

St Patrick's Cathedral



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

Sunday December 15th, 2019

3rd 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 21st/22nd Cathedral

6.30pm Vigil 8.00am 10.30am 5.00pm

Ballarat East

6.00pm Vigil & 10.30am

Buninyong

9.00am

Liturgies during the coming week

Monday 12.05pm Cathedral

Tuesday 12.05pm Cathedral

Wednesday 12.05pm Cathedral

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 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 4th Sunday in Advent (A)

Isaiah 7:10-14

Ps 23:1-6

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-24

Responsorial Psalm: Lord come and save us; Lord, come and save us.

Recent Deaths: Tony Bazzano, Greg Roberts

Anniversaries: Sheila Gregory, Jim Power

Thank you for contributing to the Cathedral collections last weekend

Envelopes \$2,902.90 Parish Loose \$369.65 Presbytery \$1,840.20

Counters: This week Team 7 Next week Team 1

We welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism:

Henry James Frichot	son of Nicholas and Fiona
Jett Sydney Wayne Hughes	son of Ashley and Danielle
Finn Patrick Nicholls	son of Ashley and Sinead
Jimmy William Opie	son of Dale and Kasey



"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

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.

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

Farewell to Fr Vincent CSsR who will be leaving us on Christmas Day to take up an appointment as Parish Priest in St Albans South. Our farewell to Fr Vincent will coincide with the morning tea on Friday at 10.30 am in the Cathedral presbytery – all 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!!

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 Jesse Tree Christmas Appeal 2019

As the hampers for distribution will be packed on Thursday December 19th and delivered on Friday December 20th, it would be appreciated if non-perishable food items could be placed under the Jesse Tree by this Thursday, December 19th. The Cathedral Parish Conference thank you for your generosity and support and wish you a happy, safe and blessed Christmas. Vinnies Appeal envelopes are still available for cash donations.

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.

Parish Schools End of Year

During the past week St Patrick's Primary school celebrated their end of year Mass in the Cathedral while St Thomas More celebrated theirs the previous week. On Monday of this week Siena will celebrate their end of year Mass. St Thomas More School in Alfredton have farewelled Rosa Tocchet as their Principal after she has been at the school for many decades, with the past 12 as Principal. As Parish we thank Rosa for her leadership and service in Catholic Education. We will welcome Simon Duffy as the Principal in 2020.

Carols during Advent

Neil Street Uniting Church A Christmas Musical – “Noel & Alleluia! Jesus Is Born”, Tuesday 17th December at 7.30pm

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.

Christmas Offering Envelopes are available in the pews this weekend.

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

Parish Office Hours Christmas/New Year

The Parish Office will close on Tuesday December 24th at 1.00pm and will reopen on Thursday January 2nd 2020. Over January, with reduced staff the Cathedral and Ballarat East parishes will share a weekly newsletter. During January the Parish office will be open Wednesdays-Fridays 10.00am – 5.00pm. A priest will be on call for emergencies throughout this period.

Gospel Reflection

by Veronica Lawson rsm

The third Sunday of Advent used to be called Gaudete (be joyful) Sunday. It provided a mid-term break within a period of austerity or penance in preparation for Christmas. Advent is no longer celebrated as a penitential period, but rather as a reflective time of expectation and hope. The invitation to rejoice nonetheless remains part of the Advent liturgy: it is certainly present in the first reading: "the desert shall rejoice and bloom ..." (Isaiah 35:1-6, 10). Today's gospel passage is full of questions. John sends his disciples to Jesus with a question: "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another? Jesus responds by directing them to the evidence: "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them." He adds a comment about those who take no offence at him: they are blessed. He then turns to the crowds with a series of rhetorical questions about their motivation for going out to John in the desert. His words to the crowds conclude with an identification of John as God's prophet and messenger, his own precursor. He pays an extraordinary tribute to John, but leaves the reader puzzling about the final statement: the least in the kin-dom is greater than John. John's imprisonment is a sobering reminder of what can happen to those who are faithful to their mission. As Matthew's Jesus will attest, John is no reed shaken by the wind. This could well be a subtle reference to Herod Antipas' choice of the reed as a symbol on the coins commemorating the founding of Tiberias. Herod has arrested and imprisoned John and later will have him put to death on specious grounds. John is not a fickle reed like Herod, but steadfast and strong. The reader knows that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah or God's Anointed One. John is checking it out. He clearly has contact with disciples whom he sends to Jesus with the question about his identity. Is Advent over or not? The answer to John's question is to be found in what they hear and see. The restorative and healing activity of Jesus is realising the Messianic dream of the prophet Isaiah (first reading). In a sense, Advent never ends: the women and children brought into our own cities as sex slaves can attest to this, as can those who remain in the limbo of Nauru and Manus Island. We might well pray: "Strengthen our weak hands, and make firm our feeble knees" in the face of such challenges. The Christ, the Anointed of God, lives on in the community and the community is called to bring the saving power of God, the joy of the Gospel, to a troubled world. Matthew 11:2-11 When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kin-dom of heaven is greater than he.