



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

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) Sunday January 26th 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 and Ballarat East Office will resume normal hours Tuesday, January 28th welcoming back Lucy and Anita

Next Weekend's Readings and Mass times

The Presentation of the Lord – Year A, February 2nd, 2020

	Malachi 3:1-4	Hebrews 2:14-18	Luke 2:22-40
Cathedral	6.30pm Vigil,	8.00am, 10.30am, 5.00pm	
Ballarat East	6.00pm Vigil,	9.00am	Buninyong 10.30am

Masses during the coming week

Monday	10.00am Cathedral (Public Holiday)	
Tuesday	9.00am Cathedral (Staff of Catholic Schools),	12.05 pm Cathedral
Wednesday	12.05pm Cathedral	
Thursday	9.30am Ballarat East,	11.00am Mercy Place, 12.05pm Cathedral
Friday	9.30am Ballarat East,	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

Legion of Mary 1st Saturday Devotion (Cathedral), February 1st, 9.15am

Responsorial Psalm: *The Lord is my light and my salvation.*

Recent Deaths: Stuart Robertson, Mary Skelton

Anniversaries: Eileen Bongiorno, Bernard Bradbury, Monica Cashin, Jack Curran, Bill Martin, Mary Martin, John Moodie, Frances Murphy, Peter McLean, David Noy, Tess O'Callaghan

We pray for those who are unwell: Kateri Byrne, Fr. Denis Dennehy, Kathleen Hayes, Pat Hogan, Cathy Jones, Peter Martin, Letitia Simmons, Margie Wilmott

Thank you to all who contributed to the **collections last weekend**

Ballarat East	Envelopes \$655.20	Parish loose \$300	Presbytery \$795
Cathedral	Envelopes \$1102	Parish loose \$303.40	Presbytery \$2127.20

Counting Teams

Ballarat East	This Week: J. Moran Team 4	Next Week: M. Stewart Team 5
Cathedral	This Week: Team 6	Next Week: Team 7

Australia Day 2020

A Blessing Hymn for Australia

Michael Herry fms

Ancient land of wide and sunburnt plains, where feet have long since trod,
you have known the stories of our search to find the face of God.
God, you hovered over darkness when the void was silent still;
then your voice rang out in splendour; creation knew your will,
and your eyes in love beheld in light our land of sweeping plains.
Now our voices too, rejoin again creation's song of praise.

Holy Spirit, gift of love divine, with you we dare to dream,
and to walk in justice all our days, this land of gold and green.
From all nations we have gathered; lead us on in unity.
In this vast and rugged homeland, may You our centre be.
May our lives show forth your tender love, compassion, strong and bold.
Help us bring Good News to all the world, Your gracious love unfold.

Holy Spirit, breathe your life in us, your truth to guide our way.
Now with open hearts we hear your call to follow you each day.
Bring us all as one together, under southern stars above,
so the Cross will lead us onward, Great Southland of your love.
Give us joyful hearts in days to come, all fear and dark cast out.
Help us build in Christ a world reborn in justice and in love.



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

The person's living the Gospel in prayer and in action

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)

Their awareness of the "bigger picture" of the Church's role in the context of contemporary Australian society

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 are available from the Cathedral Parish Office.

YESS Group Bushfire Fundraiser

There will be a sale of second hand clothes, toys, books and small furniture in St. Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Sunday February 2nd from 11.30am-5.00pm. Donations of goods are requested. To register donations email yessballarat@gmail.com BBQ, bake sale and live music. All proceeds to the Vinnies Bushfire Appeal. See notice boards for more details.

Gospel Reflection by Veronica Lawson rsm

Most of the gospel readings this year will be from the gospel of Matthew. As with any story, it is probably best to read Matthew's story of Jesus from beginning to end over a few days, entering into the drama and attending to all the elements in the story. Sr. Elaine Wainwright's eco-rhetorical commentary on Matthew's gospel invites us to read with attention to habitat as well as to the human and the holy. We need to realise that what we bring to the text will inform our reading of the text. What we notice will depend on our own social and cultural contexts and on our capacity to bring our particular interpretive stance into dialogue with the worlds that inhabit the text. While the main character in the story is Jesus, there are other characters and character groups, including other-than-human characters.

In the passage selected for today, Matthew's Jesus hears the news of John the Baptizer's arrest and "withdraws" to the safety of Capernaum in Galilee. Matthew thus grounds him in a familiar locale. He then symbolically presents him as a great light for a people who have lived in darkness and the shadow of death and oppression. In the context of Roman imperial rule, Jesus offers the hope of an alternative reign. We might focus for a moment on the gift of light. Without an appreciation of natural light, we cannot hope to understand this image.

Jesus invites his hearers to expand their horizons, for the all-embracing empire or kingdom "of the heavens" has come near. He then calls four fishermen to follow him, to join him on his mission of proclaiming the empire or reign "of the heavens". The verb "to follow" is an invitation to live out in their lives/in our lives the pattern of Jesus' life. They "immediately" leave their boat and their father and follow him. Later in the story we find they still have their boat, an indication that, at some levels, the story is to be read symbolically. At times we need to distance ourselves from family expectations for the sake of the gospel. At times we have to decentre our material possessions even while we affirm the goodness of their materiality and their significance for the work of the mission.

One might get the impression that the alternative community that Jesus forms around him is all male. This impression is dispelled a few verses later when we learn that "great crowds followed him" (4:25). In Matthew 18, there is specific mention of children and, towards the end of the gospel, we find that women have "followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him" (27:55). There is a far more extended group around Jesus than today's reading might suggest. Women, men, and children, we are all invited to turn our lives around and to live out in our lives the pattern of Jesus' life.