

St. Aloysius' Redan St. James' Sebastopol St. Peter's Linton

(Encompassing Skipton, Smythesdale and Snake Valley)

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 6th September 2020

Parish Priest: Fr. Kevin Maloney

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Office hours: Tues, Thurs & Fri 9am – 3pm

**For Linton Parish enquiries contact
Fr. Kevin Maloney**

Next Week's Readings: 24th Sunday Ordinary Time - Ecclesiasticus 27:30-28:7, Romans 14:7-9, Matthew 18:21-35

The parishes acknowledge that the Aboriginal people of Australia are our first nation people and the traditional owners and custodians of this land.

The Parish Offices will remain closed under Stage 3 restrictions. Bernadette will continue to work via email and phone. For all enquiries: please contact Redan Parish on 0455 212 123.

Pauline will continue to work via email and phone. For all enquiries: please contact Sebastopol Parish on 0428 699 624.

Novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

Stage 3 restrictions have been re-introduced in regional Victoria effective from August 5, 2020. The restrictions will apply until September 13. All updates are also on the diocesan website "news" section www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Recent Deaths:

Anniversaries: Emma Collins, Helena Damen, Elleen Davis, Jos Graafmans, Lorna McCormack, Donald McDonald, Paul Mahar, Kathryn Morris, Kathleen Mulcahy, Fred Nihill, Jean Nihill, Margaret and Edmond O'Keeffe, Violet O'Keeffe, Marjorie Sherritt, Franciszka Stodolny, Kaz Zabinski

Please remember in your prayers: Margaret Cooper, Fr. Denis Dennehy, Winifredo Ferrer, Heather Healy, Constancio Laduan Sr., Corazon Laduan, Lucas Mactingrao, Joe Martinovic, Kevin Orchard, Rodolfo Puyaoan, Louis Sykes, Leonie Street, Sr. Patricia Vagg

Father's Day Prayer - 6 September 2020

Let us praise those fathers, Who have striven to balance the demands of work, marriage, and children with an honest awareness of both joy and sacrifices. Who have worked to become good fathers. Who have to parent on their own. Who continue to offer their children, now grown, their love and support. Who, despite family breaks, have remained in their children's lives. Whose children are adopted, and whose love and support has offered healing. Who as stepfathers, freely choose the obligation of fatherhood and earned their children's love and respect. Who have lost a child to death, and continue to hold the child in their heart. Let us praise those men. Who have no children, but cherish the next generation as if they were their own. Who have 'fathered' us in their role as teachers, coaches, mentors and guides. Who are about to become fathers; may they openly delight in their children. And let us praise those fathers who have died, but live on in our memory and whose love continues to nurture us. Amen.

Ballarat Diocesan Information, News and Events

Links to online Masses in the Diocese:

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Ballarat: Mass livestreamed daily at 11.30am can be viewed live on Patrick's Cathedral facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/patricks.cathedral.9> or watched later on the St Patrick's Parish website stpatscathedral.weebly.com

Season of Creation 1st September – 4th October 2020

The 5th anniversary 2020 was the beginning of the Special Laudato Si Anniversary Year (24th May 2020 – 24th May 2021) with the hope that it be a time of grace, a true Kairos experience and “Jubilee” time for the Earth. For humanity and all God’s creatures. The theme for Season of Creation 2020 is “Jubilee for the Earth” in which we are invited to consider the integral relationship between the rest for the Earth and ecological, economic, social and political ways of living, the need for just and sustainable systems revealed this year by the global COVID-19 pandemic makes this a time to reflect and further act on the urgency of the situation of our world today and act for future generations with local to national responses. Liturgically, we celebrate remembering God’s action in prayer. For Liturgical resources to guide our reflection on this season, <https://www.columban.org.au/media-and-publications/educational-resources/a-catholic-season-of-creation-5-undays-of-september-year-a>. For further information on the Season of Creation and Ecumenical Resource, <https://seasonofcreation.org/celebration-guide/>

Catholic Earthcare Convocation is digital during September

Catholic Earthcare is a place and platform where the many, diverse voices within our church community come together, in dialogue, to help and co-create our shared future. Come join us digitally during September, so together we can all celebrate and Care for our Common Home. View the program and register for sessions at <https://catholicearthcare.org.au/2020-convocation/>

Season of Creation and Ecological Justice: This year’s theme is “Jubilee for the Earth” and is an annual celebration of prayer and action to protect creation and is celebrated by Christians of all traditions. In Laudato Si’ Pope Francis asked us to care for creation and one another.

