

St Patrick's Cathedral



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

Sunday December 22nd, 2019

4th 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 28th/29th 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 Christmas Vigils 6.30pm 9.00pm 12.00 Midnight

Wednesday 8.00am & 10.30am Christmas Day

Thursday 10.00am Cathedral (Public Holiday)

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 8.00am Monday - Saturday

Next week's readings for the Feast of the Holy Family (A)

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Ps 127:1-5

Colossians 3:12-21

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

Responsorial Psalm: Let the Lord enter: He is king of glory

Recent Deaths: Leon Kelly, Doreen O'Brien

Anniversaries: Sr. Marie Emmanuel Cook rsm, Sr. Joan D'Orsa rsm, Ronald Leslie Edgar, Ronald Mark Edgar, Nancy Hand, Kathleen Murphy, Pamela Tellefson

Thank you for contributing to the Cathedral collections last weekend

Envelopes \$1,373.00 Parish Loose \$326.95 Presbytery \$1,832.25

Counters: This week Team 1 Next week Team 2

We welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism:

Harry James and

Isabel Margaret Bourke children of Jay and Jane

Luka Gabriel Dajao son of Miguel and Karissa

Patrick Waiban Lum son of Kenny and Natalie



"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

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

Farewell to Fr Vincent CSsR

After the Christmas Masses Fr Vincent will conclude his placement with us in our Parish and prepare for his 2020 appointment as Parish Priest of Holy Eucharist Parish St Albans Sth in the Melbourne Archdiocese. During 2019 Fr Vincent was one of five Redemptorist Priests appointed to serve in Parishes in the Diocese of Ballarat. We have received a letter of thanks from the Redemptorist Provincial Fr John Hodgson who *"extends a heartfelt thanks to the parish for all your kindness in welcoming Fr Vincent."* During 2019 Fr Vincent has also served as Chaplain to ACU Aquinas Campus and St Patrick's College.

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
(10.00am at Nazareth House with Fr Alex and 10.30am St John of God with Fr Justin,)

Christmas Offering Envelopes are available in the pews this weekend.

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

RCIA Rite of Welcome and Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens

At the 5.00pm Mass this Sunday Anthea, Ebonee, Erin and Marie, who earlier in 2019 participated in the Alpha Adult Faith program and have over recent months been gathering with the RCIA team will formally declare their desire to be fully initiated into the Catholic Church. We welcome each of these women and give thanks to God who has led them to us.

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. As the Parish Office will be closed between Christmas and New Year, there will be no Parish Bulletin next weekend.

Mass on New Year's Day (Solemnity of Mary) – Wednesday January 1st 10.00 am

Ballarat Diocese Annual Christmas Appeal

Last year \$4,612.75 was collected at Cathedral Masses for the Christmas Appeal. Thank you. The money received from last year's appeal was distributed as follows:

Flood Appeal Townsville	5,000
Catholic Mission	5,000
Caritas Australia	5,000
Sunraysia Drought Relief Group	5,000
OnePlate International Food Programs	5,000
3BA Christmas Appeal	4,000
Nazareth House Ballarat	4,000
The Soup Bus (Ontrack Foundation)	2,000
Uniting Care Meal Program	2,000
Exodus Community, Wendouree West	2,000
Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH)	2,000
Opening the Doors Education Foundation	2,000
Edmund Rice Education	2,000
Total donations made in 2019	\$45,000

Christmas Signs – Rejoice!

May the God of Hope fill you with Joy and Peace!

Our Parish thanks the following Real Estate Agents who have so willingly partnered with us this year: Ballarat Real Estate, Biggin Scott, Buxtons, Jellis Craig, John Conaughton, PRD, Trevor Petrie, Wilson Estate Agents. Thank you to our Schools, Colleges & Hospital who have also partnered with us to ensure that this beautiful Nativity image and blessing is shared!

Gospel Reflection by Veronica Lawson rsm

One of my friends asked me what I would like for Christmas. “Nothing”, was my immediate response. “I just want to spend time with community and family and friends, especially those who would otherwise be alone”. And that's what I'll be doing, simply “being with”. Being-with others in joy or sorrow or in the humdrum of life is probably the best gift we can offer and the best gift we can receive. It is not always possible to be present in person and, thankfully, true friends know that “being-with” is not restricted to physical presence. There is a sense in which those we love are always with us and we are always with them, even when the demands of life and our work or ministry choices separate us geographically. Real friends are “with-us” even in our absence and “being-with” in spirit or in person is closely allied with “being-for”. Today's gospel affirms “being-with” as God's Christmas gift to us.

The first chapter of Matthew's gospel tells us that the expected child Messiah or Christ-child is “God-with-us”, Emmanuel. The gospel will conclude with the assurance of the resurrected Christ, “And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matt 28:20). As we celebrate the successive liturgical seasons in the coming year, we shall have the opportunity to enter into the gospel story of God-with-us and with all of creation, and to live out the pattern of the Christ story more fully in our lives.

There is no angelic annunciation to Mary in Matthew's gospel, no embrace of an expectant mother. There is no inn or innkeeper, no shepherds or shepherds' fields. These are all features of Luke's tableau. Matthew brings different features and different characters to centre stage. Chief among Matthew's characters is Joseph who, like Joseph of old, receives God's revelation in a series of dreams. The angelic announcement in today's gospel is to Joseph: he is not to be afraid, but is to accept the extraordinary ways of God which will bring salvation for God's people. Joseph trusts the word of God's messenger: he abandons his own plans and lives by faith in God.

If we try to harmonise the different gospel accounts of the events surrounding the birth of Jesus, we may lose some of the wondrous mystery of the feast we celebrate. If, on the other hand, we attend to the awesome truth that God is with us, then we might be more attentive to how we are with one another. We may also come to acknowledge our presence or “being-with” as a precious Christmas gift. Those who distance themselves from the community of life run the risk of succumbing to fear and of losing the joy in living. Acceptance of the truth that God is with us has the potential to drive out fear and to draw us into the deepest mysteries of life.

Matthew 1:18-24 Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel commanded him; he took her as his wife.