

St Patrick's Cathedral



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

Sunday December 8th, 2019

2nd Sunday in Advent (A)

Parish Office hours: Monday - Friday

10.00am – 5.00pm 53 312 933

3 Lyons St Sth Ballarat

ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Bishop Paul Bird CSsR

Priests: Fr Justin Driscoll
(Administrator)

Fr Jorge De Chavez OSJ

Fr Vincent Pham CSsR

Visiting Priests: Fr Dan Arundell

Fr Barry Ryan

BHS Pastoral Care: Tracy Sillekens

Parish Co-ordinator: Anita Houlihan

Admin Assistant: Juanita Bongiorno

Finance Officer: Kerrie McTigue

Grounds: Tony McVeigh

Safeguarding Officer: Anita Houlihan

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

We are a child Safe Parish following the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government, implementing procedures and standards as directed by the Professional Standards Office of the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat.

Masses Dec 14th/15th Cathedral

6.30pm Vigil 8.00am 10.30am 5.00pm

Ballarat East

6.00pm Vigil & 9.00am

Buninyong

10.30am

Liturgies during the coming week

Monday 12.05pm Cathedral

Tuesday 12.05pm Cathedral (Anointing Mass) 6.30pm Cathedral (St. Patrick's P.S. Mass)

Wednesday 12.05pm Cathedral 2.00pm Ballarat East (Anointing)

Thursday 11.30am St. John of God 12.05pm Cathedral

Friday 9.30am Ballarat East 12.05pm Cathedral

Saturday 10.00am Cathedral

Sacrament of Reconciliation Wednesday 7.00pm 2nd Rite of Reconciliation

Friday 11.00am Saturday 11.30am

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Monday & Tuesday 10.00am-11.45am, Friday 12.30pm

Morning Prayer of the Church Monday - Saturday 8.00am

Evening Prayer of the Church Every Friday during Advent 6.00pm

Next week's readings for the 3rd Sunday in Advent (A)

Isaiah 35:1-6, 10 Ps 145:6-10 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11

Responsorial Psalm: Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace forever.

Recent Deaths: Pat Blood, Eila Punch, Dorothy Vaughan

Anniversaries: Jack Coffey, Lynne Devlin, Frank Giuliano, Diana Reynolds, Stjepan Salkovic, Ljubomir (Loui) Saric, Margaret Studd, Frank Tagliabue, Roslyn Tobin, Margaret Roberts, Fr Jim Victory

Thank you for contributing to the Cathedral collections last weekend

Envelopes \$1,536.00 Parish Loose \$414.35 Presbytery \$1,782.25

Counters: This week Team 6 Next week Team 7

Catholic Missions Appeal: \$1,079.00. Thank you to all those who contributed to this Appeal.

We welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism:

Oscar George Bailey	son of Anthony and Rachel
Alexander Joseph Mulcair	son of Matthew and Karina
Olivia Lorraine McKay	daughter of Anthony and Natarsha



"The Church gives the faith to your children through Baptism and you have the task to make it grow..." Pope Francis.
May they grow in faith with the support of their families and our Catholic Community

Parish Mass with Anointing Tuesday, December 10th 12.05pm

Held in St Patrick's Hall, lunch will be served after Mass. Donations of cakes or slices would be appreciated. Volunteers to assist with lunch preparation at 10.00am would be welcomed. If you require transport, contact the Parish Office on 5331 2933.

Parish Reconciliation 2nd Rite will be celebrated Wednesday, December 11th at 7.00pm.

St. Patrick's Cathedral Pre-schoolers Christmas Gathering

Thursday, December 12th 9.30-11.30am in St. Patrick's Hall. Morning tea for all pre-schoolers and parents. Please bring a plate to share (nut-free food). All welcome.

Advent Retreat

Sunday December 15th at St Alipius' Ballarat East with Rachel McLoughlin and Natalie Houlihan (Loreto Sisters) 2.00 -5.00 pm. An advent time of Reflections, Readings, music, images, Silence and ending with Spiritual Conversation circles. All are welcome.

Church Cleaning for Christmas

On Saturday December 21st at 10.45am there will be a thorough cleaning of the Cathedral for Christmas. A call goes out to all to assist please. Many hands will make light work!!

Making a Scene at Christmas

All are welcome to visit the Making a Scene at Christmas display of Nativity scenes at Ss Peter & Paul's Church Buninyong from December 12th-15th between 9.00am – 3.00pm.