You are warmly invited to find an oasis of peace and calm for 45 minutes with a guided meditation ‘Finding God in Creation’. This Creation Examen will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, 16th September at 7.30pm.

Developed by St Ignatius of Loyola, the Examen is a simple technique of prayerful reflection on the events of the day which will help you to listen to the inner movements of your heart. This Ecological Examen asks you to reflect with gratitude on your personal relationship with God in creation, to notice where you can do more to protect creation and to promote ecological justice by standing in solidarity with those most impacted by environmental harm. **Please respond by email and you will be sent a link to Zoom closer to the 16th Sept. catholicearthcare@ballarat.catholic.org.au** A Christian Life Community and Catholic Earthcare Ballarat Diocese in collaboration. This notice can be found on the Diocesan website: <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/a-season-of-creation/>

Damascus College Information Webinars & Virtual Tours for 2022 Commencement

Damascus College warmly invites all families to attend our upcoming Information Webinars on Wednesday, September 9 at 5.00pm and Tuesday, October 20 at 6.30pm. The Information Webinars are a great way for prospective families to learn more about Damascus College. Guided Virtual Tours are held fortnightly on a Thursday at 9.00am. To register, please go to <https://www.damascus.vic.edu.au/prospective-visit-us> You will be sent an online link the day prior to the event.

Social Justice Statement 2020-2021 - The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting the mental health of many members of our parishes, schools and communities. Understanding mental health will help us to be aware of those who need our support. In the Social Justice Statement 2020-2021, To Live Life to the Full: Mental health in Australia today, the Bishops invite us all to reject stigmatisation, to work for the transformation of social determinants of mental ill-health, and to call for policies and service provision that meet the needs of the poorest and most marginalised members of our community. More information is available from http://bit.ly/SocialJustice_2020

Plenary Council Update

The journey to the Plenary Council 2020 continues. While it is in a context more different than we could have ever expected, the need to pray, discern and listen to the Holy Spirit and each other is more important than ever.

Discernment Papers: The six discernment papers have been released and are available to be read. The National Plenary Facilitation Team will soon release resources to assist parishes and communities to explore each of the papers. Here in the diocese, we will endeavour to look at one paper for a month. For the month of September we will look at **HOW IS GOD CALLING US TO BE A CHRIST-CENTRED CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA THAT IS Prayerful & Eucharistic?** *The Listening and Dialogue responses revealed the deep faith, integrity and sincerity of all the people who gave of themselves in their offerings. The responses included divergent opinions on various topics. At the same time, they showed a common faith in Christ and a common desire to follow his teaching in love of God and love of neighbour. They demonstrated a commitment to living the gospel of Christ and sharing the gospel with others, even in the midst of a largely secular culture. They expressed a love for the community of the Church, despite the well-documented failings of members of the community. They showed a desire to be a Christ-centred Church that is prayerful and Eucharistic.* Have a read of the discernment paper, think about your parish and the diocese in general. We welcome any comments. Please send through to jane.collins@ballarat.catholic.org.au. Read the discernment paper <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/PC2020-thematic-papers-3.pdf>. Visit the Prayerful & Eucharistic page [here](#).

Plenary Council Discernment papers now available in audio format: The Diocese of Bathurst has taken the discernment papers to another format, recording audio versions to help with the reception of the documents. All six discernment papers have now been recorded and can be accessed on the Plenary Council website <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/continuing-the-journey-of-discernment/>

Next step on Plenary Council journey: As part of the ongoing journey for the Plenary Council, work has commenced on the preparation of the instrumentum laboris, or working document, for the Council. Fr Kevin Lenehan is part of the instrumentum laboris writing team <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/next-step-on-plenary-council-journey/>

Child Protection Sunday – September 13, 2020

The Catholic Church in Australia marks Child Protection Sunday, on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise and apologise for the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings. The Church takes a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse. We recommit to practices that support survivors and make the Catholic Church and its ministries the safest possible place for children and people at risk. Find out more at www.catholic.org.au/childprotectionsunday and www.catholicreligious.org.au/safeguarding

Diocesan Resource Centre closed until further notice

With the reintroduction of stage 3 restrictions, the Diocesan Resource Centre will be closed until further notice.

Centacare support offering - Centacare's family and relationship team are offering support during COVID-19. View the flyer for programs on offer and contact details at https://mcusercontent.com/fe8dff0912e9e1b378f7db433/files/c7d47726-0da8-4a94-8f27-f73ed3eb922b/Programs_brochure_COVID.pdf

We are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people and vulnerable adults.