

St Patrick's Cathedral



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

Sunday, March 8th, 2020

Second 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

Bishop Paul Bird CSsR

Administrator: Fr Justin Driscoll

Visiting Priests: Fr Dan Arundell

Fr Barry Ryan

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 14th/15th 6.30pm Vigil, Sunday 8.00am 10.30am 5.00pm

Liturgies during the coming week

Monday 10.00am Cathedral (Public Holiday)

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 (with VCAL students from Damascus College)

Saturday 10.00am Cathedral

Sacrament of Reconciliation Friday 11.00am Saturday 11.30am

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Tuesday 10.00am-11.45am, Saturday 10.30am

(Please note that the Holy Hour concluding with Benediction will be held on Saturday mornings following the 10am Mass. This will replace the Friday Holy Hour and Benediction)

Morning Prayer of the Church 8.00am Monday - Saturday

Next week's readings for the Third Sunday of Lent (A)

Exodus 17:3-7

Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

John 4:5-15, 19-26, 39-42

Responsorial Psalm: *Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.*

Recent Deaths: Brian Perkins

Anniversaries: Peter Calistro, Phil Franklin, Barbie Gleeson, Mary (Mamie) O'Sullivan, Les Pearce, Maree Rantall, Doreen White (Brennan)

Thank you for contributing to the Cathedral collections last weekend

Envelopes \$1,556.00 Parish Loose \$250.90 Presbytery \$2,308.05

Counters: This week Team 5 Next week Team 6



We welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism:

Evie Kate Molloy daughter of Luke and Laura

Frankie Thomas Romein and Zellina Riverlin Romein children of Shaun and Daniella

"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

Reconciliation Junior Part 1

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

Parish Mass with Anointing, Tuesday March 17th St. Patrick's Day

The parish will celebrate the Mass with Anointing on Tuesday, March 17th at 12.05pm in St Patrick's Hall. We will be joined by students and staff from St Patrick's Primary School. This is a great opportunity to celebrate together St. Patrick's Feast Day, our parish and diocesan patron saint. Lunch will be served after Mass. Donations of cakes or slices would be appreciated. Volunteers to assist with lunch preparation at 10.00am would be welcomed. If you require transport, contact the Parish Office on 5331 2933.

Nazareth House Auxiliary St Patrick's Day Celebrations

Tuesday, March 17th, 2020 at 218 Mill Street Ballarat, 1.30pm. Musical entertainment, afternoon tea, lucky door prize, cake and produce stalls. Entry \$10.00. For further information contact Margaret, 0419003415.

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.

Twenty-seven-year-old Phany was a struggling farmer and was forced to leave her daughter to take up construction work in the city. Her life has been transformed since joining a Caritas supported program, learning crop growing skills and better water management, to combat drought.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 and help mothers like Phany continue to uplift their communities, and provide food for their families.

Let's Go Further, Together.

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

National advice on liturgical implications in light of coronavirus

The following recommendations are believed to be proportionate to the current understanding of the coronavirus and the risks outlined by health authorities. They are consistent with the Catholic Church's prerogative to protect those who are most vulnerable.

- Individuals should consider their own health, including any potential to infect others with a contagious disease, before attending a public liturgical celebration.
- Holy Water should be temporarily removed from stoups at the doors of churches to reduce the possibility of transmission of the virus. Holy Water should continue to be available for people to take home.
- Parishes and other settings where liturgies are celebrated should make alcohol-based gels or rubs (or like products) available near entrances.
- When exchanging the Sign of Peace, individuals should avoid shaking hands but say "Peace be with you" and offer a smile, wave, nod or bow.
- All Ministers of Holy Communion should take particular care to wash their hands before and after distributing. Appropriate means should be made available.
- Parishes should cease distributing Holy Communion from the Chalice until further notice. We are reminded that Christ is fully present under either species.
 - The coronavirus is easily spread through saliva. In celebrations of the Ordinary Form of the Latin Rite, it is therefore recommended that the Body of Christ only be administered in the hand because of the high risk of transmission if people continue to receive on the tongue. Ministers should seek to avoid contact with the communicant's hands.
- Those who are too unwell to attend Sunday Mass – whether due to coronavirus or some other condition – or are at particular risk of contracting the COVID-19 virus - can honour their Sunday obligation by participating in a time of prayer within the home, reading the Scriptures or watching Mass on television or online (<http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand>).

Gospel Reflection by Veronica Lawson rsm

Last week's gospel invited us into a confronting habitat, namely the wilderness. This week, we follow Jesus and three of his companions to a high mountain, eventually a cloud-covered mountain. Both wilderness and mountain link Matthew's story of Jesus with the story of the Israelites of old. Wilderness and mountain also remind us that God's creation is the locus of wonder and mystery. The world we inhabit has an integrity of its own that has not always been acknowledged in our tradition. It is, in a very real sense, God's dwelling place. It is, in addition, the place of human-divine encounter and the place of human encounter with the other-than-human material world. Attention to habitat can lead us to a clearer understanding of our own place in the scheme of things and to ever deeper understandings of our relationship with God

The "transfiguration" seems to point to a time in Jesus' ministry when he comes to terms with the fate he is likely to meet: if he confronts the forces of oppression and injustice, he is certain to encounter opposition, even death. Jesus has struggled with that realisation in the wilderness, at the outset of his ministry. On the mountain top, he comes to terms with what that involves. The disciples see Moses and Elijah, the key prophetic figures of Israel, speaking with Jesus, God's new and definitive prophet. Peter wants to hold on to the experience of glory, to "make tents" for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. He prefers not to face the difficulties involved in fidelity to a mission that elicits hostility. That is not, however, the way of discipleship. Rather, Peter and his companions are called to "listen" to Jesus, the beloved of God, as are all who follow in the way of discipleship.

Matthew's account of the "transfiguration" is followed by a reminder that Jesus is soon to meet a violent death (17:23). Jesus' companions get a glimpse of God's glory shining on his face and penetrating even his clothing, a hint that God's grace is more life-giving than the forces of violence that oppose God's reign. Like Jesus and his companions, we too need the occasional glimpse of final victory. We need the good sense to listen and to follow through on the path that brings life, despite the pain. We can feel overwhelmed by the enormity of the challenges facing us and by the opposition we experience from the most unexpected quarters. If we are to sustain the struggle for a healthy, safe, and peace-filled world, we have to resist the temptation to hold on to the moments of glory, and come to terms with the personal cost of being faithful to the gospel mission of justice and compassion with all its painful demands.