

St Patrick's Cathedral



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

Sunday, March 22nd, 2020

Fourth 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.

On Wednesday 18 March 2020 the Bishops of the Province of Victoria wrote

Prayerful greetings to the people of God across Victoria. This morning, the Prime Minister announced that non-essential indoor gatherings will be limited to 100 people, and outdoor events of more than 500 people will be disallowed, effective today. Given the seriousness of COVID-19, we support this measure as being responsible and sensible, and we encourage everyone to follow public safety guidelines respectfully.

We have given this prayerful and considered reflection, and have determined the need for the immediate suspension of public liturgies, celebrations of the Mass, until further notice. All other gatherings are suspended. The Bishops are very aware that this restriction will be particularly difficult for families who are planning liturgies such as funerals, weddings and baptisms. At this time, so long as appropriate precautions are able to be put in place (such as distancing between participants), it may be possible for these liturgies to proceed with a carefully limited congregation (less than 100). Deferring these liturgies may also be an option that is offered to families. In light of this, all Catholics in Victoria are dispensed from their Sunday obligation until further notice (canon 1248). We encourage you to continue active participation in the life of the Church, through activities such as time in personal and family prayer, reflecting on the Scriptures, making a spiritual communion.

Participate in Mass online

<http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand> or <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass> or www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass).

Watch LIVE coverage of daily Mass celebrated by Pope Francis on Shalom World TV at shalomworld.org/dailymass

Mass for You at Home: This program has been enabling Catholics to participate in Mass from their homes for many years. Mass for You at Home is broadcast on Eleven and Network Ten on Sundays and Aurora Channel on Foxtel every day. Watch at

<http://www.mfyah.com/video.html> or <https://10play.com.au/mass-for-you-at-home>

Opportunities for Prayer in the Cathedral this week

Although public Masses and liturgies will not be celebrated, the Cathedral will remain open each day 7.00am – 7.00pm for personal prayer, reflection, meditation and devotion.

Throughout the week there will be specific times of prayer:

8.00am Morning Prayer of the Church

10.00am Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

11.30am Stations of the Cross

12 Noon Angelus

6.00pm Evening Prayer of the Church

Sacrament of Reconciliation Friday 11.00am Saturday 11.30am

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

Ezekial 37:12-14

Romans 8:8-11

John 11:1-45

Recent Deaths: Faye Brown, Ray McCluskey, Sr. Grace Rogers RSM (Mildura), Brian Troy, Margaret White

Anniversaries: Margaret Button, Jim Harrington, Sharon Kerr, Walter Maloney, Barry McLaughlan, Des Ryan, Treford Saldanha, Maria Tocchet, Bill Walsh

Thank you for contributing to the Cathedral collections last weekend

Envelopes \$3,074.00

Parish Loose \$245.30

Presbytery \$1,757.10

Counters: As Masses will not be celebrated until further notice, Counters on Sunday evenings will not be required until Masses recommence.

We welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism:

Chloe Kelly-Rose Oram daughter of Thomas and Grace

"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.



Thirty-two-year-old Sakun lives in a village in central east India. She developed polio as a child and has difficulty walking. After joining a Caritas Australia-funded program, Sakun has learned new skills and gained important mobility. She is more resilient, more confident and more independent.

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.

Project Compassion envelopes or boxes can be handed in to the Cathedral Parish Office during office hours, Monday -Friday, 10.00am-5.00pm

Lenten Resources

The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne website has a number of Lenten resources for use at home. To access the website, click here [Lenten Resources](#)

Plenary Council Listening & Discernment gatherings -

The Cathedral Parish will be hosting one further Listening & Discernment gathering on Sunday March 22nd, 2.30pm – 4.30pm in the MacKillop and Glowrey rooms. Facilitated by Felicity Knobel and Jillian Hogbin, all are welcome to participate and be part of the discernment process. The theme for the final discernment is Joyful, Hope-filled and Servant Community. Snapshot reports can be found at www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au or collect from the Parish Office.

Diocesan Religious Education Resource Centre Closure

The Resource Centre has served parishes and schools in the diocese for over forty years and has been a valued repository of books, magazines, CDs and DVDs. Borrowings from the Centre will be available until March 27th, after which it will be closed for a month while the collection is moved to a temporary storage area on site. From April 27th, the Centre will be open Tuesday mornings only from 9.30am – 1.00pm. Enquiries or urgent borrowings can be directed to resources@ceob.edu.au or ph. 5337 7135. Towards the end of the year resources will be disseminated to parishes and schools.

Planned Giving Envelopes

Due to the cancellation of Masses, should you wish to continue your Planned Giving, please hand your envelope into the Parish Office, or through the mail slot near the front door.

New Planned Giving Envelopes commencing April 5th are available for collection from the Parish Office.

Gospel Reflection by Veronica Lawson rsm

Last week, we journeyed with the woman of Samaria from bewilderment to deep insight into Jesus' identity and mission and to a strong personal faith commitment. This week, we are invited on a faith journey with a man born blind and with the varying groups of participants in the drama. All have the opportunity of coming to faith.. Ironically, the blind come to see, both physically and spiritually, while those who are gifted with physical sight remain in spiritual darkness.

In healing the man born blind, Jesus performs the sixth of eight powerful actions or "signs" in John's gospel that reveal God's power at work in Jesus and in the lives of those who seek life. The "signs" invite the reader/hearer/viewer to accept Jesus and his revelation of God and God's purposes.

Time features significantly in the story. Jesus heals the blind beggar on the Sabbath. The Jerusalem authorities have already raised objections about Jesus' Sabbath healing activity (John 5). Once again they object that he is failing to observe the Sabbath. They label him a sinner. Ironically, in the final authoritative analysis, it is they who "remain in their sins".

This story reminds us of the need to check our assumptions and, if necessary, to revise our thinking and action. It also reminds us to accept the fact that we can be wrong about things we have always believed. It invites us to be open to seeing differently or from a new perspective. Jesus' disciples, the parents of the man born blind, his neighbours, the religious authorities all operate out of unchecked assumptions. They mostly come to the wrong conclusions. Only those willing to admit that they have it wrong have any chance of coming to faith. In the present political climate in my country, admitting that one "got it wrong" seems to be anathema. And yet, from a gospel perspective, it is a sign of real strength.

In the common estimation, the man was blind, so he or his parents must have sinned. Not so, according to Jesus. From the perspective of the authorities, Jesus heals on the Sabbath and is therefore a sinner. Not so, from Jesus' point of view. The man was born blind and so needs others to speak for him. Not so, say his parents, he can speak for himself. He does speak for himself and quite eloquently, to the chagrin of the religious authorities. He presents them with the truth about Jesus but they refuse to accept the word of an outcast. Their reaction is violent: they drive him out. But Jesus goes in search of him and leads him to yet deeper levels of faith and understanding. You may like to read the story once more and put yourself in the place of the different characters. There is a little bit of each character in every one of us.