

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

(Encompassing Skipton, Smythesdale and Snake Valley)

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 27th 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: 27th Sunday Ordinary Time - Isaiah 5:1-7, Philippians 4:6-9, Matthew 21:33-43

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.

Dear Parishioners

Greetings.

We are taking the first tentative steps out of our second lockdown. All of us are more than happy to be able to broaden our horizons'. At the moment we are not at liberty to resume the previous liturgical practices we had prior to the second lockdown. On Thursday afternoon the priest of the Ballarat Parishes met and we agree that all parishes in Ballarat would follow similar procedures:

Churches, worship, sacraments and the easing of restrictions

*Bishop Paul has communicated to the people of the Ballarat Diocese informing us that together with the other bishops of Victoria, he has been making representations to government for an easing of the restrictions in relation to places of worship. He has proposed that places of worship should at least be treated in the same way as other places where people can gather socially. In the coming week, bishops and other religious leaders will have further meetings with government. It is hoped these meetings will bear fruit so that we will be able to gather again in our churches. We do need to safeguard the community's health, yet we have shown that we can observe the necessary precautions for physical health at the same time as we celebrate the liturgy, which contributes so much to the spiritual and mental health of the community. Bishop Paul prays particularly that we will soon be able to share the Eucharist, source and summit of the Christian life, but at this time **it is not possible for us to gather for Mass.***

It is still possible for parishes to live-stream Mass, however this can only involve up to five people. The provisions do not allow us to gather in our churches to celebrate Mass as we would dearly wish to.

Funerals will be able to have up to 20 people gathered, plus those required to conduct the funeral.

Weddings will be able to have up to 10 people gathered (including the couple and two witnesses), plus the celebrant.

Baptisms cannot be celebrated until there is a further easing of restrictions.

For those seeking to celebrate the **sacrament of Reconciliation**, this can be done by contacting the priest directly to make an appointment.

Anointing of the Sick remains possible in Hospitals, Aged Care facilities and in private homes. Priests are permitted to visit these institutions when a person's condition has been designated 'end of life.'

Until there is greater clarity regarding 'religious gatherings' and 'private worship,' the doors of our churches in Ballarat will remain closed. In the coming week we will consider how our churches may be opened for private worship in ways that operate within the government guidelines. The seriousness of the potential health risks and the penalties for breaching the law demand a very considered approach and a workable system. In the meantime the mission of Christ that we have been given to serve, reach out, care for each other and pray continues.

I do realise that this does have an impact on our spiritual and prayer lives and that some will be unhappy with the situation. However, at the moment there are limits on what we can do.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your care and support.

Best wishes and God's blessings to all.

Kevin Maloney, PP

Recent Deaths: Sr. Tirsa Bale, Leonie Street

Anniversaries: Maureen Davis, Lorna Murnane, Wally Jones, Sr. Veronica Reid ibvm, Edith Reitze, David Sullivan, George Zehner,

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, Sr. Patricia Vagg

New Diocesan Website

The new diocesan website is now live at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au.

Diocesan e-News Upgrade

Due to the upgrade of the diocesan website, diocesan e-News has also been updated. If you did not receive e-News in your inbox this week, please re-subscribe at

<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/news-events/e-news/>

The Parishes of St. Aloysius, St. James' & St. Peter's are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and people at risk in our community. We uphold that child protection and the dignity of every person is the responsibility of every adult.

106th World Day of Migrant and Refugees - Sunday 27 September 2020

The theme for Migrant and Refugee Sunday 2020 is "*Forced Like Jesus Christ to Flee*". Read Pope Francis' Message for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees [here](#).

From this year forward, Migrant and Refugee Sunday will be celebrated in Australia on the last Sunday in September. This brings the practice of the Church in Australia into line with the practice of the Church around the world.

Pope Francis says..

I would like to conclude with a prayer suggested by the example of Saint Joseph at the time he was forced to flee to Egypt to save the child Jesus.

Father, you entrusted to Saint Joseph what you held most precious: the child Jesus and his Mother, in order to protect them from the dangers and threats of the wicked.

Grant that we may experience his protection and help. May he, who shared in the sufferings of those who flee from the hatred of the powerful, console and protect all our brothers and sisters driven by war, poverty and necessity to leave their homes and their lands to set out as refugees for safer places.

Help them, through the intercession of Saint Joseph, to find the strength to persevere, give them comfort in sorrows and courage amid their trials.

Grant to those who welcome them some of the tender love of this just and wise father, who loved Jesus as a true son and sustained Mary at every step of the way.

