

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Ballarat

Communities of Alfredton, Ballarat, Cardigan, Lake Gardens, Lake Wendouree, Lucas, Newington

Sunday February 17th **Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (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 (Administrator)

Anthony Nagothu, Sajan Mathew, Vincent Pham CSsR

Visiting Priests: Frs Dan Arundell and Barry Ryan

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

Finance Officer - Kerrie McTigue, Grounds - Tony McVeigh, Admin Officer - Selina Gaden

Principals of our three Parish Primary Schools

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

Masses February 23rd - 24th Cathedral

6.30pm Vigil 8.00am 10.30am 5.00pm

Snake Valley

6.30pm Vigil

Beaufort

8.30am

Skipton

10.30am

Masses during the coming week

Monday 12.05pm Cathedral

Tuesday 12.05pm Cathedral

Wednesday 12 noon ACU Aquinas 12.05pm Cathedral

Thursday 9.30am Redan 11.30am St John of God 12.05pm Cathedral

Friday 9.30am Sebastopol 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 8.00am

Next week's readings: *Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C*

Jer 17: 5-8

1 Cor 15:12, 16-20

Lk 6:23

Lk 6:17, 20-26

Responsorial Psalm

Happy are they who hope in the Lord

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

Recent Deaths: Sr Margaret Armstrong (IBVM), Louise Hodge, Val Lavery,
Margaret Le Marshall, Joseph Moussi

Anniversaries: Augustina Abarquez, Bob Fewster, Nic Gowans, Mick Kershaw,
Ellen (Nell) Nunn, Noreen O’Hehir, Kim (Lea) Paige, Ivy Saunders,
Mary Squires

Welcome to week two of our Parish Stewardship Program and this week is all about Faith!

Our Parishes are the Heartbeat of the Church!

At the heart of our parishes is our connection as people of faith.

This week we ask you to reflect on the importance of faith in your life. Is your faith the foundation of who you are? Does it drive the way you choose to live your life?

We also ask you to re-affirm the importance of Sunday Mass
– the celebration of the Eucharist.

It is important we come together to celebrate the Eucharist – for the Eucharist is not a private or anonymous experience. The communal celebration of the Eucharist at Sunday Mass provides essential nourishment for our journey through life.

Pope Francis said: *“The Eucharist is the summit of God’s saving action: the Lord Jesus, by becoming bread broken for us, pours upon us all of His mercy and His love, so as to renew our hearts, our lives, and our way of relating with Him and with the brethren. From this Sacrament of love...flows every authentic journey of faith, of communion, and of witness.”* Finally, we ask you to commit to growing in faith – to take the opportunities available in your parish to develop a mature understanding of our faith. Join us on the journey...

Parish ‘Our Future’ Forum

All parishioners are warmly invited to special forums as part of the Program – the Our Future Forum on Wednesday February 27th at 10.30am and 7.00pm in the small hall. This is a great opportunity to make your contribution to the discussion. Please mark this date in your calendar. Full Program details will be available on the dedicated Program page on our [parish website](#) – which will be updated regularly.

Thank you for contributing to the Cathedral collections last weekend

Envelopes \$1,231.00 Parish Loose \$378.75 Presbytery \$1,951.90
Counters Team 6 Next Week Team 7

Plenary Council Listening encounters

The Cathedral Parish Pastoral Council will host a number of meetings for Plenary listening encounters for parishioners as part of the first part of the Plenary Process. These will be opportunities for prayer, reflection, listening, and discernment that will be facilitated by members of PPC. They will all be held in the dining room at the Presbytery and will be for about one hour duration. Parishioners are welcome to participate in one of the following listening encounters throughout February:

Sunday 17th	11.30am	Bethany Pennington & Tomi Theckkamurri
Sunday 17th	3.30pm	Susan Crowe & Fr Justin
Wednesday 20th	7.30am	Leo Styles & Fr Justin (coffee/tea with toast!)
Wednesday 20th	10.30am	Trudie Dickinson
Wednesday 20th	7.30pm	Bethany Pennington & Tomi Theckkamurri
Sunday 24th	11.30am	Bethany Pennington
Wednesday 27th	10.30am	Trudie Dickinson

Responses can also be submitted online for the Plenary Council – go to their website <http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/have-your-say> for details.

Reconciliation Part 1 (Junior) preparation

There will be parent information sessions on Tuesday 19th February 19th at 10.00am and 7.00pm in the MacKillop/Glowrey rooms. for the preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation for children who have already celebrated Confirmation and will be preparing for and celebrating 1st Eucharist in term 2 this year. Celebrating this Sacrament is a requirement prior to first communion. Please contact the Family Ministry Co-ordinator, Anita Houlihan on 53 312 933 or anita.houlihan@ballarat.catholic.org.au for further details. New registrations are welcome from families of children who have celebrated Confirmation.

Catholic Man Breakfast Series

Thursday, February 21st at Craig's Royal Hotel featuring former leading Radio Executive, Shane Healy, as guest speaker.

Further information from Chris Liston, phone 0437 318 251 or email chris.listo2@gmail.com or Vincent Sully, ph. 0407 310 115 Bookings are open on Trybooking <https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=451553>

Rite of Election

The Rite of Election for RCIA Catechumens, Candidates and RCIC children of catechetical age will take place on Saturday March 2nd, 12.30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat. At the conclusion of the ceremony all are invited for a light lunch.

Reflection on the Gospel – Veronica Lawson rsm

We are unlikely to consider ourselves blessed or happy when we cannot pay our bills or put food on the table. We are likewise slow to count our blessings, much less dance for joy, when we find ourselves in tears or when we are excluded, rejected, and treated with contempt. We are more likely to consider ourselves blessed when we do not have to be constantly worried about money or food and when others treat us with respect. So why does Luke's Jesus declare the poor and suffering happy or blessed? And why does he seem to be so hard on those who enjoy economic security and the respect of others? What does the gospel say to those of us who are somewhere between the destitute who are declared blessed and the wealthy who are told to watch out? What does this gospel offer to those who attract neither praise nor blame? There are no easy answers to any of this, beyond the clear evidence that Luke's Sermon on the Plain engages the theme of reversal that permeates this gospel.

The poor are told that the reign of God is theirs. In others words, it is a present rather than a future reality. The poor can at least know that they are acceptable to God in ways that may be incomprehensible to the wealthy who, in their turn, are challenged to share their wealth. It is not much consolation for the hungry or those who weep to know that their "reward will be great in heaven" if heaven is a place enjoyed only in the afterlife. "Heaven" is better understood as a way of talking about God's empire of justice and compassion. Reversal is expected in this life rather than the next. Weeping is usually connected in the prophetic literature with the disasters that flow from "ungodly" decisions. In our times, there are many weeping over "ungodly" decisions in relation to asylum seekers and carbon emissions. Laughter seems a remote possibility for many displaced people of our world.

We are reminded today of the gospel imperative to work and pray that war-torn and climate affected countries will once again resonate with the sound of happy laughter. Finally, our experience makes us wary of those who flatter us or put us on pedestals. It is generally only a matter of time before we fall from favour and find ourselves on the receiving end of criticism or even attack. It is ultimately better to be misunderstood and to be at peace with one's conscience in the pursuit of compassion and justice than to be the object of adulation and praise. I suspect it is only in handling life's challenges with dignity, grace, and single-minded focus on the gospel that we find blessing or happiness.