



*A shared newsletter for the Parishes of St Patrick's Cathedral
Ballarat and St Alipius' Parish Ballarat East and Buninyong*

The Epiphany of the Lord (Year A) Sunday January 5th 2020

The parishes of St Patrick's Cathedral and St Alipius' acknowledge that the Aboriginal people of Australia are our first nation peoples and the traditional owners and custodians of this land.

We are Child Safe Parishes 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.

During January, with Parish Coordinators on annual leave and the Ballarat East Parish Office closed, we will have a shared Parish newsletter.

The Cathedral Office will be open 10am – 5.00pm Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Please contact Juanita Bongiorno on 5331 2933 or ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Next Weekend's Readings and Mass times

The Baptism of the Lord – Year A, 12th January 2020

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

Acts 10:34-38

Matthew 3:13-17

Cathedral 6.30pm Vigil, 8.00am, 10.30am 5.00pm

Ballarat East 6.00pm Vigil, 10.30am

Buninyong 9.00am

Masses during the coming week

Monday 12.05 pm Cathedral

Tuesday 12.05 pm Cathedral

Wednesday 12.05pm Cathedral (Funeral Mass for Moya Hall RIP)

Thursday 9.30am Ballarat East, 11.00am Mercy Place, 12.05pm Cathedral

Friday 10.00am Nazareth House (Funeral Mass for Mary Barnett), 12.05pm Cathedral

Saturday 10.00am Cathedral

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Cathedral) Friday 11.00am, Saturday 11.30am

Morning Prayer of the Church (Cathedral) Monday – Saturday 8.00am

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (Cathedral) Monday & Tuesday 10am-11.45am

Friday 12.30pm-Benediction 1.30pm

Responsorial Psalm: All the ends of the earth have seen the power of God

Recent deaths: Mary Barnett, Moya Hall, Greg Hogan, May Kirby, Jean McMahon, Teresa Stewart

Anniversaries: Ben Broadribb, Kevin Delmenico, Jim Doran, Carmel Ellis, Marlene Kirby, Michael Shearer

We pray for those who are unwell: Kateri Byrne, Pat Hogan, Cathy Jones, Peter Martin, Letitia Simmons, Margie Wilmott

Thankyou for contributing to the collections over Christmas

Annual Christmas Appeal Ballarat East \$1980.35, Ballarat Cathedral \$5,108.00

First Collection Ballarat East \$4053.00 Ballarat Cathedral \$3941

Christmas Offerings Ballarat East \$790 Ballarat Cathedral \$1796.10

Last weekend

Ballarat East Envelopes \$792.70 Parish loose \$300 Presbytery \$715

Ballarat Cathedral Envelopes \$962 Parish loose \$142.15 Presbytery \$1754.90

Counting Teams

Ballarat East This Week: K. Bevelander Team 11 Next Week: L. Noonan Team 1

Cathedral This Week: Team 3 Next Week: Team 4

Organs of the Ballarat Goldfields Festival

The opening recital for this year's Festival St Alipius' Church, Victoria Street Ballarat East at 8.00pm on Friday, January 10th. The will feature J. S. Bach's "St. Mark's Passion." Supper will follow in the Parish hall. Ticket sales from 7.30pm at the door or book in advance.

[Programme brochures available](#) in the Church foyers.

Further recitals will be held at St Patrick's Cathedral Sunday January 12th at 3.00pm with an organ recital, Friday January 17th at 3.00pm with an Organ recital by Thomas Wilson (Director of Music at St Mary's Cathedral Sydney), Saturday January 18th at 8.15pm with the Choir of St Mary's Cathedral Sydney, with the closing concert on Sunday January 19th at 8.00pm with the *Art of Sound Orchestra directed by Mario Debernig*.

Closing Mass for St Joseph's Church Learmonth

Mass will be celebrated on Sunday January 12th 10.30am at St Joseph's Learmonth. In October the Learmonth community met to discern the ongoing sustainability of continuing to gather for worship on a regular basis. Naturally there is some sadness in coming to this decision to close after 140 years of gathering as a faith community. Lunch and refreshments to follow.



