

St Patrick's Cathedral



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

Sunday, February 2nd 2020

The Presentation of the Lord (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

Priest: Fr Justin Driscoll
(Administrator)

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 February 1st/2nd 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

Wednesday 12.05pm Cathedral

Thursday 11.30am St John of God Hospital

12.05pm Cathedral

Friday 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 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 58:7-10

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Matthew 5:13-16

Responsorial Psalm: *Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord.*

Recent Deaths: Natasha Sinclair

Anniversaries: Rhonda Bateman, Margaret Harty, Clare Humphrey, Peter Sargeant,
Moira Sculley

Thank you for contributing to the Cathedral collections last weekend

Envelopes \$1,893.00 Parish Loose \$364.05 Presbytery \$1,888.30

Counters: This week Team 7 Next week Team 1

Life in the Spirit Charismatic Prayer Group

Meetings will resume Tuesday, February 4th at 7.00pm in the MacKillop/Glowery Rooms of St. Patrick's Hall. New members welcome.

menALIVE Ballarat

Gatherings will recommence for 2020 on Friday, February 7th and Friday, February 21st, and Thursday, March 5th at Nazareth House Reading Room ("Nazy Nook"), Mill Street. The purpose of MenALIVE is to bring men together to renew their faith in God and to encourage them to become an active force of renewal in the Church. No membership required – just your presence. For more information call or text Chris 0437 318251.

Catholic Women's League meeting - change of date for February

The CWL Cathedral Branch will meet at the Nazareth House Parlour on Tuesday, February 4th 2020 at 1.30pm. Anna Krohn will give an update of Branch events for the year, along with the diocesan events and the installation of the Catholic Women's League of Australia at the Inaugural Mass at St Patricks Cathedral, Melbourne on February 9th. Bring a friend and new members are welcome. Members please bring afternoon tea to share. Inquiries 0401175045.

Ecological Theology

You are invited to join 2020 Roundtable Conversations on Ecological Theology with Sr. Veronica Lawson and Fr Barry Ryan at the Mercy Gathering Room, 16 Gent Street, Ballarat East (side entrance). *Wednesday Evening Series:* 7.00-9.00pm, February 26, March 25, April 22, May 20, June 17, July 15 or *Thursday Afternoon Series:* 1.00-3.00pm, February 27, March 26, April 23, May 21, June 18, July 16. Registration: veronica.lawson@mercy.org.au (kindly include contact details). Donation \$5 per session (to cover expenses and a contribution to ecological justice).

St. Vincent de Paul Bushfire Appeal

The Ballarat Conference of St. Vincent de Paul Society would like to thank all those who contributed to the recent Bushfire Appeal. The total money collected from all Cathedral Masses totalled \$5440.00, all of which has been forwarded to the Bairnsdale Conference for distribution within the local communities. The tool collection also proved extensive and they have been delivered to the Traralgon Conference, again to be shared within the Gippsland area. The generosity of all concerned has been overwhelming and most appreciated.

Baptism Preparation

Parents seeking to have their children baptised are asked to participate in a Baptism Preparation session. These are held on the first Thursday of each month in the MacKillop/Glowrey rooms in the smaller hall at the Cathedral. A 10.00am morning gathering is held and another in the evening at 7.00pm. The next gathering will be held on Thursday February 6th. Thank you to the Parish Baptism Sponsors who continue to minister generously to the families who have a child baptised. New Parish Sponsors are always welcome!

Rite of Christian Initiation of Children (RCIC)

Parents of children 7 years and over who are seeking baptism for their child are invited to gather on Tuesday February 11th at 7.00pm in the MacKillop/Glowrey rooms at the Cathedral for an information evening on the process of Christian initiation for children.

