

St Patrick's Cathedral



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

Sunday, February 16th 2020

Sixth 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 22nd/23rd 6.30pm Vigil, Sunday 8.00am 10.30am 5.00pm

Liturgies during the coming week

Monday 12.05pm Cathedral

Tuesday 12.05pm Cathedral

Wednesday 12.05pm Cathedral

Thursday 12.05pm Cathedral

Friday 12.05pm Cathedral (Siena Primary School Opening Mass)

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 Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Leviticus 19:1-2. 17-18

1 Corinthians 3:16-23

Matthew 5:38-48

Responsorial Psalm: *Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord.*

Recent Deaths: Thea Finke, Filip Hetrich, Max Masterson, Brendan O'Loughlin

Anniversaries: Michael Duck, Stan Izydorczyk, Mary McCluskey, Mary Mahar,
(Ellen) Nell Nunn

Thank you for contributing to the Cathedral collections last weekend

Envelopes \$1,621.20 Parish Loose \$323.00 Presbytery \$2,016.20

Counters: This week Team 2 Next week Team 3

We welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism:

Winston Reed Broadbent son of Luke and Renee

Oliver Fryar son of Bryce and Laura

Margaret Alice Glover daughter of Jonathan and Stephanie

Cayde Whelan son of Sam and Jake



"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

Reconciliation Part 1 (Junior) Preparation

There will be a Parent Information Session on Tuesday, February 18th at 10.00am and 7.00pm in the MacKillop/Glowrey rooms in preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation for children who have already celebrated Confirmation and will be preparing for and celebrating 1st Eucharist in term 2 this year. Celebrating this Sacrament is a requirement prior to first communion. For further details contact the parish office 53 312933 for further details. New registrations are welcome from families of children who have celebrated Confirmation.

Parish Sacramental Statistics for 2019

During 2019, the following Sacraments were celebrated in the Cathedral parish:

117 Baptisms; 107 Confirmations; 92 First Communions; 23 Marriages; 38 Funerals.

Ash Wednesday, February 26th

Cathedral Mass times 7.30am, 10.00am, 12.05pm and 7.00pm

Sebastopol 9.30am and 6.00pm Redan 11.45am

In preparation for Ash Wednesday, if you have palms from last year please return them to the table at the south transept door so they can be burned for this year's Ashes.

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.

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.

Report from Parish Finance Committee Meeting, February 12th, 2020

Parish members: Michael Kearney (chairman), Andrew Ballesty, Ed Browne, Cheryl McIntosh, John Mulcair, Cathy Oakley and ex officio: Fr Justin and Kerrie McTigue. Items discussed included: Parish Risk Review (conducted by Catholic Church Insurance); Work being completed in Cathedral Grounds to comply with OH&S; Investment options discussed to increase income of the Parish in the future to maintain buildings in the Cathedral Precinct. Next meeting: April 22nd, 2020.

Pastoral Care at Ballarat Health Services

Following the appointment of Tracy Sillekens to another position, the Cathedral Parish has a vacancy for the position of Pastoral Carer at Ballarat Health Services. The position is part time, 12 hours per week, with flexibility as to when these hours are worked. The successful applicant will offer pastoral care to the Catholic patients and their families at the Hospital. A position description is available from the Cathedral Parish Office. Applications close on Friday March 6th. We congratulate Tracy on her appointment and thank her for her ministry amongst us.

Gospel Reflection by Veronica Lawson rsm

We sometimes forget that Jesus was a faithful Jew who observed the Law handed down within Israel from generation to generation. Today's gospel is from Matthew's Sermon on the Mount in which Jesus, the faithful Jewish teacher, addresses his Jewish disciples and the Jewish crowds who gather to hear his words.

The mission of Jesus is to fulfill the law ("I have come to..."), not to do away with it, and fulfilling the law is a question of "righteousness". The Greek term for righteousness, *dikaionē*, translates both the Hebrew *sedeqah* meaning "right relationship" and *mishpat* meaning "justice". The righteousness of the official teachers of the Law, the scribes and Pharisees, their manner of relating to others and their notions of justice, are judged to be quite inadequate for those who are part of God's reign, the kingdom "of heaven" in Matthew's terminology. The righteousness of Jesus' followers is to "exceed" such minimalist interpretations and expressions of the Law.

Jesus, authentic teacher and interpreter of the Law, offers six examples of the righteousness that "fulfills" the Law. Four of these examples are included in today's reading. What was heard "of old" is contrasted with what Jesus wants to say to his hearers. In the first instance, they all know that the Law forbids murder. They may not have considered the connection between unrestrained anger or murderous thoughts and murder itself. In a series of cascading sentences, Jesus presents a charter for reconciliation and forgiveness. He reminds his audience that true worship demands a forgiving heart expressed in action. He includes a fairly pragmatic reason for settling out of court: you may actually find yourself in prison. There may be an implicit criticism here of the increasingly punitive legal system of the time, a reminder to us of the futility of incarceration for minor crimes.

The second example puts "lustful looking" on a par with adultery. In an age of easy access to internet pornography, this example has a particular resonance: any form of sexual depravity is destructive of right relationship. The third example on divorce is complicated by the exceptive clause, "except in the case of *porneia*". *Porneia* referred to any illicit sexual activity. Here it probably means marriages within degrees of kinship prohibited by Jews but not prohibited by Gentiles. The question seems to have arisen as to whether couples in such unions could stay together on becoming Christian. While Jesus presents the ideal (no divorce), we have to put this teaching into a broader context. Writing to the people of Corinth on this subject, Paul allows for exceptions, since "God has called us to peace". The fourth example is about swearing on oath. Righteousness calls for honesty and transparency in every day dealings. If the words we use are congruent with the intentions of our heart, we should not have to invoke God as a witness to the veracity of our claims.