



St Patrick's Parish Newsletter

Stawell and Landsborough

St Patrick's, Stawell



St Francis of Assisi,
Landsborough

Christmas Year A

December 25, 2019



Wishing you all a
very blessed, happy,
holy and safe Christmas and
a happy New Year



FATHER ERIC AND HIS YOUNG PARISHIONER

It was the Sunday after Christmas at St Pat's Church. Father Eric was looking at the nativity scene prior to packing away the figures when he noticed the baby Jesus was missing from the scene.

Immediately, Father Eric turned towards the Presbytery in order to call the police. But as he was about to do so, he saw little Lance with a red wagon, and in the wagon was the figure of the little infant, Jesus.

Father Eric walked up to Lance and said, 'Well, Lance, where did you get the little infant?'

Lance replied honestly, 'I took him from the church, Father Eric.'

'And why did you take him?'

With a sheepish smile, Lance said, 'Well, about a week before Christmas I prayed to little Lord Jesus. I told him if he would bring me a red wagon for Christmas, I would give him a ride around the block in it.'

St Patrick's Parish Stawell

Census 2019/2020

CENSUS FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH THIS CHRISTMAS, AND YOU ARE ASKED TO TAKE THESE HOME, FILL THEM IN AND BRING THEM BACK ASAP. THESE FORMS ARE NOT JUST FOR PLANNED GIVING PURPOSES, BUT WILL BE USED TO UPDATE OUR PARISH RECORDS.

WE ENCOURAGE ALL PARISH FAMILIES TO COMPLETE THE CENSUS AND RETURN IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THANK YOU.

COLUMBAN CALENDARS are on sale from this weekend for \$9.00 each.. A great catholic calendar to have in the home with feast days, catholic art, etc..

BISHOP PAUL BIRD'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE.



CHRISTMAS CHEER CAN BE NOISY OR QUIET

Early this month, twenty young people from our Ballarat diocese were in Perth, attending the Australian Catholic Youth Festival. They were there with more than 5,000 other young people from around the nation. They spent three days celebrating their Catholic faith, with music and prayer and sharing stories and sitting around mealtables together.

Some of the gathering was very noisy and bright – particularly during the sessions when the five thousand young people packed into the main hall, around a central stage, and guitars and drums and lead singers filled the hall with sound and the whole crowd sang along with full voices, and bright lights moved in waves across the crowd.

On the other hand, for some of those sessions the lighting was more subdued and the place was very quiet. The quiet was most noticeable one evening, when the Blessed Sacrament was brought into the hall in a procession, by the light of candles, and the more than five thousand young people knelt in their places and spent some minutes in silence, with the lighting in the hall subdued except for a spotlight on Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.

Early on the Sunday morning, the first day of the festival, I celebrated Mass with some of the young people from our diocese. We met in the chapel of the school where they were staying. We sang to the gentle sound of a single guitar. We prayed the Mass quietly. We paused to remember our families and all those we wished to pray for. All this in the small but beautiful school chapel, set in quiet grounds on the outskirts of Perth.

After the Mass we drove into the convention centre in the heart of Perth and there the experience was very different. Suddenly we were in the midst of a great crowd of young people, with loud music and bright lights.

Yet both experiences were opportunities for prayer and the sharing of our faith. Whether in the quiet of the school chapel or the noise of the convention hall, we were expressing our faith in Christ and our union with one another.

The festival in Perth was a rich experience of faith for the young people who were there. I hope the coming feast of Christmas will be a rich experience of faith for us all. I hope this feast will bring us true Christmas cheer – the joy that comes with celebrating the birth of the Saviour.

Some of our Christmas celebrations might be bright and noisy – with a crowd at carols by candlelight, for example, or at a Mass on Christmas Eve with children of all ages, or at a large family gathering for Christmas dinner. I hope such bright and noisy times will bring us the good cheer of Christmas.

On the other hand, for some of this Christmas season we might be with a little group of people for a quiet

NEXT WEEKENDS READINGS:

(A chance to prepare ahead for next week's readings, especially for our Lectors)

Sunday 29 Dec 2019

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph A

First Reading Sir 3:2-6. 12-14

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

Whoever fears the Lord honours his parents.

The Lord honours the father in his children, and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons.

Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins, he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune. Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own,

he shall be heard on the day when he prays.

Long life comes to him who honours his father, he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord.

My son, support your father in his old age, do not grieve him during his life.

Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy, do not despise him in your health and strength; for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten but will serve as reparation for your sins.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 127:1-5. R. see v.1

(R.) Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!

By the labour of your hands you shall eat.

You will be happy and prosper. (R.)

2. Your wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house; your children like shoots of the olive, around your table. (R.)

3. Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord.

May the Lord bless you from Zion all the days of your life! (R.)

Second Reading Col 3:12-21

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

Concerning the Christian life in the world.

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Col 3:15. 16

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and the fullness of his message live within you.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 2:13-15. 19-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt.

After the wise men had left, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod was dead. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet:

I called my son out of Egypt.

