

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Ballarat

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

Sunday March 31st Fourth 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 April 6th – 7th 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

Legion of Mary 1st Saturday Devotion, Saturday April 6th 9.15 am

Next week's readings: *Fifth Sunday in Lent, Year C*

Is 43:16-21

Ps 125. R. v.3

Phil 3:8-14

Jl 2:12-13

Jn 8:1-11

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: Jim Harrington, Sharon Kerr, Walter Maloney, Barry McLaughlan,
Des Ryan, Treford Saldanha, Maria Tocchet, Bill Walsh

Anniversaries: Margaret Bym, Varghese Veerath Dominic

Thank you for contributing to the Cathedral collections last weekend

Envelopes \$1,958	Parish Loose \$362.30	Presbytery \$2,151.95
Counters Team 5	Next Week Team 6	

We welcome through the Sacrament of Baptism this Sunday

Ryan Leo Sizeland son of Elliot and Tegan

Luka Mark Wilcox son of Brendan and Tegan



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

Thank You & Good Bye - from Fr Anthony Nagothu

It is real that time flies! It has been four years and four months since I first came to Ballarat in November 2014. I have made Ballarat my home. I thank God for my ministry here, it was a beautiful experience and great learning. I'll certainly miss serving in the parishes of Ballarat, Beaufort, Cororooke and Linton. I would like to thank our priests and parish staff for the great work they do, as well as those staff members and volunteers I have worked alongside in my chaplaincy work. I'm also indebted to all those who generously serve the parish community through the various ministries and volunteer groups; thank you for your kind words, appreciation, hospitality and prayers. Your generosity and commitment has been an inspiration to me and is an added strength in my ministry. May the intercession of Mary, the mother of God help me to find courage and fulfilment in my priestly ministry. Please keep me in your prayers and indeed you are all in my prayers. I will be moving to my new assignment on April 2nd. I am looking forward to minister the people of the Western Border parish.

Pre-schooler's Pre - Easter Gathering

Thursday April 4th, 9.30am-11.30am in St Patrick's Hall. Morning tea for all parents and children. Please bring a plate for morning tea (nut-free food appreciated). All welcome.

Parish Stewardship 2019 Renewal

Letters of confirmation of your new commitment, which take effect on Sunday 14th April, 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 is available for collection in the south transept this weekend.

Supporting Youth Ministry

Parishioners interested in ways of supporting our Youth Ministry Young Adult Leaders – Felicity Liston and Emily Walker, are invited to join Patrick Kennedy (Diocesan Youth Ministry), Tomy Thekkamurry (Parish Pastoral Council), Jess Salazar (Alpha) & Frs Justin & Vincent on Thursday April 4th at 7.00pm in the Presbytery meeting room.

Parish Mass with Anointing, 12.05 pm Thursday April 11th

Our Lenten Mass with Anointing of the sick and seniors will be held in the Cathedral. Lunch will be served after Mass. Donations of cakes or slices would be appreciated. If convenient they could be left at the hall before Mass. Assistance to prepare lunch at 10.00 am and help with the serving would be very much appreciated. If you require transport on the day do not hesitate to phone the Parish Office on 53312933.

Altar Servers for Holy Week

Current Altar Servers and their parents are invited to an information meeting regarding serving in Holy Week. We welcome all wishing to serve at these ceremonies to attend. The meeting will be held in the Cathedral on Saturday April 6th at 11.00 am. RSVP Cathedral office by Friday April 5th.

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

Watch a fish swimming or a bird in flight.

Turn your phone off at dinner time and leave it off till morning.

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.

Go for a walk with someone who can only walk slowly.

Next time you're in a restaurant, café, food court, pray for the hungry.

Gospel Reflection Sr Veronica Lawson rsm

Unfailing forgiveness and arms open to welcome back wayward sons and daughters is a key motif in today's gospel story. There is no room in the hearts of Jesus' critics for such forgiveness: upright law-abiding people should exclude "sinners" from their company. In a first-century Jewish context, it was easy enough to be a sinner. Whole groups of people, depending on their occupation, fell into that category simply because they failed to observe one or more of the 618 prescriptions of the law. Jesus' response to critics is the story of a parent whose adult children lose their way. One son finds his way back to the centre of family life and the support of the wider community while the other more law-abiding son seems to place himself outside the family circle, holding on to the resentment he feels at his sibling's return.

The contrast between the young man's acquisitive nature and his parents' capacity to relinquish substantial property in the interests of relationship is striking. No motive is offered for the son's readiness to break all his ties and get as far away as he can. In the distant country, he squanders both his inheritance and his identity. A "severe famine" becomes the catalyst for his change of direction. Famine in any age means devastation of the earth that can lead to displacement, to broken relationships and even to global conflicts. In turning back, the young man shows no real interest in a restored relationship with his family or ancestral lands. Rather, he devises a plan that will put food in his belly. He composes a speech about having sinned against his father and against God and about being prepared to share the status of the servants.

Thanks to the expansive heart of an extraordinarily compassionate parent, he does not have to deliver the speech he has prepared. Famine becomes feast. So it is with our merciful God. We abandon, even betray. We waste the bounty of Earth. Our motives for returning to the sources of love and community are very mixed, and yet our merciful God is ever ready, with our cooperation, to turn famine into feast. For that to happen in our times, we must turn away from our acquisitive, wasteful ways and respond as one to the pain of our planetary home.