

St Patrick's Cathedral

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

Sunday, April 19th, 2020

Second Sunday of Easter

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

Priests: Fr Justin Driscoll
(Administrator)
Fr Shaiju Mathew

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: Sr Bernadette Gray IBVM, Maureen Hickey

Anniversaries: Noel Crowe, Fran De Jong, Leslie Green, Eileen McLoughlan,
Ann Morgan-Niall

Thank you for contributing to the Cathedral collections this week

Envelopes \$ 563.50

Presbytery \$ 402.00

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 that commenced on 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.

A special message to our School Communities from our Principals

As we commence Term 2 with the certainty that most students will be learning from home, the Catholic Education Office Ballarat would like to share this special video message with all of our families. Watch the video on the CEOB website www.ceob.edu.au

Catholic Education responds to the Coronavirus, COVID 19

Families are to be reassured that those impacted financially by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic will be assisted in every way possible to continue their child's enrolment. As many in our school community grapple with unprecedented changes to finances, emotional wellbeing and physical health, we have taken a clear position on enrolments. There has been a long-established policy in the Diocese of Ballarat that no family is denied a Catholic education due to an inability to pay school fees.

	<h1>Thank you!</h1>	
<p>Caritas Australia would like to THANK YOU for supporting Project Compassion 2020. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please bring them back next week or visit www.caritas.org.au to make your donation online.</p>		
<p>Through your generosity, you will be empowering the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and share their strengths with their communities to lift themselves out of poverty. www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion #projectcompassion 1800 024 413</p>		
		

The pastoral care of our trembling world

From Pakistan and unable to return to Rome, Fr Robert McCulloch participated in an international webinar on 'The Church's Response to COVID-19 Global Crisis: Pastoral and Management Challenges. Read more in the [Columban e-bulletin](#)

Plenary Council postponed

In response to the dramatic changes caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Bishops of Australia have made the “difficult, but necessary” decision to postpone the first assembly of the [Plenary Council](#).

Updates, information, resources and links.

(We invite you to visit our Parish website regularly: stpatrcathedralweebly.com)

We now have a [Cathedral Parish Facebook page](#) so that we can stay connected to each other. Mass will be live-streamed daily at 11.30am through the Parish Facebook Page or may be watched on our website. We have many friends already and we would love you to join us online for Mass. 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.

Please click the links to access Fr Justin's [Holy Saturday Prayers](#) and [Easter Sunday Homily](#) on our website.

Gospel Reflection by Veronica Lawson rsm

Not so long ago we used to speak of the Sundays “after” Easter. The terminology has changed and we now speak of the Sundays “of” Easter. In other words, we now recognise that the liturgical readings and prayers for each Sunday between Easter and Pentecost invite us into different movements of the one great symphony of resurrection faith. Today’s gospel tells of fear and joy and blessing. We bring our present experience of pandemic into dialogue with all of this. The first scene in today’s gospel has the disciples hiding behind closed doors “for fear” of those who had handed Jesus over to be executed by the Roman authorities. As supporters of someone executed on a political charge, they had reason to be fearful. Jesus appears among them, offers a greeting of peace, and tells them that he has been sent by God, his “Father”. They receive from him the gift of the Holy Spirit. He sends them in turn to bring peace and to mediate the forgiveness of God through the power of the Spirit. The story invites us as believers to place ourselves in the shoes of the earliest disciples. It invites us to be open to receive the gift of the Spirit, to emerge from behind the doors that close us in on ourselves and that prevent us from rising above the fear of reprisals in the pursuit of justice and peace. The second and third scenes in today’s gospel focus on Thomas who was not with the other disciples when Jesus first appeared in their midst. Thomas seems to trust only his own experience. We all know people like Thomas. They test our patience because they seem to lack imagination. Then they make big statements when they come around to understanding what everyone else has known for a while. If we think, however, that those who hear in the first place are any better than Thomas, we need to note that the doors are still closed eight days later! The simple fact of knowing has not dispelled the fears. Even those who do believe and trust often need time to take the gospel message on board. All three readings this Sunday affirm those who believe without “seeing”. In the reading from Acts, many who had not seen the risen Jesus are drawn to the community of faith-filled believers. The community addressed in 1 Peter have “never seen him [the Christ]” and yet they love him and are filled with inexpressible joy. In the gospel, we too are declared blessed: “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe”, as we continue to celebrate Easter, we join with the global community in celebrating the 50th annual Earth Day on Wednesday of this week. The theme for 2020 is climate action. We have dispelled our fears, listened to the science on Coronavirus and taken courageous action. We might pray for the same courageous action to save our planetary home.