

# St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Ballarat

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

December 10<sup>th</sup> 2017

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent (Year B)**



Parish Office hours

Monday - Friday 10 am – 5.00 pm

[ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto: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	16 <sup>th</sup> /17 <sup>th</sup> December	Smythesdale	Skipton	Rokewood
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	5.00 pm Cathedral (Catholic Education Office Staff)	
Wednesday	10.00 am	Kallara	12.05 pm Cathedral	
Thursday	9.30 am	Redan	10.00 am St John of God	12.05 pm Cathedral
Friday	9.30 am	Sebastopol	12.05 pm Cathedral	2.00 pm Siena @ Lucas
Saturday	10.00 am	Cathedral		

**Sacrament of Reconciliation** Wednesday 7.00pm (2<sup>nd</sup> Rite), 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

**Next week's readings:** *Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup> 2017* *3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent (B)*

Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11 Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8. 19-28

**Advent Refrain** (by Michael Herry, Marist Music)

Wait in joyful hope a Saviour will come. Jesus Christ the light of the world.

Wait in joyful hope a Saviour will come. Welcome to the Word of God

**Recent Deaths:** Margaret Clifford, Noreen Currie, Frank Dixon, Eva Henry, Maria Kerr

**Anniversaries:** Thelma Bogers, Gwen Calf, Jack Coffey, Tony Debono, Ronald Leslie Edgar, Ronald Mark Edgar, Teresa Kingston, Ljubomir Saric, Frank Tagliabue

**We welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism;**

Eliza Maree Sherman	daughter of Darren & Stacey
Thomas John Rippon	son of Jacob & Louise
Eleanor Vivian Pianta	daughter of Genevieve & Joshua
Ivy Louise Mookhoek	daughter of



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

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

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Rite of the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated at 7.00 pm on Wednesday December 13<sup>th</sup>

Mass will be celebrated at Kallara, Cuthberts Rd Alfredton on Wednesday December 13<sup>th</sup> at 10.00 am.

Siena Primary            End of Year School Mass            Friday December 15<sup>th</sup>

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

A morning tea will be held in the Cathedral presbytery on Friday December 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

Carols in the Cathedral Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm

**Parish Anointing Mass December 14th**

On Thursday December 14<sup>th</sup> our Advent Mass of Anointing for the Parish will be held in St Patrick's Hall at 12.05 pm. Lunch will be served following the 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 gather with other Parishioners. If you require transport on the day contact Jacinta in the Parish Office on 53312933.

**Working Bee in the Cathedral**

Friday December 15<sup>th</sup> at 9.00 am. Any assistance on the morning would be greatly appreciated.

**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 20<sup>th</sup> 2017 therefore it would be appreciated if non-perishable food items could be placed under the Jesse Tree prior to this date.

## **Cathedral Parish Pastoral Council**

Over recent months there has been discernment about membership of the newly created Parish Pastoral Council. It is many years since there has been such a Council in the Cathedral Parish. The role of the Pastoral Council will be 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. At Tuesday's meeting, Juanita Bongiorno, Susan Crowe, Trudie Dickinson, Anne Niroshi, Leo Styles, Tommy Theckummurry were confirmed as members of the Pastoral Council with Fr Justin. A further three parishioners who were unable to attend Tuesday's meeting will be discerned for their membership of the Parish Pastoral Council. Throughout 2018 the Council will explore ways of engaging and supporting existing Parish groups, organisations and ministries as well as setting both short term and long term goals for the Cathedral Parish.

## **Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse**

Report of Case Study 28 - Catholic Church authorities in Ballarat.

