

# St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Ballarat

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

## The Epiphany of the Lord

January 7<sup>th</sup> 2018



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 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](#) Kathy Whelan, [St Thomas More](#) Rosa Tocchet, [Siena](#) at Lucas Jo Brewer

Cathedral Parish Masses	13 <sup>th</sup> /14 <sup>th</sup> January	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	12.05pm	Cathedral		
Tuesday	12.05 pm	Cathedral		
Wednesday	12.05 pm	Cathedral		
Thursday	9.30 am	Redan	11.30am	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** Tuesday 10.00 am – 11.45 am, Friday 12.30 pm

**Next week's readings:** Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2017

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

1 Samuel 3:3-10.19 Ps 39:2. 4. 7-10. R. vv. 8.9 1 Corinthians 6:13-15. 17-20 John 1:35-42

**Recent Deaths:** Jean Bernet, Doreen Holmes, Isabel McInerney, Monica Morgan, John Morris, Rudi Wstenberger

**Anniversaries:** Maureen Burke, Max Fletcher, Floe Flynn, Mary Harris, Shirley Howard, Eileen Kierce, Sheila Lavery, Sam Mourched, Kevin Scanlon, Glen Taffe, John Thomas, Una Toohey, Dorothy Wise

## Words of thanks

Thank you to all who have contributed to the celebration of Christmas in the Cathedral Parish. Many parishioners have offered their service – thank you to the members of the St Vincent de Paul Society for their Advent preparation from the generous contributions made by parishioners to the Jesse Tree, enabling hampers to be distributed prior to Christmas. In preparation for Christmas as we prepared to end the year, we celebrated many liturgies in the Cathedral for the Catholic Secondary Colleges and our own three Parish Primary Schools. Thank you to those who offered hospitality for the Advent Anointing Mass. Thank you to the Cathedral Liturgy Preparation team for the Advent and Christmas liturgies and to those who prepared the Cathedral for the Christmas Masses. Thank you also to the members of Regina Caeli who prepared the Carols in the Cathedral and to those who enabled us to celebrate the service of Carols and Readings. Thank you to all who ministered at our Christmas Masses. We were delighted that so many were able to join us for morning tea on the Friday prior to Christmas. Frs Anthony, Sajan and Justin are also very grateful to so many parishioners for their cards, vouchers, gifts, Christmas greetings, Christmas Offerings and the many expressions of support. These are greatly appreciated.

## 23<sup>rd</sup> Organs of the Goldfields Festival

This festival of fine music in historic venues commences on **Friday evening, January 12<sup>th</sup>** with the opening recital in St Patrick's Cathedral at 7.30 pm *Gloriana- The Missa Criolla and The Path of Miracles*. Andrew Raiskums directs the Gloriana Choir, tenor & Argentinean percussion in rhythms of Spain & Argentine. Supper will be served in the Cathedral Hall following the opening concert. On **Sunday January 14<sup>th</sup>** the Cathedral's Fincham organ of 1930 is played by Martin Setchell in the Cathedral at 3.00 pm. On **Wednesday January 17<sup>th</sup>** Eine Abendmusik. John Weretka directs a re-creation of the traditional German Advent Cantata Concert as heard in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. Singers, Helen Thomson, Amelia Jones, Hamish Gould, Christopher Roache and John Weretka. The festival will close on **Sunday January 21<sup>st</sup>** Baroque Sacred Music The Missa Salisburgenis of Heinrich Biber. Bringing together two University choirs, Queens & Newman and using the spatial properties of the Cathedral. Directed by Gary Ekkel. We welcome the many performers, musicians and visitors to Ballarat and the Cathedral for the organs of the goldfields festival.

