

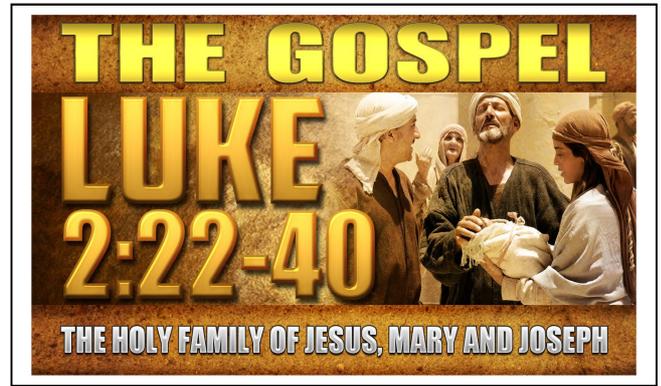
St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Ballarat

www.stpatscathedral.weebly.com

December 31st 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	6 th /7 th January	Smythesdale	Linton	Skipton
6.30 pm Vigil, 8.00 am, 10.30 am, 5.00 pm		6.30 pm Vigil	9.00am	10.30 am

Masses during the coming week

Monday	10.00 am	Cathedral	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Tuesday	12.05 pm	Cathedral	
Wednesday	12.05 pm	Cathedral	Funeral Mass for Bob Morris
Thursday	9.30 am	Redan	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 Tuesday 10.00 am – 11.45 am, Friday 12.30 pm

Next week's readings: *Sunday 7th January 2017* *The Epiphany of the Lord (B)*
Isaiah 60:L1-6 Psalm 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13, R. see v.11 Ephesians 3:2-3.5-6 Matthew 2:1-12

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.

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

Recent Deaths: Tom Cash, Bob Morris (Funeral Mass at the Cathedral, Wednesday 12.05 pm), Marie Thomson

Anniversaries: Benjamin Broadribb, Dulcie Bottel, Mary Duggan, Andrew Hartwig, Maisie Lamb, Stanislaw Lewshkewicz, John Loughnan, Samantha McArthur, Laurie O'Shannassy

Celebrating the Year of Youth in the Diocese of Ballarat

The YESS (Youth Every Second Sunday) leadership team are planning many events for the young people of the Cathedral Parish. A renewed leadership team of young adults have committed themselves to

1. Provide spiritual guidance and example to the participants in the youth ministry
2. Ensure a safe, welcoming and fun environment for the participants, the leaders and families
3. Communicate and interact openly and regularly with participants and families and within the leadership team.

The first gathering for 2018 will take place on Sunday February 11th, following the 5.00 pm Mass. All of the YESS gatherings will take place in the smaller hall (MacKillop and Glowrey rooms). This first gathering will be an information event for parents/ guardians as well as young people at which the leadership team will be introduced and commissioned.

It is hoped to surround the youth ministry young adult leadership team with a "support crew" of adults from the parish who may be parents of young people or others hoping to see youth ministry flourish in the Year of Youth. All adults who are involved in the Youth Ministry of the Parish are required to hold a Working With Children Check and to complete the online training modules for familiarisation with the Diocesan policy and protocols for Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults.

Resources from the National Youth Office are now available, including *No Young People in my Parish*, and *A Guide to Listening Forums*. For these and other information go to 'Year of Youth' on the Youth and Young Adult Ministry page of the diocesan website: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-and-agencies

Seeking a Diocesan Youth and Young Adult Project Worker

Ballarat Diocese will be employing a Project Worker in Youth and Young Adult Ministry in 2018, the Year of Youth. This will be a 12 month position, fulltime preferred but not essential. A position description will be available on the diocesan website in January or you can contact youth@ballarat.catholic.org.au to have the position description emailed to you.

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

The Lay Pastoral Ministry Program offers low-cost opportunities for online study and formation for lay workers in the diocese, both employees and volunteers. A wide range of subject areas are offered: Scripture, Sacraments, Social Justice, Leadership skills, Youth Ministry, many more. Study one subject or many - it's a flexible program! Registration for the January 2018 study cycle is open now (closes 5 January). A study cycle means you do one subject over 5 weeks. There are 6 study cycles each year, you can start at any one. Details on the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au (link is on home page), or contact Amanda, ph: 5337 7125 or email amanda.smith@ballarat.catholic.org.au

PROCLAIM 2018 – Early Bird Registrations Now Open

This exciting conference will engage parishes in an ongoing conversation focusing on Leadership, Culture Change, Young People, Belonging and Evangelisation. This conversation will draw together over 500 participants from across Australia for keynote presentations, facilitated conversation sessions, peer learning, expert discussion panels and future visionary planning. 12 – 14 July 2018 in Brisbane. To find out more www.proclaimconference.com.au and register at the early bird rate.

Mercy Connect Ballarat – Supporting refugee and asylum seeker students in local schools.