The Commission released its report on Wednesday December 6<sup>th</sup> which Commissioners reported:

*"This case study exposed a catastrophic failure in the leadership of the Diocese and ultimately in the structure and culture of the Church over decades to effectively respond to the sexual abuse of children by its priests. That failure led to the suffering and often irreparable harm to children, their families and the wider community. That harm could have been avoided if the Church had acted in the interests of children rather than in its own interests."* Follow this link to read the report

<https://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/media-releases/report-catholic-church-authorities-ballarat-released>

## **Cathedral garden project**

The garden project to create a place of reflection and remembrance in the area behind the Cathedral at the corner of Sturt and Lyons St has progressed this week with the opening of the Lyons St pedestrian gate and the path to the place where the ribbons from the Loudfence will be held. On Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 3.00 pm, parishioners are invited to gather in the garden to respectfully remove the ribbons and place them in this newly created remembrance space.

**Collections**      Envelopes \$2,695.00      Parish Loose \$489.40      Presbytery \$2,430.70

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**      10<sup>th</sup> December      Team 7      Next week team 1. Thank you to all contributors and counters.

## **"Heaven On Earth"**

The Neil Street Uniting Church Choir presents a Christmas Musical arranged and orchestrated by Camp Kirkland, Tuesday December 12<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm. Admission is Free. Freewill Offering  
Cnr Neill & Macarthur Streets, Soldiers Hill.

45 strong choir plus 12 piece orchestra, bring a friend, enjoy free refreshments after.

## Cathedral Parish Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve	6.30 pm,	9.00 pm,	12.00 midnight
Christmas Day	8.00 am,	10.30 am,	5.30 pm (Syro-Malabar Rite, Kerala Community)
Nazareth House	10.00 am	St John of God	10.30 am

**Christmas Carols** 7.00 pm Friday December 22<sup>nd</sup>

## Peace – Christmas signs

The Cathedral Parish is promoting a message of Peace to all in our community this Christmas as well as advertising our Christmas Mass times. These signs have been made possible through the generosity of Ballarat Real Estate, Barry Plant Real Estate, Buxton Real Estate, Hayden Real Estate, John Conaughton Real Estate, and Trevor Petrie Real Estate. Thank you.

## Gospel Reflection:

Sr Veronica Lawson rsm

*The first verse of Mark's gospel evokes the opening words of Genesis and thus situates the saving presence of Jesus in relation to the creation of earth and of all earth beings. The whole of Mark's story of Jesus is presented as a beginning. It is the beginning of a faith journey into which the listener/reader is invited. In some manuscripts of the Greek text, there are only five words in this verse, seven in other manuscripts, and twelve in our English translation. The term gospel (euangelion) means good news. It referred originally to the news of victory delivered by a messenger, usually in time of war. The good news in this context is about Jesus, a name meaning "Yahweh saves". The reader learns that this Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed One of God, Israel's longed for Messiah. The actors within the story have to discover this truth as the drama unfolds. The two additional words present Jesus as "son of God", or as one having the characteristics of God.*

*John the Baptizer is identified as the messenger who proclaims the need to prepare the way for the arrival of a new Presence in our world. Mark creates the impression that something big is happening here. John draws massive crowds from city and country alike. They come to him in the wilderness, the home of the other-than-human, of diverse forms of life. At a metaphorical level, wilderness recalls Israel's experience in the Sinai desert. It is the place of testing and of new beginnings for God's people, the place of God's coming or God's "advent" to Israel. Jesus will be impelled by the Spirit into the wilderness where he will pass the tests that Israel failed.*

*This reading invites us to prepare for God's advent by ritualising metanoia (usually translated as "repentance"), and thus being ready for the one who comes. The translation "repentance" does not convey the nuances of the Greek term metanoia which literally means a "change of mind" and suggests an "expansion of horizons". God's advent demands a new mindset that will predispose us to receive the gift of God's forgiveness and be open to feel the pain of earth as well as the pain of those rendered poor. Mark's depiction of John evokes the image of the prophet Elijah in 2 Kings 8 and the "hairy mantle" of the prophet in Zechariah 13:4. John is a prophet who, like the prophets of old, calls God's people to reconsider where they stand in relation to God. He is also the one who heralds the advent of the "stronger" one who will baptize "with the Holy Spirit". And yet there is nothing in the subsequent narrative about Jesus baptizing. As we reflect attentively on Mark's gospel this liturgical year, we might discover for ourselves the meaning of that reference.*