

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

(Encompassing Skipton, Smythesdale and Snake Valley)

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 20th 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: 26th Sunday Ordinary Time - Ezekiel 18:25-28, Philippians 2:1-11, Matthew 21:28-32

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.

This week 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:

Anniversaries: Mary Connellan, Patrick Connor, Anna Contessotto, Anne Hervey, Kathereine Graham, Lynette Romeo, Sr. Noreen Torney rsm, Jim Sanders, Wayne Torpy, Garry Twyford

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

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.

Prayer

Gracious God, you love and care for all of your children, especially the smallest and most vulnerable. We entrust to you the lives of children and adults at risk who have been sexually abused, and whose trust and innocence have been destroyed.

Help us to hear their cries of pain and to take responsibility for those whose lives have been broken. Help us to recognise the hurt felt by those wounded by abuse, and the failure to be heard.

We pray that with the help of your grace communities and families will find understanding and support, so that now and in the future their wounds may be healed and they may find lasting peace.

Let your grace and love fall gently now upon our children, giving them the inner strength, peace and resilience to seek out assistance when required.

We ask this prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen

www.catholic.org.au/childprotectionsunday || www.catholicreligious.org.au/resources

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/>

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.

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

Prayer

Jesus, you invite us all into the fullness of life. May we support one another to flourish in body, mind and spirit. Strengthen our commitment to ensure that nobody falls through gaps in our systems of care.

People called you mad. Help us to recognise you in those who suffer mental ill-health today. Show us how to eliminate stigmatisation of mental ill-health from our parishes, schools, communities and organisations.

You drew near to those who were suffering in body or mind. May we too feel your nearness when we struggle with mental health challenges. May we be one as members of Your Body.

You invite us to share in your ministry of love and true compassion. May we be empowered by your Spirit to reach out to all people in need. May we build communities of welcome and inclusion.

Amen

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.

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

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

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.

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