Volunteer mentors needed. Mercy Works is currently recruiting volunteers to support refugee and asylum seeker students, in Ballarat Schools, through their Mercy Connect Project. The volunteer commitment is for approximately three hours per week for four school terms. Experience working in an educational setting is preferred, but you will receive ongoing training and support. Initial training for new volunteers will be held in February 2018. Contact Paulene Barton - Mercy Connect Project Coordinator on 0417 624 330 or email: mercyconnectb@gmail.com for information and application form.

2018 World Day of Peace Migrants and Refugees: Men and Women in Search of Peace

How can you turn a “contemplative gaze” toward our migrant and refugee brothers and sisters? Building on his September launch of the “Share the Journey” campaign in support of migrants and refugees, Pope Francis’ Message for the 51st World Day of Peace (January 1st) invites Catholics to embrace those who endure perilous journeys and hardships in order to find peace. He urges people of faith to turn with a “contemplative gaze” towards migrants and refugees, opening our hearts to the “gaze of faith which sees God dwelling in their houses, in their streets and squares.” In his Message, Pope Francis echoes St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI, pointing to war, conflict, genocide, ethnic cleansing, poverty, lack of opportunity, and environmental degradation as reasons that families and individuals become refugees and migrants. Four “mileposts for action” are necessary in order to allow migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and trafficking victims the opportunity to find peace. These include:

1. Welcoming, which calls for “expanding legal pathways for entry” and better balancing national security and fundamental human rights concerns;
2. Protecting, or recognizing and defending “the inviolable dignity of those who flee”;
3. Promoting, which entails “supporting the integral human development of migrants and refugees”;
4. Integrating by allowing migrants and refugees to “participate fully in the life of society that welcomes them.” Doing so enriches both those arriving and those welcoming.

Pastoral Care Education

An exciting opportunity for education and formation in Pastoral Care recognised and accredited towards theological studies through the University of Divinity is now available in regional Victoria. A newly created South West Victoria Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Centre has been registered through the Association for Supervised and Clinical Pastoral Education Victoria (ASACPEV Inc.). An extended part-time program will commence in February and conclude in November 2018. For more information and an application form, go to the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Heart of Life Spirituality Centre

Would you like to become a Spiritual Director? The 'Siloam' Program for the Formation of Spiritual Directors can be studied on Mondays (9am-5pm) over two years at Heart of Life in Box Hill. The program fosters a discerning, contemplative approach whereby spiritual directors-in-formation become more and more attuned to the movement of God's spirit in themselves and in their directees. The Program may be studied as a Grad Dip in Spiritual Direction for those who meet the criteria. Further information holsc@bigpond.com or tel 03 9890 1101.

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 31st December Team3 Next week team 4. Thank you to all contributors and counters.

Gospel Reflection:

Sr Veronica Lawson rsm

The time between Christmas and New Year is often family time, a good time to think about what family means. We try to connect with and enjoy the company of those with whom we have family ties, especially those who are alone or struggling in some way. Many parents value the extra time they are able to spend with their children over this period. The first two readings for today narrate and reflect on the family story of Sarah and Abraham, of God's promise to give them a child, and of the fulfilment of that promise in the most unlikely of circumstances. The wonder of God's ways and the need to trust in God are at the heart of their story. At the same time, there is humour reflected in Abraham's choice of name for their son: "Isaac" means "he laughed". Does Abraham detect God's humour in providing a son for an elderly couple? Does he laugh for sheer joy at the birth of the child who will hold the traditions of the past and the hopes of the future? Whatever about this, the family story of Sarah, Abraham and Isaac foreshadows the even more extraordinary family story to be found in today's gospel. Luke depicts Mary and Joseph as observant Jews bringing their child to the Jerusalem Temple in accordance with the ritual requirements of the Law, even if the Law actually applied only to the woman who had given birth and not to the man. Two prophetic figures, Anna and Simeon, recognise God's saving and redemptive purpose at work in the presence of this child who is presented in the Temple. Luke insists that Mary and Joseph have fulfilled the demands of the Law before they return to their home in Nazareth. Growing up in Nazareth in the care of Mary and Joseph, the child Jesus grows to maturity, is filled with wisdom and God's favour is with him. Luke's summary statement introduces us to the wonderful world of a grace-filled family home. It invites us to ponder the wisdom that both Mary and Joseph had to share with their child. They taught him to pray and told him the stories of his people. They filled him with wonder at the goodness of God and of God's creation. They mediated the grace and favour of God and watched him grow and gain the strength he needed for life. They allowed him the freedom he needed to develop his own personality and to find his own Spirit-filled way on the earth. Finally, they had to let him go so that he might follow a path that was beyond their imagining when they brought him to the Temple in fulfilment of the Law. In other words, they did what so many parents would want to do for their children.