Parish Liturgy Team

The Liturgy team will gather on Wednesday February 5th at 4.30pm to plan the 2020 year with the liturgical feasts and seasons. Members of the team are Susan Crowe, Kay Curran, Kathleen Hayes, Helen Lee, Therese O'Loughlin, Les Stewart, Deneise Walsh and Fr Justin. In beginning the year, all who are rostered for liturgical ministries are required to ensure that they have received and read the Cathedral Parish Child Safety Policy and the Code of Conduct. Please return the signed acknowledgement form to the roster coordinator for your Mass time or ministry. Those rostered are also invited to give consent to their contact details being shared with others on the roster so that replacements can be arranged.

St Vincent de Paul Society Cathedral Conference 2019 Christmas Appeal

The Cathedral Parish Conference of the Society sincerely thanks all Parishioners who contributed to our Christmas appeal through the donation of food, cash, toys and time. 129 hampers (including presents) were distributed to families and individuals throughout the Ballarat area. Thanks also to the 3BA Christmas Appeal, our three parish primary schools – St. Patrick's, Siena at Lucas and St. Thomas More, Ballarat Woodworker's Guild, and the Catholic Education Office. Also, 43 hampers were donated by Loreto College and 30 by the Commonwealth Bank Staff and Charities Club. These hampers assisted families in the other Ballarat parishes and surrounding districts. Thanks also to those who gave their time to assist in the preparation and delivery of the hampers.

Plenary Council Delegates from the Diocese of Ballarat

Bishop Paul is inviting us to nominate delegates from our diocese for the sessions of the Australian Plenary Council to be held in 2020 and 2021. Copies of Bishop Paul's letter are available through the diocesan website at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au Nominations need to reach Bishop Paul by Friday, February 7th, 2020.

Gospel Reflection by Veronica Lawson rsm

This year the Feast of the Presentation falls on a Sunday and takes precedence over the celebration of the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time. We might ask why this feast is of such importance in the liturgical calendar. Between the story of Jesus' birth and the beginning of his ministry, Luke inserts three stories. The first tells of Jesus' circumcision on the eighth day after his birth. The third story has Jesus teaching in the Jerusalem Temple at twelve years of age. He has come with his parents on pilgrimage to Jerusalem to celebrate the great feast of Passover. Luke notes that the family makes this pilgrimage from Nazareth in Galilee to Jerusalem every year. The second story, today's reading, has Mary and Joseph presenting their child in the Temple forty days after his birth, in observance of the Law of Moses (as prescribed in Leviticus 12:2-8). This Sunday marks the fortieth day since the celebration of Jesus' birth: it is not a moveable feast. All three stories locate Jesus and his parents firmly within the tradition as law-observant, faithful Jews.

Luke introduces into today's story two faith-filled wisdom figures, first a man, Simeon, and then a woman prophet, Anna. Both witness to the identity and future ministry of the child presented this day in the Temple. Their witness provides a microcosm of the gospel story. Simeon, guided by the Holy Spirit, comes into the Temple, takes the child in his arms and utters some of the most memorable words in the Christian scriptures. The child is to be God's saving presence in the world, a light to give revelation to the nations and glory to Israel. There are echoes in this proclamation of Isaiah 49:6 which speaks of God's servant bringing light to the nations and salvation to the ends of the earth. There is also an echo of Isaiah 46:13 where God is said to bring salvation to Jerusalem and glory to Israel. Simeon declares that this child is destined for the rising and the falling of many, that he will experience opposition and that his mother too will know deep sorrow.

Anna, like Simeon, raises her voice in the courts of the Jerusalem Temple, the heart of Israel's religious, political and economic power. While Simeon is given direct prophetic speech, Anna's prophesying is recounted indirectly. While Elizabeth and Mary proclaim prophetic words, Anna is the only woman in Luke's gospel to be named as "prophet". This woman prophet proclaims the good news of salvation in Jesus. The verbal form used indicates that Anna "keeps on speaking" about the child to "all who await the redemption of Jerusalem." The invitation here might be for us to emulate Anna's courage and persistence as we enter the halls of power and seek to move the hearts of religious and political leaders to compassion and justice for all those displaced within the Earth community.