After Herod's death, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you and go back to the land of Israel, for those who wanted to kill the child are dead.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, went back to the land of Israel. But when he learnt that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as ruler of Judaea he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he left for the region of Galilee. There he settled in a town called Nazareth. In this way the words spoken through the prophets were to be fulfilled:

The Gospel of the Lord.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Today's liturgy celebrates the feast of the Holy Family; recognising the important role Joseph and Mary played in the life of Jesus and also celebrating the role of family in all of our lives.



However, the gospel reading is the conclusion of the infancy narrative – the 'what happened next' part of the story of the birth of Jesus. Apart from the involvement of the holy family, the passage doesn't appear to have a lot of connection with the celebration of the feast of the Holy Family. This isn't really surprising as the gospels are accounts of the life of Jesus – predominantly his active ministry – and don't give many details at all of his childhood and family life. However, what we can see in the passage is that Joseph quickly adopted a role of protector of his wife and child and did all he could to keep them from harm. His family was vitally important to Joseph and he took the extreme measure of fleeing his homeland to protect them.

The passage in the lectionary skips over three verses from the gospel (16-18) that describe Herod's massacre of all boys under the age of two born in Bethlehem and its surrounds. Joseph's fears for the safety of his family were very real! Even after the death of Herod, when Joseph is advised to return to his own country, he finds that Archelaus, one of Herod's sons, is in control of Judaea. Bethlehem was in Judaea and so Joseph and his family may still have been in danger. Instead of returning home, they made a new life in Nazareth in the Galilee region.

ROSTERS:**LANDSBOROUGH (8.30AM):****This Week** (December 29)

Readers: M Browne/J Browne

Processions of Gifts: E Amarant/M Traynor

Ext. Minister: E Amarant

Next Week (January 5)

Readers:

Procession of Gifts:

Ext Minister:

Church Care: December 28 K Vance**Church Grounds—** December—B & P Browne**STA WELL:****This Week** (December 28) 6.00PM

Welcomer:

Readers: L Morgan/N Rathgeber

Ext. Ministers: M Howard/J Obi

Procession of Gifts: J Allan

(December 29) 10.30AM

Welcomer: S Enriquez

Readers: J Van Diesen/H Potter

Ext. Ministers: G Comitti/S Enriquez/M Maestros

Procession of Gifts: Cain/Rutter Family

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Next Week January 4) 6.00PM

Welcomer:

Readers:

Ext. Ministers:

Procession of Gifts:

(January 5) 10.30AM

Welcomer:

Readers:

Ext. Ministers:

Procession of Gifts:**Counters: This Sunday** T & A Ellis**Next Sunday:** G Pickering & E Driscoll**ALTAR SOCIETY :** This weekend: Gabriel & Pat6**MARY'S STATUE:**

December 29—January 4 K & P Fenwick

ANY PERSON/FAMILY WISHING TO HAVE MARY'S STATUE IN THE HOME FOR A WEEK CONTACT MARGARET ROWE OR FR ERIC.**NOTES FOR MINISTERS AT MASS:**

Extraordinary Ministers, part of your duty is to clean the Sacred Vessels in the sacristy after Mass and prepare them for the next Mass—fill wine and water cruets, etc. Sacred Vessels are to be left prepared on the bench after Saturday Evening Mass, ready for the Sunday morning Mass. Put filled cruets in the fridge.

Scripture Reader and Extraordinary Ministers are meant to process with the priest at the start and end of Mass. Reader carries the Lectionary to the Sanctuary at the start of Mass, but does not carry it out at the end.

ALL MINISTERS SHOULD TRY TO BE AT THE CHURCH AT LEAST TEN MINUTES BEFORE MASS AND ADVISE THE PRIEST THAT YOU ARE THERE. THIS GIVES HIM TIME TO ARRANGE A SUBSTITUTE IF THAT HAS NOT ALREADY BEEN DONE. ALL MINISTERS ARE TO PROCESS IN AND OUT WITH THE PRIEST AND SERVERS.



A Child Is Born For Us—Christ The Lord

**WEEKEND MASSES YEAR A**

Stawell: Saturday 6.00pm

Sunday at 10.30am.

Landsborough: Sunday Mass at 8.30am.

WEEKDAY MASSES (YEAR 2):

Tues; Wed; Thurs; Fri 10.00am. 2nd & 4th Wednesday of Month—Eventide—10.30am. (Check front of Bulletin for any changes to this routine. Funeral Masses take the place of weekday Mass)

RECONCILIATION:

Stawell: Saturday 10.00 am, before or after each weekday Mass (by request) or by appointment at any time. At Landsborough: Before 8.20 am Sundays

MEETINGS & GATHERINGS:

Prayer Group: Every Monday, 1.30pm.

Cuppa tea Stawell—2nd Sunday after Mass; Landsborough—3rd Sunday after Mass.

St Vincent de Paul: 3rd Monday 2.00pm in Parish Hall.

CWL: 3rd Wednesday commencing with 10.00am Mass.

The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations from the Lectionary for Mass © 1997, 1981, 1968, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved.

Our diocesan website:

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Our parish website can be accessed through the diocesan site.

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Any queries relating to rosters and volunteers please contact June Raeburn on 53583506.

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Finance Manager: Gloria Pickering (Thursdays 11.00-12; 1.00pm –5.00pm)



Welfare /General Safety Officer;
and Child Safety Officer : Helen Potter

**ST PATRICK'S SCHOOL**

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