Delegates for the Plenary Council

Bishop Paul invites nominations for the two delegates from amongst the People of God in the Diocese of Ballarat to attend and participate in the Plenary Council this year and next. In considering who to nominate Bishop Paul invites us to consider

1. The person's living the Gospel in prayer and in action
2. The person's commitment to service in the Church (shown for example, by their involvement in the life of the parish community, in education, healthcare or social services)
3. Their awareness of the "bigger picture" of the Church's role in the context of contemporary Australian society
4. Recent participation in listening and dialogue, or listening and discernment encounters, as part of the Plenary Council process.

Ultimately, the key characteristic to be considered is the person's ability to discern with an open heart, listening to what the Spirit is saying to the Church in Australia.

Any person (16 years or over) nominated to be a delegate would need to be available for preparation days for delegates (in Melbourne Thursday June 18th – Saturday June 20th), the Plenary Council General Assembly 1 (October 4th – October 11th) and Plenary Council 2 (June 28th 2021 – July 3rd 2021).

Nominations can be made by individuals or by a group (such as a Parish Pastoral Council). Anyone putting forward a name should check first that the person would accept nomination.

Nominations can be sent to Bishop Paul, PO Box 121 Ballarat 3353 or bishopsoffice@ballarat.catholic.org.au by February 7th 2020. From the nominations received, Bishop Paul will send the nominations to the National Commission for the Plenary Council who will finalise the list of delegates by March with a view to having a variety of voices represented at the Plenary Council with a mix of ages, for example, and a mix of people from city parishes and rural areas.

Nomination forms can be downloaded from the website of the [Ballarat Diocese](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/> or from the Cathedral Parish Office and from the Ballarat East Parish Office when it reopens.

Reflection on the Gospel – Feast of the Epiphany Year A

(Matthew 2:1-12)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

The ancient feast of the Epiphany reminds us that the whole universe is in God and that God is in us. It celebrates the presence of God who is revealed to us in wondrous ways: in creation; in our dreams; in our day to day experience; in our sacred stories. Readiness to encounter God in these diverse ways has nothing to do with naïve dependence on our own judgment or on the judgement of others. It has more to do with a way of being in the world that involves openness to the unexpected and a critical and careful communal dialogue between our life experience and our faith tradition. A deep awareness of our place in the Earth community and kinship with the more-than-human teaches us respect for all being and respect for the power of God's Spirit to lead us beyond ourselves towards a more profound encounter with the divine.

Epiphany has long been associated with the wise ones or astrologers "from the East" who are led beyond themselves and their immediate location by the rising of a star. They form their own preliminary hypothesis and travel west to search out the meaning of this sign. Their questioning in Jerusalem attracts the attention of Herod, the Roman-appointed "king of the Jews" who turns to the official interpreters of the Jewish scriptures for information on the birthplace of the Messiah. They follow the star that leads them to Bethlehem, to the new-born child, the incarnate Wisdom of God. The gospel does not stipulate how many wise ones or magi come to pay homage to the child who has already been named in the text as Emmanuel, God-with-us. There is no indication in the story as to whether they are men or women or both. The three gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh have traditionally been associated with three different characters, usually kings, of diverse nationality and colour. These strangers are the first to recognise "God-with-us" in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. They also come to recognise in a dream the duplicity of Herod, who senses a threat to his political power from the birth of a new-born king of the Jews. They have the good sense not to accede to Herod's request to bring him word of the newborn king. They return home "by another road".

The story-teller Matthew leaves room in the tableau for the insertion of the wise ones who will emerge through the ages. There is an invitation for us to enter into Matthew's drama, to be the wise ones, to join with people of different cultures, to engage in our own search for Wisdom, and to follow the star that leads to truth and lasting peace. There is also an invitation to be wary of those who find their positions threatened by a different sort of power, power based on vulnerability and openness to new life.