

St Patrick's Cathedral

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

Sunday, April 5th, 2020

Palm Sunday of the Passion of Our Lord

Parish Office hours: Monday - Friday

10.00am – 5.00pm 53 312 933

3 Lyons St Sth Ballarat

ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au

<https://stpatscathedral.weebly.com>

Bishop Paul Bird CSsR

Administrator: Fr Justin Driscoll

Visiting Priests: Fr Dan Arundell

Fr Barry Ryan

Parish Co-ordinator: Anita Houlihan

Finance Officer: Kerrie McTigue

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.

Recent Deaths: Irma Beltrame (Italy)

Anniversaries: Jim Collett, Marion Goss, Kevin Walsh John Vernon Woof

Thank you for contributing to the Cathedral collections this week

Envelopes \$2,000.00

Presbytery \$275.00

Planned Giving Envelopes

Due to the cancellation of Masses, should you wish to continue your Planned Giving or contributions to the First Collection, 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. Should you wish to contribute electronically to the collections at this time, please contact Kerrie in the Cathedral Parish Office.

Staffing the Cathedral Parish With the impact of the COVID-19 virus being felt by all, we have considered the capacity of the Parish to continue to employ its staff. Juanita Bongiorno will take leave from the Parish Administration Assistant position and concluded on Thursday April 2nd. Tony McVeigh has ceased his gardening and cleaning position for the time being. Anita Houlihan will continue in the Office in administration, Monday – Thursday 10am – 5pm and Kerrie McTigue (Finance Officer for the six Parishes of Ballarat) continues in her role supporting each of the Parishes.

Updates, information, resources and links to online Masses, in light of COVID-19

Facebook We now have a [Cathedral Parish Facebook page](#) so that we can stay connected to each other. Fr Justin will be celebrating Mass in the St John of God Hospital Chapel at 11.30am each day and in addition to this being televised to the patients and staff of the Hospital, it will be live streamed through the Parish Facebook Page. We have many friends already and we'd love you to join us online for Mass. Look for Patrick's Cathedral on facebook.

There is the provision for one person to attend the Mass each day with Fr Justin and for that person to proclaim the Readings of the day and the Prayers of the Faithful.

Those who do so must not be in the "at risk" group, that is they must be feeling well, not recently returned from overseas and be under the age of 70.

If you would like to offer yourself to be part of the roster, please contact the Parish Office between 10am-5pm on 5331 2933 or ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au

- The Sunday Mass and Holy Week liturgies may be watched on stpatrcathedralweebly.com
- Updates from Bishop Paul, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and other agencies are available from the Diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au
- [LiturgyHelp](#) have provided a site for the people of the Ballarat diocese to access resources - go to the diocesan website for the links.

Mass for You at Home: 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>

Easter Ceremonies Live Broadcast

The Channel 7 and Prime 7 network will broadcast live from St. Mary's Cathedral, Sydney – The Lord's Passion at 3pm on Good Friday, and Easter Sunday Mass from 10.30am.

**PROJECT
COMPASSION**
GO FURTHER TOGETHER

Palm Sunday 5th April 2020

 **Caritas**
AUSTRALIA

Dominic, 47, is a father of six from Papua New Guinea. In 2016, he became involved with Caritas Australia's partner, Centre of Hope who runs a safe house and family anonymous programs and turned a difficult life and an unhappy relationship around. Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 to help support the Safe House project and help bring greater harmony to families in Papua New Guinea. 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.

Welcome to Frs Shaiju's and George

After two weeks of self - isolation following their arrival from India, we welcome two priests from the Missionary Society of St Thomas the Apostle who are based in Kerala, India. Both priests have now joined Fr Justin living in the Cathedral Presbytery. Fr Shaiju will remain with us, while Fr George will take up another appointment in the Diocese after Easter.

Gospel Reflection by Veronica Lawson rsm

This year, we are invited to hear Matthew's passion narrative through the lens of a global community threatened by a virus. The prospect of untimely death for many is an ever present reality. Even more abhorrent to most of us is the ongoing practice of capital punishment, particularly when a just person is put to death for specious reasons or to political ends. That's what confronts us in today's gospel, although the gospel writers pay little attention to the details of the suffering and death of Jesus: they are more interested in the meaning of these events.

The Romans execute Jesus outside Jerusalem when the city is filled with Jewish pilgrims, there for the Passover festival. For Jesus' friends and followers, every subsequent Passover is celebrated in the light of his death by crucifixion. They share their memories and reflect on the meaning of his death in the light of their sacred traditions. Every element of the Passover story, the ancient story of God's deliverance of their ancestors, resonates with echoes of the experience of Jesus who is now present to them in a new way. Little wonder, then, that the final events of Jesus' life were probably the first part of his story to be committed to writing.

Though Matthew draws much of his material from Mark, he fashions the tradition into a new narrative and adds several distinctive features. "To fulfil all righteousness" is Jesus' stated mission (3:15). He has declared "blessed" those who suffer for the sake of righteousness (justice or right relationship)" (5:10). He now embodies his own teaching as the just or righteous one, the one in right relationship with God. The prayer on his lips as he faces death (Psalm 22) is that of the suffering just Israelite who is utterly faithful to his mission and whose trust in God never fails.

There are hints that Jesus' death is not the end, but is rather the inauguration of the new age of God's empire, a compassionate alternative to the brutality of Rome. In response to the high priest Caiaphas, Jesus points beyond death to his resurrected life "at the right hand of power...." Extraordinary signs follow his death: the tearing of the temple curtain; the trembling of the earth; the recognition by the Roman centurion and his companions that this man is of God; and finally, the opening of the graves and appearance of the dead in anticipation of the final resurrection. These signs offer the hope of reversal to all who have witnessed the events surrounding Jesus' death. They offer hope to the women who have followed him all the way from Galilee and "ministered to him". They offer hope to the male disciples who have deserted or denied him, to faithful disciples like Joseph of Arimathea, and even to his Roman executioners. They have the potential to bring hope to us all at this time, especially to those who are putting their lives on the line for others.