

# St Patrick's Cathedral



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

**Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020**

**First Sunday of Lent (A)**

Parish Office hours: Monday - Friday

10.00am – 5.00pm 53 312 933

3 Lyons St Sth Ballarat

[ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto: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 March 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>** 6.30pm Vigil, Sunday 8.00am 10.30am 5.00pm

## Liturgies during the coming week

Monday 12.05pm Cathedral

Tuesday 12.05pm Cathedral

Wednesday 11.30am Stations of the Cross 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 Second Sunday of Lent (A)

Genesis 12:1-4

2 Timothy 1:8-10

Matthew 17:1-9

**Responsorial Psalm:** *Be merciful O Lord for we have sinned.*

**Recent Deaths:** Nellie Brouwers, Joy Wuenschel

**Anniversaries:** Patrick Joseph Duggan, Alan Flynn, Jack Flynn, Peter Gaylor,  
Peg Giuliano, Francis Segrave, Stephen Vaughan

**Thank you for contributing to the Cathedral collections last weekend**

Envelopes \$1,117.00                  Parish Loose \$395.00                  Presbytery \$1,974.15

Counters:    This week Team 4                  Next week Team 5

**Baptism Preparation**

On Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup> there will be two Baptism Preparation sessions for parents whose children are to be baptised. These sessions are shared amongst the six Ballarat Parishes. The sessions are held at 10.00am and 7.00pm in the smaller hall at the Cathedral.

**Reconciliation Junior Part 1**

This weekend we welcome 102 children preparing for Reconciliation later this month. Dismissals will take place over the next few weeks. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers.

**Project Compassion**

This weekend we will welcome Caritas Lenten visitor Fr George Dhanasegaran Sigamony to speak at Parish Masses. Fr George is currently the Manager of Community Engagement at Caritas Australia. Father George, from Sri Lanka, served as the Director of the National Commission for Migration and as an adviser to the Migration Ministry of Sri Lanka.



**First Sunday of Lent**  
**1st March 2020**



Indigenous minorities in the Philippines face regular discrimination and disadvantage. Manide woman, Shirley faced challenges supporting her children and sending them to school. With Caritas Australia's support, Shirley's life has been transformed.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 to help people like Shirley, and her children gain confidence and respect within their community.

**Let's Go Further, Together.** You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or phoning 1800 024 413.

**Stations of the Cross**      11.30am on Wednesdays in the Cathedral during Lent

## **Counting Teams**

Many thanks to the parishioners who are part of the Counting teams. Volunteers are sought to assist with counting on Sundays. Please contact the Parish Office for further information.

## **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 6<sup>th</sup>. We thank Tracy for her ministry of pastoral care amongst us.

## **Plenary Council Listening & Discernment gatherings**

The Cathedral Parish will be hosting two further Listening & Discernment gatherings over the coming weeks on this Sunday March 1st and Sunday 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](http://www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au) or a copy can be collected from the Parish Office. The themes for each gathering will be:

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

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

## **World Day of Prayer Friday March 6<sup>th</sup> 2020**

Pray for Zimbabwe - [www.worlddayofprayeraustralia.org](http://www.worlddayofprayeraustralia.org)

10.00am: Alfredton One2One Church of Christ, 121 Gillies Street South.

2.00pm: Wendouree St Matthew's Anglican Church, 204 Howitt Street.

7.00pm: Buninyong at the Uniting Church.

## **Cathedral Parish Pastoral Council**

The Council met during the week with a standing item for the Parish Council meetings being Safeguarding. Discussion focussed on the recent document on managing persons who may pose a risk to children and young people who attend our parish. A risk assessment will continue to be undertaken regarding the participation of people in parish programs, activities or ministries who have any criminal conviction. All groups, ministries and organisations in the Cathedral Parish will have a Parish Councillor as their designated contact person to ensure ongoing dialogue and greater cohesion. The Pastoral Council will host a gathering of coordinators /contact persons on Pentecost Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup> 3.00pm – 4.30pm.

## **Gospel Reflection** by Veronica Lawson rsm

Lent is a time of preparation for Easter. It is also a time to enter into the “wilderness” and grapple with the mysteries of life in Christ. It presents us with a challenge to take stock of our lives, to see more clearly what is in our hearts and to discover what might be calling us out of our comfort zones. Today’s liturgy invites us to reflect on Jesus’ forty-day experience in the wilderness. Jesus is “filled with the Holy Spirit” and, like so many humans before and since, is “led by the Spirit” into the wilderness of life to be “tested” there. [“Tested” is a more accurate translation of the Greek than is “tempted”].

Forty is a significant number in Israel’s story: the great flood lasts forty days and forty nights; Moses spends forty days and forty nights on the mountain of God; Israel wanders for forty years in the wilderness; King David reigns for forty years; the prophet Elijah travels forty days and forty nights in the wilderness on his way to the mountain of God. Explanations of its significance vary: a round number suggesting a long period of time; a time of testing or trial; totality or fullness.

In Israel’s story, the wilderness is the place of testing for God’s people: “Remember the long way that your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness... testing you to know what was in your heart” (Deut 8:2). In Matthew’s account, the “devil” is the “tester” or “tempter”, the instrument of God’s testing. In each instance, the test is expressed in terms of Jesus’ relationship to God: “If you are the son of God...” The Matthean Jesus passes the tests that the people of Israel have failed in the wilderness of Sinai. He refuses the way of special favour from God, the way of status or self-aggrandisement. He is prepared to suffer whatever it takes to bring healing and wholeness to a broken world. In other words, he chooses the way of God’s empire or the empire “of the heavens” rather than the brutality of the Roman Empire. Jesus demonstrates that he is indeed “of God”. This testing in the wilderness foreshadows later events in the gospel such as Peter’s attempt at Caesarea Philippi to deflect Jesus from his mission and the bystanders’ challenge in 27:40 to prove he is “son of God” by coming down from the cross.

Most people of faith would agree that being “of God” right now has more than a little to do with the way we relate to all of Earth’s human and other-than-human inhabitants, the value we ascribe to Earth’s precious resources, and the respect we show for life through our responsible use of those resources. Lent calls us to reject the path of domination or greed or status so that, like Jesus, we may truly be “of God”.