

St Patrick's Cathedral



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

Sunday, February 9th 2020

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (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

Administrator: Fr Justin Driscoll

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.

Cathedral Masses February 15th/16th 6.30pm Vigil, Sunday 8.00am 10.30am 5.00pm

Liturgies during the coming week

Monday 12.05pm Cathedral

Tuesday 12.05pm Cathedral (St Patrick's Primary School Opening Mass)

Wednesday 12.05pm Cathedral

Thursday 11.30am St John of God Hospital 12.05pm Cathedral

Friday 9.15am St Thomas More School (Opening Mass) 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 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20

1 Corinthians 2:6-10

Matthew 5:17-37

Responsorial Psalm: *A light rises in the darkness for the upright.*

Recent Deaths: Geoffrey Nicol

Anniversaries: Sr Margaret Armstrong (IBVM), Louise Hodge, Val Lavery, Margaret Le Marshall, Joseph Moussi, Ben Murphy, Sr. Rosalie Rowley SJOG, Ken Stout, Eileen Stout, Peter Warden

Thank you for contributing to the Cathedral collections last weekend

Envelopes \$1,967.00 Parish Loose \$260.90 Presbytery \$1,773.60

Counters: This week Team 1 Next week Team 2

We welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism:

Lenny Jim Richards son of Chris and Cheree

Alice Dorothy, Edith Joan and Vivienne Marie

daughters of Sam and Alana



“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

Plenary Council Listening & Discernment gatherings

The Cathedral Parish will be hosting three further Listening & Discernment gatherings over the coming weeks on Sundays February 16th, March 1st and March 22nd, 2.30pm – 4.30pm in the MacKillop and Glowrey rooms in the smaller hall at the Cathedral. These gatherings will be facilitated by Felicity Knobel and Jillian Hogbin and all are welcome to participate in these gatherings and be part of the discernment process. For each of the seven Plenary Council themes there are snapshot reports which can be found at www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au or a copy can be collected from the Parish Office. The themes for each gathering will be;

Prayerful and Eucharistic – Sunday February 16th

Open to Conversion, Renewal and Reform – Sunday March 1st

Joyful, Hope-filled and Servant Community – Sunday March 22nd

menALIVE Ballarat

Gatherings have recommenced for 2020 and will continue 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.

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).

2020 Lenten Program – *Light from Within* ([Garratt Publishing](#))

An invitation to journey through Lent by using the image of “*Light from Within*” as the guiding theme, in recognition that every Christian journey forward is always also a journey within. Maeve Louise Heaney invites us on a journey to explore the light from within in recognition that the foundations of our growth in faith depend on the quality of our inner life of faith. She invites us to journey inward with all our hearts to discover how a loving God is sustaining, purifying and loving in and through us. Join a Parish Lenten Group or undertake the journey at home. To order a book (\$10 each) contact the Parish Office. Join a group - Friday mornings 7.00am (coffee!), Thursday mornings 11.00am & Wednesday evenings 7.00pm. Please register.

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.

Liturgical Ministries

A reminder to all who are rostered for liturgical ministries to ensure that you 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 by Monday, February 24th. 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.

YESS Group Bushfire Fundraiser

The “Cosy Koala Fundraiser” held last Sunday in partnership with the St Vincent De Paul Society raised a total of \$1200.15, all of which has been donated directly to the SVDP Wildlife Fund and Vinnies Bushfire Appeal. Thank you to those who donated items, volunteered their time to assist (YESS Youth and Young Vinnies) and all those who came along and purchased sausages, clothes, books and toys. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

Parish Finance Committee

Meeting on Wednesday February 12th at 5.00pm at the Parish Office with parishinoers Michael Kearney (chairman), Andrew Ballesty, Ed Browne, Geordie Charles, Cheryl McIntosh, John Mulcair, Cathy Oakley, and ex-officio members Kerrie McTigue (Finance Officer) and Fr Justin.

Liturgy Preparation Committee

Following the planning meeting last week, the members of the liturgy committee will gather on Wednesday February 12th at 5.00pm for their monthly meeting with Susan Crowe, Kay Curran, Kathleen Hayes, Helen Lee, Therese O’Loughlin, Les Stewart, Deneise Walsh.

Gospel Reflection by Veronica Lawson rsm

In today's gospel, Jesus addresses two short parables to his disciples in the presence of the crowds. The crowds as well as the disciples hear what he has to say. Parables were intended to tease their hearers, inviting them to see things differently or from a new perspective, to see themselves in a new light. One of the difficulties for us is that Jesus told these parables in early first century Palestine with its particular symbol system, while we hear them through the multiple layers of our own twenty-first century contexts and symbol systems. "Salt" and "light" have slightly different resonances in different contexts, as do "earth" and "world". Exploring those resonances or nuances can bring us to a deeper appreciation of the text.

This short reflection allows for a focus only on "the salt of the earth" parable or metaphor. For Jesus' Palestinian audience, salt was used to preserve and to season food. It also functioned as a cleansing or purifying agent. It could only lose its savour if contaminated by additives. We can resonate with all of that. For some of the Jewish rabbis, salt signified wisdom: a "salted" disciple was a "wise" disciple. In some parts of the ancient world, as in Pakistan today, salt was used in dyeing processes as a way of intensifying as well as preserving the colour of fabrics. Many Westerners are not aware of this practice. These days we are rightly concerned about high levels of salinity in overworked soil. That was certainly not so for first-century Palestinians.

When we declare someone to be "the salt of the earth", we are generally referring to the sheer goodness of the person in question, her/his down to earth reliability, lack of pretentiousness and practical wisdom. To be salt of the earth is to season the earth community, to intensify its beauty, to be wise in one's judgments, to be just and compassionate in all of one's dealings. This parable, with its multi-layered symbolism, certainly teases the mind.

In the original Greek, the emphasis is on the first word in the sentence. Jesus is telling his hearers, disciples and crowds, that *they* are the salt of the earth. They do not have to *become* the salt of the earth; they *are* the salt of the earth. In short, he is affirming their worth. In its literary context, that assertion contrasts Jesus' followers with those who might persecute them. It affirms their capacity to stand strong in the face of opposition, "for the sake of justice". If they allow themselves to be overwhelmed or allow their commitment to be shaken, then the "salt" will be contaminated and the "earth" cannot be seasoned. As we reflect on the diverse metaphorical applications of salt and earth, we might take a moment to give thanks to God for the gift of the material realities that underlie these powerful metaphors.