

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Ballarat

Sunday December 23rd 2018

4th Sunday of Advent Year C



Parish Office hours: Monday - Friday 10.00am – 5.00pm

Phone 5331 2933 3 Lyons St Sth Ballarat

ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au

<https://stpatscathedral.weebly.com>

Bishop Paul Bird CSsR Priests: Frs Justin Driscoll, Anthony Nagothu and Sajan Mathew

Visiting Priests Frs Dan Arundell and Barry Ryan

BHS Pastoral Care - Tracy Sillekens, Family Ministry & Safeguarding - Anita Houlihan

Finance Officer - Kerrie McTigue, Grounds - Tony McVeigh, Office Admin - Juanita Bongiorno

Principals of our three Parish Primary Schools

[St Patrick's Primary](#) Cathy Whelan, [St Thomas More](#) Rosa Tocchet, [Siena](#) Jo Brewer

Cathedral Parish Masses 22 nd /23 rd December	Smythesdale	Linton	Skipton
6.30pm Vigil 8.00am 10.30am 5.00pm	6.30pm Vigil	9.00am	10.30am

Masses during the coming week

Monday	12.05pm Cathedral	6.30pm	9.00pm	12.00 Midnight
Tuesday	Christmas Day	8.00am	10.30am	5.00pm (Syro Malabar)
Wednesday	10.00am Cathedral (public holiday)			
Thursday	12.05pm Cathedral			
Friday	12.05pm Cathedral			
Saturday	10.00am Cathedral			

Sacrament of Reconciliation Friday 11.00am Saturday 11.30am

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Monday & Tues. 10.00am – 11.45am, Friday 12.30pm

Morning Prayer of the Church Monday - Saturday 8.00 am

Next week's readings: Sunday December 30th, The Feast of the Holy Family (C)

Sir 3:2-6. 12-14 Ps 127:1-5. R. see v.1 Col 3:12-21 Lk 2:41-52

Advent	<i>Wait in Joyful Hope a Saviour will come, Jesus Christ the light of the world</i> <i>Wait in Joyful Hope a Saviour will come, welcome to the Word of God</i>
Responsorial Psalm	<i>Lord, make us turn to you.</i> <i>Let us see your face and we shall be saved.</i>

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish respectfully acknowledges that the Aboriginal people of Australia are our first nation peoples and the traditional owners and custodians of this land.

Anniversaries Tom Cash, Sr. Joan D'Orsasm, Bob Morris, Nancy Nugent,
Marie Thomson

Cathedral Christmas Mass times

Christmas Eve (Monday December 24th) 6.30 pm, 9.00 pm, 12 Midnight
Christmas Day (Tuesday December 25th), 8.00 am, 10.30 am, 5.00 pm (Syro Malabar)
(Christmas Eve 6.00pm Skipton, 7.30pm Smythesdale, 8.00pm Beaufort, 9.30pm
Snake Valley, Christmas Day 9.00am Linton, 10.30am St John of God Hospital Chapel)

Christmas Mass Banners

We thank the following real estate agents for kindly providing the banners around our parish advertising our Christmas Masses and celebrations: Haydens, Barry Plant, PRD, Ballarat Real Estate, Buxtons, Trevor Petrie and John Conaughton. Their generosity is much appreciated.

St Vincent de Paul Society Jesse Tree Christmas Appeal 2018

Thank you to all who have contributed to the 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.

Ministers of Holy Communion

Would parishioners who minister Communion to the sick and housebound please contact the Parish Office (ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au 53 312933) with the name/s of those to whom you take Communion? We will develop a contact list for all involved.

OLHC Wendouree Christmas Day Lunch

Christmas Day 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. Transport available. 0419 975 914

Thank you for contributing to the collections last weekend

Envelopes	\$2,627.00	Parish Loose	\$310.65	Presbytery	\$1,994.35
Counters	Team 5	Next Week	Team 6		

Parish Expo Follow-up

The Parish Pastoral Council (Leo Styles, Susan Crowe, Trudie Dickinson, Bethany Pennington, Tommy Theckamurry & Fr Justin) thank all parishioners who took the time at the recent Parish Expo to record ideas, suggestions and comments for the Council to consider. Some of the themes suggested were: Concern to provide for the youth in the parish, music, opportunities for prayer, emphasis on the sacraments (particularly reconciliation), a need to treasure the Word of God. The Council will publish contributions in more detail at a later date.

Closing Mass for St Patrick's Church Springdallah

Following the sale of the Church at Springdallah last weekend, there will be a final Mass in the Church on Sunday January 27th 2019 at 10.30am. All former parishioners welcome.

Annual Diocesan Christmas Appeal

The annual collection for the Diocesan Christmas Appeal will take place during all the Christmas Masses. The Christmas Appeal is one way by which the diocese can respond to the many communities from near and far who turn to us for assistance. Often these requests come through people who have bonds with the diocese of Ballarat. Last year the Cathedral Parish contributed \$1,527.30 to the Appeal, and on behalf of the diocese, the total money collected was distributed as follows:

Gospel Reflection Veronica Lawson, rsm

The fourth Sunday of Advent draws us closer to the celebration of the Christmas mysteries. The gospel offers the story of the young pregnant woman, Miriam of Nazareth, travelling in haste from her home town of Nazareth to the hill country of Judaea, some 130 kilometres to the south, to be with an older woman who is also pregnant, her cousin Elizabeth. Mary enters “the house of Zechariah” who remains silent and in the background throughout. While Zechariah is the householder according to Jewish law, his earlier reluctance to believe renders him silent and powerless to offer hospitality. Elizabeth’s contrasting openness to recognise and affirm the living presence of God in their midst makes her the true householder and foreshadows the reversal that is to characterise the new order, an order that is yet to be fully realised. The two women embrace and, in their loving embrace, the Spirit-filled life gestating within Mary encounters and physically affects the life that is coming to birth in Elizabeth.

Elizabeth’s words resound throughout the ages in the prayer we know as the Hail Mary: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb...” These are the words of one woman prophet to another. Elizabeth recognises that Mary is blessed by God because she believed that God’s promise to her would be fulfilled. As God’s prophet, Elizabeth gives expression to the faith that is to be embraced by all who accept that Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Miriam of Nazareth, is the Holy One of God (Luke 1:35). The lives of both women have been transformed through the power of God’s Spirit. The birth of their children will bring to birth unprecedented events in human history.

Elizabeth’s proclamation of the blessing of God on Mary is found daily on the lips of countless faith-filled Christians across the globe. It echoes the blessing prayer of Moses to the Israelites (Deuteronomy 28: 2-4): “May you be blessed in the city and blessed in the country. Blessed is the fruit of your womb, the produce of your soil and the offspring of your livestock...” This ancient blessing recognizes the interconnection of all God’s creation. We might make it our own blessing prayer. In our times, God’s blessing on the whole Earth community can only become a reality when we stop playing politics in the interests of short-term gains or personal greed, when we read the signs of the times and work together to address the underlying causes of global warming and its effects. Advent is not a time of passive waiting. It is a time to ponder the various ways that God sustains life in its diverse forms. It is a time to become householders, like Elizabeth, who clear the paths and open our doors for the God of life to enter in.