is Jess Salazar who may be contacted through the Cathedral Office

Principals of our three Parish Primary Schools

[St Patrick's Primary](#) Mark Hogbin, [St Thomas More](#) Rosa Tocchet, [Siena](#) at Lucas Jo Brewer

Cathedral Parish Masses	9 th /10 th December	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	6.30 pm	Cathedral (St Pat's Primary School)
Wednesday	12.05 pm	Cathedral	6.00 pm	Cathedral (St Thomas More School)
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

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Monday & Tuesday 10.00 am – 11.45 am, Friday 11.00 am

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena - 7.00 pm each Wednesday evening at Nazareth House

Charismatic Prayer Tuesdays at 7.00 pm in the MacKillop/Glowrey rooms
Fridays at 8.00 pm in the Presbytery Meeting room

Next week's readings: *Sunday December 10th 2017* *2nd Sunday of Advent (B)*

Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11 Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8 2Pet3:8-14 Mark 1:1-8

Wedding Congratulations

Joe Micich and Christiana Soosai were married at the Cathedral this weekend

Recent Deaths: Corrie van Raaphorst

Anniversaries: George & Elizabeth Clark, Frank Giuliano, Edward & Mary Jones,
Frank McArdle, James & Alice Malone, Fr John Martin,

Celebrations during Advent as we end our year and prepare for Christmas

Preparations for the season Advent are underway with the Anointing Mass scheduled for 12.05 pm Mass on Thursday December 14th. This Mass, held in the Cathedral Hall is followed by lunch.

The 2nd Rite of the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated at 7.00 pm on Wednesday December 13th Mass will be celebrated at Kallara Special Accommodation facility, Cuthberts Rd Alfredton on Wednesday December 13th at 10.00 am.

St John of God Christmas Service Mass on Thursday 14th December at 10.00am.

Masses celebrating the end of the school year for our Parish Primary Schools will be celebrated as follows

St Patrick's Primary End of Year School Mass 6.30 pm Tuesday December 5th

St Thomas More End of Year School Mass 6.00 pm Wednesday December 6th

Siena Primary End of Year School Mass Friday December 15th

St Vincent de Paul Cathedral Conference will hold its end of year bbq on Thursday December 14th 6.30 pm

A morning tea will be held in the Cathedral presbytery on Friday December 22nd at 10.30 am for all parishioners who are engaged in the many parish ministries. Please RSVP to Jacinta in the Cathedral office if you would like to attend this pre-Christmas gathering.

St Patrick's Cathedral Preschoolers Christmas Gathering - Thursday December 7th 9.30 am – 11.30am in St Patrick's Hall. Parents and pre-schoolers all invited. Please bring a plate of morning tea for parents and children to share (nut-free food greatly appreciated) Please RSVP by text to Sarah 0408122173

Opening New Horizons for Spreading Joy. Young People, faith and vocational discernment

Welcome to all who are attending the Cathedral 5.00 pm Mass this Sunday with Bishop Paul for the commissioning of those attending the Catholic Youth Festival being held in Sydney. Twenty young people from the Cathedral Parish and Fr Anthony have registered to attend the Australian Catholic Youth festival being held in Sydney, December 7th – 9th. The Diocese of Ballarat will be providing the funding for bus transport of the young people to and from Sydney. The Cathedral Parish will contribute \$5,600 which cover the accommodation costs to stay in Sydney. This weekend we commence the Year of Youth!

St Vincent de Paul Society Jesse Tree Christmas Appeal 2017

The Cathedral Parish Conference of the Society of St Vincent de Paul will again be distributing Christmas hampers. Last Christmas we were able to provide support to over 130 families and individuals.

Jesse Tree symbols will be distributed after each Masses throughout the Season of Advent. We again ask that you support our Jesse Tree Appeal through the donation of non-perishable food items. Vinnies Christmas Appeal envelopes are available in the pews for those wishing to make a cash donation to the appeal. Hampers will be delivered on Wednesday December 20th 2017 therefore it would be appreciated if non-perishable food items could be placed under the Jesse Tree prior to this date.

Collections Envelopes \$1,911.00 Parish Loose \$350.40 Presbytery \$2,135.20

If you would like to join the Stewardship by making a regular financial contribution to the Cathedral Parish, you can do so by either direct debit or the envelopes. Please contact Jess Salazar in the Parish Office.

Counters 3rdDecember Team 6 Next week team 7. Thank you to all contributors and counters.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

At the 5.00 pm last weekend in the Feast of Christ the King, the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens was celebrated with Kirby Moerth and Allan Jubber accepted with Priya Theckemurry as the sponsor for Kirby and Jess and Josephine Salazar as Allan's sponsor.

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 December 7th in the smaller hall at the Cathedral.