## Clergy Appointments

Bishop Paul has appointed Fr Eugene McKinnon as Parish Priest of the Parishes of Charlton and St Arnaud with effect from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2018. Fr Peter Jose CMI has been appointed Assistant Priest. Frs Eugene and Peter will also continue to minister in each of the parishes of the North Central Ministry District (Birchip, Donald, Charlton, Quambatook, St Arnaud and Wycheproof). The Ministry District will encompass pastoral care, educational chaplaincy and governance, financial consolidation, and resource sharing. A new schedule for worship across the North Central Parishes will come into effect from February 2018 with the Cathedral priests assisting until then. Frs Anthony, Sajan and Justin have been celebrating the weekend Masses every 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in the Charlton and St Arnaud Parishes since Fr Paul Mercovich was hospitalised in August 2017 prior to his death on September 21<sup>st</sup>. The Cathedral priests also celebrate weekend Masses in the communities of Cororooke and Pirron Yallock on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of each month. Like most priests of the Diocese, they are appointed to multiple parishes – Beaufort, Linton and the Cathedral. It is only through the continued generosity of the senior priests of the Diocese that we are able to continue to provide assistance to the many parishes of the Diocese. In particular, we thank Fr Dan Arundell for his weekly commitment to our Parishes.

### **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 0417 624 330 or [mercyconnectb@gmail.com](mailto:mercyconnectb@gmail.com) for information and application form.

### **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 11<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://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](mailto:youth@ballarat.catholic.org.au) to have the position description emailed to you.

### **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](http://www.proclaimconference.com.au) and register at the early bird rate.

**Collections**    Envelopes \$1,125.00    Parish Loose \$621.95    Presbytery \$1,803.90  
                         Bishop's Christmas Appeal \$1,527.30

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**    January 7<sup>th</sup>    Team 4    Next week team 5. Thank you to all contributors and counters.

**Gospel Reflection:**

John Thornhill sm

Through the Incarnation, the generosity and mercy of God have finally appeared among us - in the life of one who is the very expression of the Father's greatness. And so, from earliest times the Church's Christmas celebration has made reference the Epiphany, or 'Manifestation' of the Lord – symbolised in the story of today's gospel, but also realised in a special way in the Lord's baptism, and in the 'first sign' he worked at the marriage in Cana. It comes as no surprise, when we hear it read, to find that today's first reading from Isaiah has a very ancient association with this festival: 'Arise, shine out Jerusalem. The nations come to your light and kings to your brightness'. This passage – from the writings of the Isaian tradition from the period after the return from the exile – expresses a vision of Israel fulfilling its role as 'a light to the nations'. Sharing in the 'glory' (or incomparable greatness) of the Lord himself, the holy city will attract the wealth of the nations as the kings of the earth share in its rebuilding.

This Old Testament text and its parallels (see Ps 72:10) may have inspired the story recounted by Matthew in today's gospel. It is possible that an unusual astronomical event may also have contributed to its inspiration, calling to mind the prophecy of Balaam, 'a star is emerging from Jacob' (Num 24:17). As it stands, the story is filled with symbolic meaning. The Magi represent the nations of the earth finding the Saviour of the world – in contrast to the scribes of Israel, familiar with the scriptures but not recognising their fulfilment; the gifts of the Magi are symbolic of the world's confession of faith in Christ – gold for royalty, frankincense for priesthood, myrrh for the one who is to die; notoriously ruthless Herod reminds us of earthly powers that obstruct the designs of God. We should note, especially, the significance of the words, 'going in they saw the child with his mother, Mary'. While Luke's narrative of Christ's conception and birth has Mary as its central figure, Matthew's account of the virgin birth is centred on Joseph. The words we have quoted, however, reflect the importance already given to Mary in the community that gave us Matthew's gospel.

The second reading from Paul's letter to the Ephesians continues the theme of 'manifestation', as it takes us into the depths of Paul's vision of faith in Christ. For Paul, of course, God's dealings with the human family have come to a magnificent climax in what God has done for the world in Christ. As we read in the opening lines of the letter to the Ephesians, Paul interprets Christ's saving work as the revelation of a great 'mystery' - the real purpose God has had in mind since the beginning of creation: 'He has let us know the mystery of his purpose, to bring everything together under Christ as head, everything in the heavens and everything on earth'. Through his ministry, Paul has seen the realisation of what is symbolised in the story of the Magi – the whole human race is called with old Israel, to share 'the same inheritance', to be 'parts of the same body', to share in 'promise' that the 'gospel' has brought to the world 'in Christ Jesus'.