

# St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Ballarat

Third Sunday in Lent – 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2022



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[stpatscathedral.weebly.com/](http://stpatscathedral.weebly.com/)

<https://www.facebook.com/patricks.cathedral.9/>

**Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday, 10.00am – 5.00pm**

The phone will be transferred to the on call priest so that Hospitals, Aged Care facilities, Funeral Directors or others seeking the services of a priest may be responded to.

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*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.*



## **Cathedral Clergy:**

Fr Ed Moloney

Fr Abraham Thomas

## **Visiting Priests:**

Fr Dan Arundell

Fr Barry Ryan

## **Parish Coordinator:**

Anita Houlihan

## **Finance Officer:**

Kerrie McTigue

## **Safeguarding Officer:**

Anita Houlihan

## **Ballarat Health Services Spiritual and Pastoral Carer:**

Annette Hirth

### **Readings this week: 3rd Sunday of Lent**

**First:** Exodus 3:1-8. 13-15

**Second:** 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

**Gospel:** Luke 13:1-9

### **Readings next week: 4th Sunday of Lent**

**First:** Joshua 5:9-12

**Second:** 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

**Gospel:** Luke 15:1-3. 11-32

## **RECENT DEATHS:**

Eleanor Cochrane, Kath Noy

## **ANNIVERSARIES:**

Margaret Bym, Adele Hildora Byrne, Basil Clark, Ellen Bryce, Kevin Buckle, Peter Burke, John Callahan, Dorothea Crameri, Charles Coghlan, Basil Dawson, Ivan Dean, Diana DeCarli, Ronald Digman, Sr Emmanuel Fay SJG, John Fitzgerald, Marie Fitzpatrick, Joseph Foley, John Hayden, James Healy, Paul Heenan, Thomas Karras, Eileen Kennedy, Gloria Kennedy, Sharon Mai Kerr, Roslyn Lench, Margaret Miller, John Joseph Moloney, Harry Morris, Anne Morrison, Carmelo Sgro, Gregory Slater, Harry Strik, Margaret Waight, Bill Walsh

## **Baptisms**

This weekend, we welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism:

**Harvey York Jordan**, son of Jesse and Samantha

**Noah Reid Manning**, son of Bowen and Jacquelyn

**Ned William Pett**, son of Andrew and Rachael

**Jackson Ted Woolf**, son of Stephen and Carli

*"The Church gives the faith to your children through Baptism and you have the task to make it grow..." Pope Francis.*

May these children grow in faith with the support of their families and our Catholic Community.

## **Reconciliation Preparation**

This weekend we welcome our Parish children and their families taking part in the Reconciliation preparation program. Dismissal sessions from 6.30pm Vigil, 10.30am and 5.00pm Masses.

## **Parish Contributions**

**for 6th March and 13th March**

Thank you for contributing to the Cathedral collections this week:

### **First Collection**

**(Presbytery - Priest support)**

\$2,850.85

### **Second Collection**

**(Parish – buildings, office, administration, grounds and maintenance)**

\$8,588.00

*(including envelopes, credit cards and direct debits)*

Any queries or concerns, or to make a contribution, please contact the Parish Office or email Finance Officer [Kerrie](#).

## Gospel Reflection

Today's gospel begins with two warnings about the need for repentance. It ends with a parable about an unproductive fig tree and a faithful "gardener God". The warnings include two examples of untimely deaths, one reported to Jesus and then used by him to illustrate the urgent need for repentance, the other reported by Jesus as a further illustration of his point. With respect to the first example, Jewish history recounts instances of Pilate's cruelty, but makes no mention of his execution of Galileans and the mingling of their blood with their sacrifices. Neither is there any other record of the collapse of the Siloam tower and the resultant death of eighteen people. Jesus insists that those killed are no more sinful and no more deserving of death than any of their fellow Galileans or Jerusalemites. They are certainly not being punished for their sins and those who make such a link between suffering and sin have got it all wrong.

So why does Jesus twice assert, "If you do not repent you will all perish in the same way" or "you will all perish as they did"? The answer seems to lie in the constant need for self-reflection and the missed opportunity for conversion or reconciliation in the case of sudden and unexpected death. In other words, Jesus is telling his listeners, "Do not be caught unawares; turn your life around in the direction of the gospel while you are alive and well". The Greek verb "to repent" literally means to think again. It can have the sense of expanding one's vision or one's horizons, to think beyond the narrow confines of one's own interests and one's own little world. To repent is to see the big picture. In the context of Jesus' teaching, it is a call to take seriously the message of God's empire or reign which embraces the whole Earth community.

The parable of the unproductive fig tree in the vineyard approaches the same topic from another angle. The owner of the vineyard wants to get rid of a fig tree that fails to bear fruit after three years. From an economic perspective, his position is perfectly reasonable: why should a non-fruiting fig tree continue to sap the goodness of the soil? Why not go for more vines, more grapes, more wine, and forget about the fig tree? The faithful or constant gardener, on the other hand, is like the womb-compassionate God of Israel who cares about the soil itself and wants to give the fig tree another chance, to turn it around and assist it to bear fruit. At this mid-point in our Lenten journey, we might get in closer touch with our compassionate "gardener" God and open ourselves to a more expansive understanding of the pain of the planet. If we were truly to heed and live the Word of God for today, we might begin to hear, not lament, but cries of gratitude from Earth's regenerated beings.

*Veronica Lawson RSM*



## Project Compassion



**Janice 44**, is a proud Wagilak woman, a traditional dancer, living in a remote community in the Northern Territory. As elders grow older and pass away, she knows she must share her knowledge with the younger generation. However, the community faces multiple challenges, including a lack of jobs, limited educational opportunities, and socio-economic which can lead to young people becoming disconnected from culture.



With your help, Caritas Australia supports Djilpin Arts Aboriginal Corporation, which operates a centre for traditional and contemporary Aboriginal arts and culture, providing employment and generating income for local communities.

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 and help provide employment and training for First Australians, allowing them to remain on country and keep their culture alive.**

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow ***For All Future Generations.***

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your Parish, by visiting [lent.caritas.org.au](http://lent.caritas.org.au), or by calling 1800 024 413.

## Weekend Masses:

6.30pm Vigil

8.00am

10.30am

5.00pm

## Weekdays Mass

Morning Prayer 7.30am - Monday to Saturday

Evening Prayer 5.00pm - Monday to Friday

**Monday** - 10.00am

**Tuesday** - 7.00am, 10.00am

**Wednesday** - 10.00am Requiem Mass  
for Kath Noy RIP

**Friday** - 12.05pm, 6.00pm  
11.30am Reconciliation  
6.30pm Stations of the Cross

**Saturday** - 10.00am  
10.30am Reconciliation

## DEVOTIONS

**Monday/Tuesday** after 10.00am Mass  
Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet

**Wednesday** after Mass Stations of the Cross  
10.40am  
Followed by Litany to St Joseph

**Thursday** after 10.00am Mass – Rosary & Divine  
Mercy Chaplet

**Friday** after 12.05pm Mass  
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
Silent Prayer

**Saturday** after 10.00am Mass  
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
(with 15 minutes silence followed by Rosary)

*\*changes may occur due to Funerals or other Liturgical events.*