The CWL Ballarat Cathedral Branch

Annual Mass for deceased members will be celebrated on Wednesday 6th December at 12.05pm followed by a 2 course lunch at Oscars, 18 Doveton St. South at 1.15pm for a 1.30pm start. Friends are welcome. Transport available for anyone requiring it. Cost \$30 to be paid on the day. RSVP 4th December
Contacts Carmel 0401 175 045 or Anna: 0400 260 660

What next after the Royal Commission?

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse will sit on December 14th to publicly mark the conclusion of the five-year long inquiry. Royal Commission CEO, Philip Reed, said the sitting will be a chance for Commissioners to thank the community for their continued support of the Royal Commission and its work. "When we began in 2013, we had no idea just how widespread or prevalent child sexual abuse in institutions was in Australia, or how many people would come forward to share their story," Mr Reed said. "Since then we have held 57 public hearings, where we sat for 444 days and heard evidence of more than 1,300 witnesses. Commissioners have also listened to the personal accounts of almost 8,000 survivors of child sexual abuse in institutions through 'private sessions'. "Combined with our comprehensive policy and research program, the Royal Commission has been able to contribute to the community's understanding and awareness of institutional child sexual abuse."

Reinventing Loudfence?

The Loudfence movement has been significant part of our experience throughout the Royal Commission. Maureen Hatcher, founder and organiser of Loudfence has said previously *"It started as a reaction to the Royal Commission into Institutional Abuse when it was being held in Ballarat. So many people I knew were shocked and saddened by what they were hearing and were saying they wanted to do something but didn't know what. I knew there had to be something...tying a ribbon is such an easy thing to do, but it is such a visually and emotionally powerful statement... It's time for it to evolve further and reinvent itself."*

Legion of Mary

All Parishioners are welcome to the screening of the DVD, The Song of Bernadette (apparition of Our Lady of Lourdes) on Tuesday December 5th at 1.30 pm in the smaller hall. Light lunch provided after Mass.

Building a Healthier Church

These conversations which commenced followed the presentations at YTU Box Hill by Maria Kirkwood, Francis Sullivan and Bishop Vincent Long will continue in the Cathedral presbytery with the next gathering on Thursday December 7th at 4.00 pm. All are welcome to join this open dialogue.

Working Bee in the Cathedral

There will be a cleaning working bee in the Cathedral on Friday December 15th at 9.00am any assistance on the morning would be greatly appreciated.

Developments in Catholic Education

Mark Hogbin, Principal of St Patrick's Primary School in Drummond St is the successful applicant for the position of Education Consultant for the Catholic Schools of the Central Zone of the Diocese of Ballarat for 2018. Mark will be replacing Tony Perkins who has accepted an appointment as Principal for 2018 of Emmaus Primary in Mt Clear. The 2018 positions of leadership for 'Drummo' will be announced this week.

Sr Marie Davey RSM is retiring as Deputy Principal of Damascus College Mt Clear. Damascus College is sponsored by the Catholic Parishes of the Greater Ballarat area and the Sisters of Mercy. Sr Marie has offered 53 years of service to Catholic education in the Diocese of Ballarat in Catholic Schools in Ballarat North, Wendouree, Warracknabeal, St Arnaud, and as Principal of Sacred Heart College Ballarat East. The Cathedral Parish expresses our gratitude to Sr Marie for her service to Damascus College and Catholic Ed.

Gospel Reflection:

Greg Sunter

Stay awake! With these words, Jesus cautions his disciples to be constantly vigilant and to be alert to the return of the Lord. It is a very fitting way to begin the season of Advent. Advent has traditionally been observed as a time of preparation and waiting. It culminates in the Christmas season and so the waiting and preparation is related to the celebration of the coming of Christ into the world.

Perhaps the time of preparation this Advent is also a call to stay awake and stay alert in faith. One of the great challenges to faith today is the complacency that has taken hold of many in our society. When life is comfortable, the perceived need for faith appears to diminish. Many young people in our society cannot see the value of religious belief or religious practice. In a world of instant communication and instant 'satisfaction', the reflective and slow work of faith can seem too much effort for some people. The gospel call to stay awake in preparation for the coming of the Lord is a call to continue the work of bringing about the Kingdom of God.

Over the last three weeks, the gospel passages from Matthew 25 were reminders about continuing to prepare for the coming of the Kingdom. This week, with the beginning of Advent, it is the gospel of Mark that also reminds us that we cannot take the Kingdom for granted and must remain vigilant in working to realise the Kingdom. This vigilance needs to be applied to nurturing our own faith life as well as making a difference in the lives of those around us and the needy in society. Rather than 'Stay awake!' maybe some of us need to be told, 'Wake up!' It is never too late to pay closer attention to faith and perhaps this Advent is an ideal time to do that.