Christian Meditation Sessions

Parishioners are invited to experience Christian Meditation being held at the Central Uniting Church, Lydiard Street South. Final session: Monday December 16th, 7.30pm-8.30pm. Further details contact Michael Hedger 53740392.

St. Vincent de Paul Cathedral Piety Stall have Christmas cards and Columban calendars.

St. Vincent de Paul Jesse Tree Christmas Appeal 2019

Jesse Tree symbols will be distributed at each Mass throughout the Season of Advent. We again ask that you support our Jesse Tree Appeal. Hampers will be delivered on Friday 20th December 2019. It would be appreciated if non-perishable food items could be placed under the Jesse Tree prior to this date. Vinnies Christmas Appeal envelopes will be available in the pews for those wishing to make a cash donation to the appeal.

OLHC Parish Wendouree Christmas Day Lunch

482 Gillies Street, Wendouree from 12.00noon – 2.00pm. Transport is available. For bookings or further information ph. 0419 975914 or email christmaslunchwendouree@gmail.com

Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program – now open for new participants

A low-cost online study and formation program for lay workers in parish and other ministries; employed or volunteers. Sacraments, Scripture, Youth Ministry, Liturgy, Leadership and more. Study over 5 weeks per subject. Next study cycle begins January 12th, 2020. Registrations open now until December 23rd. More info at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or email kim.butler@ballarat.catholic.org.au ph. 0407 523 424.

Carols during Advent

Nazareth House Carols Sunday December 8th in the Chapel from 6.00pm, Nazareth House Hall. All children are invited to play a part in the Nativity scene. Parishioners welcome.

St. Thomas More School Carols on the Green 5.30p.m Thursday December 12th.

Christ Church Anglican Cathedral Lydiard St Sth Carol Service of 9 Lessons and Carols, Sunday December 22nd 7.00 pm

Christmas Masses at St Patrick's Cathedral

Christmas Eve 6.30pm with Bishop Paul, 9.00pm with Fr Justin, 12 Midnight with Bishop Paul. Christmas Day 8.00am with Fr Dan and 10.30am with Bishop Paul.

Cathedral Volunteers Morning Tea – Friday December 20th 10.30am, all welcome!

Gospel Reflection

by Veronica Lawson rsm

Desertification of earth is becoming the norm in these troubled times of ours and wilderness or desert features powerfully in today's gospel reading. The desert is the biblical place of encounter with God, the place of beginnings and of testing. The voice of John the Baptizer is heard in the Judean desert. His food and clothing are desert-derived. John is identified as the one of whom Isaiah spoke, the voice crying out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way...." Ecologically, the Isaian image is confronting: preparing the way involves major earthworks that reconfigure the landscape, levelling the mountains and filling the valleys to create straight paths. Yet the way is never straight and the metaphor must not be literalised. John knows this. The preparation he calls for is ongoing metanoia or reevaluating: keep on turning your lives around, keep on expanding your horizons, for the kin-dom of the heavens is "close at hand". The kin-dom is both present and yet still approaching: the verb used here, *ēngiken*, allows for this ambiguity. The first reading from Isaiah (11:1-10) provides content to the notion of kingdom or *basileia*: John is announcing the advent of God's long awaited empire of justice and right relationship. He offers a baptism of repentance (metanoia). In other words, John's baptism presupposes a commitment to a renewed way of life. His ministry is hugely effective. It attracts "people of Jerusalem, all Judea and the region along the Jordan River." The arrival of two groups of religious authorities prompts a fierce response: "you brood of vipers". John has no patience with those who use their privileged positions to seek their own advantage. He challenges them with the striking image of the "more powerful one who will baptise with the Holy Spirit and fire" and will sort out those who refuse to turn their lives around (the chaff) from those who listen to the call for metanoia (the wheat). The latter are "gathered in" while the former are burned "in a fire that never goes out". Fire is a multi-faceted image in the biblical record. Here it is used metaphorically for the judgment on the wicked. Fire, as we well know in this dry land, is a challenging symbol: it is both friend and foe. In the first-century Manual of Discipline from the Qumran community by the Dead Sea, water, refining by fire, and "a holy Spirit" are listed together as the instruments of God's saving and purifying action. John, who may have been a member of the Qumran community, presents his own role as preparatory to that of Jesus, the Spirit-filled, powerful and enduring agent of God's refining and purifying work in the world. We recognise our own ongoing need for a "baptism" with the Holy Spirit and fire. We prepare the way by constantly expanding our vision and turning our lives around in the direction of God's reign of compassionate care.

Matthew 3:1-12 In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."