May he, who earned his bread by the work of his hands, watch over those who have seen everything in life taken away and obtain for them the dignity of a job and the serenity of a home.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son, whom Saint Joseph saved by fleeing to Egypt, and trusting in the intercession of the Virgin Mary, whom he loved as a faithful husband in accordance with your will. Amen.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 13 May 2020, Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Fatima. Franciscus

Catholic Social Services Victoria would like to draw particular focus, especially in the light of COVID-19, to remember, pray for and commit to working to change the horrible reality of many migrants, refugees and people seeking asylum 'in our own backyard':

Remembering, working and praying for migrants and refugees: On this 106th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, we remember, pray for, and commit to working to change the horrible reality of many in 'our own backyard'. We acknowledge and give thanks for the many parish communities across the state, along with those working within our Catholic social services and other organisations and community groups, who are making considerable efforts to assist people seeking asylum, refugees, and other migrants who hold temporary visas—many remain in harsh circumstances in detention centres, and the majority of the 115,000 living in the Australian community have been deemed ineligible for any federal government support payments during COVID-19, making many at risk of homelessness and despair. In his message for World Day for Migrants and Refugees, Pope Francis tells us, "You have to know in order to understand" and, "It is necessary to be close, in order to serve". Only when different elements of the community work together — individuals, parishes, schools, universities and organisations — can we effectively advocate for systemic change and provide for people's immediate necessities and other spiritual and social needs. We encourage you to read more at

<http://www.css.org.au/Article-View/Article/23727/Remembering-working-and-praying-for-migrants-and-refugees#.X2qkIGzaCh>

26th Sunday of Ordinary Time

As Covid-19 continues to affect our lives we pray this week's Responsorial Psalm with fervour – 'Remember your mercies, O Lord'.

Remember your mercies, O Lord as we pray for all those who have died or become sick from the coronavirus. Remember your mercies, O Lord as we pray for those who have lost livelihoods; and for those feeling isolated and worn down with worries.

Remember your mercies, O Lord as we pray for all who are making sacrifices to help prevent the spread of the disease and are working for the greater good.

Remember your mercies O Lord as we pray for government and business leaders who have to manage the health of the people in their care, along with the health of economies.

We humbly ask you Lord to show us the right path.

Blessings Michele Frankeni Australian Catholics assistant editor

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

Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission Mental Health Webinar

The Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission is hosting a zoom webinar for anyone who wants to know more about mental health in Australia and to empower participants to understand mental health, the supports available here in Australia and provide an opportunity to reach out, encourage hope and bring fullness of life to those we love and care for. The Zoom webinar will be held on Sunday, October 4, 2020 from 2.00pm – 3.00pm. For more information, registration details and to download the flyers, go to the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/social-justice/>

It's St Mary's 10th Anniversary and you're invited!

To mark the 10th anniversary of the canonisation of Mary MacKillop, Australia's first Saint, the Sisters of Saint Joseph invite you to celebrate the wonderful life and inspirational legacy of Saint Mary of the Cross. The Sisters have created commemorative prayers, videos and a global vigil in of honour Mary throughout September and October <https://www.sosj.org.au/10th-anniversary>

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-sundays-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/>

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/>

Diocesan Resource Centre closed until further notice

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

Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program Online Study

Low-cost online study and formation for employed or volunteer lay workers in parish and other ministries. 5 week study cycles include Sacraments, Scripture, Youth Ministry, Liturgy, Leadership and more. Registrations open now until October 12 for the next cycle which begins October 18. More information at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or email djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Damascus College Information Webinars & Virtual Tours for 2022 Commencement

Damascus College warmly invites all families to attend our upcoming Information Webinars on 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.

Prayers and Images in the Time of Virus

Following the success of Michael McGirr's *Trees in Solitude, Prayers and Images for Pentecost*, Garratt Publishing are pleased to present a complimentary second 'Trees' series from Michael – *Trees Without Masks*. Over the coming weeks these beautiful prayers and images will be shared. Download the prayers from the news section of the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au.

Heart of Life's Siloam Program

Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation is now taking applications for its internationally-renowned Siloam Program for the Formation of Spiritual Directors. Candidates from Australia and around the world have undertaken the Siloam journey of contemplative discernment, following the way of the heart. It is open to women and men of varying cultural traditions, who are drawn to listen deeply to their own hearts and the hearts of others, and seek to discern whether they may be called to the ministry of spiritual direction. More information is available at <http://www.heartoflife.melbourne/siloam/>. Applications close November 30, 2020 however as places are limited, we encourage applications as early as possible.

St Vincent de Paul Society, “Assist a Student” Program for Victoria

The program assists very poor students in countries to our north to attend school who may otherwise, without this assistance, not be able to afford to attend. It is aimed at breaking the poverty cycle the student finds themselves in and it encapsulates the Vincentian message of “a hand up, not a hand out”. A \$100 donation provides access to education. Any administrative costs are met by the Australian St Vincent de Paul Society. For more information go to

https://www.vinnies.org.au/page/Our_Impact/International_Impact/Assist_a_student_today/

Free Public Lecture hosted by ACU Centre for Liturgy: “Liturgy, Prayer, Pastoral Care and Pandemics”

On Monday, October 12, 2020 the ACU Centre for Liturgy will host Sr Prof Julia Upton rsm, a member of the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, who will give an online public lecture entitled “Liturgy, Prayer, Pastoral Care and Pandemics”. Applying her expertise in liturgy and her education and interest in public health, Dr Upton’s lecture will be of great interest to all those involved in pastoral care in this time of global pandemic. The Lecture will run from 10.00am – 11.30am AEDT via Zoom. Registration by October 7, 2020 is essential

<https://www.acu.edu.au/about-acu/institutes-academies-and-centres/acu-centre-for-liturgy/pastoral-training>. The Zoom link will be sent on October 9 to the email address you provide.

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