

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Ballarat

www.stpatscathedral.weebly.com

December 17th 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 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	23rd/24th December	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	12.05 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

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evening at 7.00 pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Tuesday 10.00 am – 11.45 am, Friday 12.30 pm

Next week's readings: *Sunday December 24th 2017 4th Sunday of Advent (B)*

2 Sm 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16 Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29. R. see v.2 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38

Advent Refrain (by Michael Herry, Marist Music, copyright One Licence)

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

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve (Sunday)

6.00pm	Ballarat East
6.00pm	Ballarat Nth
6.00pm	Clarkes Hill
6.00pm	Redan
6.00pm	Skipton
6.00pm	Gordon
6.30pm	Cathedral
7.00pm	Buninyong
7.00pm	Wendouree
7.30pm	Sebastopol
7.30pm	Smythesdale
8.00pm	Cressy
8.00pm	Ballan
8.00pm	Ballarat Nth
8.00pm	Beaufort
8.00pm	Springbank
9.00pm	Ballarat East
9.00pm	Cathedral
9.00pm	Snake Valley
10.00pm	Bungaree
12 Midnight	Cathedral

Christmas Day (Monday)

8.00am	Cathedral
9.00am	Ballarat East
9.00am	Ballarat Nth
9.00am	Linton
9.00am	Redan
9.00am	Sebastopol
9.00am	Waubra
9.00am	Wendouree
9.30am	Dunnstown
10.30am	Cathedral
10.30am	St J of God
5.30pm	Cathedral
	(Syro-Malabar Rite)

Recent Deaths: Eileen Buckeridge, Mary Clohesy, Denis Davey, Joan Hayes, Anthony Skobla, Vera Tempany

Anniversaries: Tom Donohue, Michael Duffin, Eileen O'Donnell, Sr Joan D'Orsa

We welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism;

Bridie Garagate Dwight daughter of David & Mayra

Jed Leo & Beau Lion Barfoot sons of Brett & Jessica

Sophia Ann-marie Rene Gutauskas daughter of Rene & Ann-marie

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

Carols in the Cathedral

Friday, December 22nd, 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm

St Vincent de Paul Society Jesse Tree Christmas Appeal 2017

Hampers will be delivered on Wednesday December 20th 2017

Thank you to the Cathedral parishioners for their continued support.

Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

The Royal Commission held its final sitting in Sydney on Thursday, December 14th. Justice McClellan said that *"For victims and survivors, telling their stories has required great courage and determination. Most are stories of personal trauma and many are of personal tragedy. It is impossible not to share the anger many survivors have felt when they tell us of their betrayal by people they believed they were entitled to trust... Their stories have helped us to identify what should be done to make institutions safer for children in the future. It has been a privilege for the Commissioners to sit with and listen to survivors. The survivors are remarkable people with a common concern to do what they can to ensure that other children are not abused. They deserve our nation's thanks."*

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 17th at 3.00 pm, parishioners are invited to gather in the garden to respectfully remove the ribbons, placing them in this newly created remembrance space.

Seeking Assistance

Lifeline 13 11 14, Ballarat Centre Against Sexual Assault (CASA) 1800 806 292,

Victoria Police Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Investigation Team (SOCIT) in Ballarat 5336 6055

Our Lady Help of Christians Parish Wendouree

You are invited to join us on Christmas Day for Lunch (no cost), 12.00 Midday -2.00 pm (Meal at 12.30 pm) to be held at OLHC Parish Hall 482 Gillies St. Wendouree

Collections Envelopes \$2,853.00 Parish Loose \$405.50 Presbytery \$2,054.95

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 17th December Team 7 Next week team2. Thank you to all contributors and counters.

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

Today's gospel reading falls into two sections. The first section comprises a statement from the prologue of John's gospel and the second revolves around a question that has already been answered in the prologue. In other words, the reader knows the answer to the question posed by the characters in the second section. The prologue presents John the baptizer as "a man sent from God". He is not "the light"; he is rather a "witness" whose role is to testify to "the light". The true light [Jesus] was "coming into the world". As we proclaim Jesus as "the light", we might take time to appreciate the wonder and the properties of the material reality that informs this metaphor.

In the face of less than friendly questioning, John the baptizer responds simply and honestly to questions about his identity. The questions are relentless and John's responses are unambiguous. He is not the Messiah, the Anointed of God. He is not the prophet Elijah that some identified with God's messenger of Malachi 3:1-3 who would return and restore the "descendants of Levi" He is not the prophet-like-Moses of Deuteronomy 15. He states his identity with reference to the words of the prophet Isaiah: he is the voice crying out in the wilderness, inviting God's people to prepare the way for God's advent, God's coming. John knows who he is. He understands the parameters of his mission and he points his questioners in the direction of the truth. His role is a pivotal one in the story of God's saving action. His story is also pivotal in the unfolding of the drama of the fourth gospel. It is worth asking how we might answer the question that the priests and Levites put to John on behalf of the Jerusalem "Jews": "Who are you?" If we can honestly answer that question, if we can admit who we are with all our strengths and weaknesses, if we can know our place in the scheme of things and own it in all humility, then we are probably in a good position to recognise and, like John, witness to the "one who is coming", the light of the world, the revelation of God. A caution is in order regarding this gospel reading: we must remember that not only the opponents of Jesus but most of the actors in the gospel drama, including Jesus, are Jewish. The group of characters specifically named in the narrative as "the Jews" includes some influential members of the Jewish religious leadership, but cannot be identified with them because it comprises a more extensive group who are consistently in conflict with Jesus. It would be a serious disservice to the gospel to condemn the Jewish people on the basis of this and similar stories of Jewish opposition to Jesus.