

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Ballarat

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

Sunday March 24th Third Sunday in Lent (C)

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

Phone 53 312 933 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](#) Mark Hogbin, [St Thomas More](#) Rosa Tocchet, [Siena](#) Jo Brewer

Masses March 30th – 31st Cathedral

6.30pm Vigil 8.00am 10.30am 5.00pm

Smythesdale

6.30pm Vigil

Linton

9.00am

Skipton

10.30am

Liturgies during the coming week

Monday 12.05pm Cathedral

Tuesday 12.05pm Cathedral

Wednesday 11.30am Stations of the Cross 12 Noon ACU Aquinas 12.05pm Cathedral

Thursday 11.30am St John of God 12.05pm Cathedral

Friday 7.30am Cathedral 12.05pm Cathedral

1.30pm Benediction 7.00pm Lenten Prayer

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: *Fourth Sunday in Lent, Year C*

Jos 5:9-12 Psalm 33:2-7. R. v.9 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 Luke 15:1-3. 11-32

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: Neil Haintz, Leanne Payne

Anniversaries: Peter Burke, Kevin Buckle, Margaret Button, Rita Gorman, Fr Peter McGrath, Harry Morris, Elizabeth Smith

Thank you for contributing to the Cathedral collections last weekend

Envelopes \$1726 Parish Loose \$391.45 Presbytery \$2331.35
Counters Team 4 Next Week Team 5

We welcome through the Sacrament of Baptism this Sunday

Rex Joseph Curwood son of Hannah and Simon

Harper Rose & Hazel Dottie Fedke daughters of Natasha & Michael

Jack Archer McIntyre son of Jordan and Timothy

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



Clergy Appointments

Bishop Paul has announced that Fr Bill van de Camp will retire as Parish Priest of Koroit and Port Fairy Parishes on May 6th 2019. Fr John Corrigan has been appointed Assistant Priest to these Parishes (& Warrnambool) with Fr John Fitzgerald PP. **Fr Anthony Nagothu**, who has been Assistant Priest to the Cathedral, Beaufort and Linton Parishes for the past 4 years, has been appointed Assistant Priest to the Western Border Parish of Mary MacKillop (incorporating Balmoral, Casterton, Coleraine, Dunkeld, Edenhope, Glenthompson, Hamilton, Harrow and Tarryoukan). Fr Anthony will celebrate all of the Masses at the Cathedral next weekend (March 30th – 31st) which will be his final weekend with us. There will be morning tea for Fr Anthony after the 10.30am Mass at the Cathedral next Sunday to provide an opportunity to say thank you and farewell.

5 simple suggestions for Lent, from ***“All I have is yours, 40 days to freedom.”***

Only use the Lord’s name in prayer.

Fast from using hurtful words and say only kind words.

Write a letter or a poem in gratitude for your home.

Practice highway happiness, the art of being nice to other drivers.

Enjoy the last stone fruits of the season.

St Vincent de Paul Society Festival

Welcome to all Vincentians to our Sunday 10.30am Mass as part of their Festival which our Cathedral Conference is hosting today! Parishioners are welcome to hear Denis Fitzgerald, Executive Director, Catholic Social Services Victoria give the Key Note Address "*Welcoming the Stranger in Challenging Times.*" All parishioners are warmly invited to hear this address at 1.30pm in the Cathedral Hall.

Parish Stewardship 2019 Renewal

Thank you to all parishioners who have already returned their completed pledge commitments and Parish Groups and Ministries form – either at Mass last weekend or to our Parish Office. Your support is very much appreciated! If you have not yet done so, additional pledge cards will be distributed at all Masses this weekend.

These completed pledge cards, or any that you have brought from home – plus your completed Groups & Ministries forms – will be collected straight after communion today. Please note that your new pledge commitment will take effect on Sunday April 14th. If you cannot hand in your pledge card at Mass today, please return it to the Parish Office no later than Monday March 25th. Letters of confirmation of your new commitment, and where appropriate new sets of renumbered pledge envelopes, will be available at all Masses on the weekend of April 6th – 7th. An envelope for the week ending 7th April 2019 will be available for collection in the south transept this weekend.

Supporting refugee and asylum seeker students in local schools

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 the next few months. Contact Donna Stewart - Mercy Connect Project Coordinator on 0417 624 330 or mercyconnectb@gmail.com for information and application form.

Legion of Mary Acies Ceremony, Consecration to Our Lady, Monday March 25th
Feast of the Annunciation, after the 12.05pm Cathedral Mass. All welcome.

Gospel Reflection Sr Veronica Lawson rsm

Today's gospel begins with two warnings about the need for repentance. It ends with a parable about an unproductive fig tree and a faithful "gardener God". The warnings include two examples of untimely deaths, one reported to Jesus and then used by him to illustrate the urgent need for repentance, the other reported by Jesus as a further illustration of his point. With respect to the first example, Jewish history recounts instances of Pilate's cruelty, but makes no mention of his execution of Galileans and the mingling of their blood with their sacrifices. Neither is there any other record of the collapse of the Siloam tower and the resultant death of eighteen people. Jesus insists that those killed are no more sinful and no more deserving of death than any of their fellow Galileans or Jerusalemites. They are certainly not being punished for their sins and those who make such a link between suffering and sin have got it all wrong. So why does Jesus twice assert, "If you do not repent you will all perish in the same way" or "you will all perish as they did"? The answer seems to lie in the constant need for self-reflection and the missed opportunity for conversion or reconciliation in the case of sudden and unexpected death. In other words, Jesus is telling his listeners, "Don't be caught unawares; turn your life around in the direction of the gospel while you are alive and well". The Greek verb "to repent" literally means to think again. It can have the sense of expanding one's vision or one's horizons, to think beyond the narrow confines of one's own interests and one's own little world. In the context of Jesus' teaching, it is a call to take seriously the message of God's empire or reign which embraces the whole Earth community. The parable of the unproductive fig tree in the vineyard approaches the same topic from another angle. The owner of the vineyard wants to get rid of a fig tree that fails to bear fruit after three years. From an economic perspective, his position is perfectly reasonable: why should a non-fruiting fig tree continue to sap the goodness of the soil? Why not go for more vines, more grapes, more wine, and forget about the fig tree? The faithful or constant gardener, on the other hand, is like the womb-compassionate God of Israel who cares about the soil itself and wants to give the fig tree another chance, to turn it around and assist it to bear fruit, if the owner will relent. At this mid-point in our Lenten journey, we might get in closer touch with our compassionate "gardener" God and open ourselves to a more expansive understanding of the pain of the planet.