

# St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Ballarat

Easter Sunday – 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2022



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**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: Easter Sunday**

**First:** Acts 10:34. 37-43 **Second:** Colossians 3:1-4

**Gospel:** John 20:1-9

### **Readings next week: Second Sunday of Easter**

**First:** Acts 5:12-16 **Second:** Apocalypse 1:9-13, 17-19

**Gospel:** John 20:19-31

### **RECENT DEATHS:**

Ebony Vella

### **ANNIVERSARIES:**

Majella Ahearn, Paul Anderson, Peggy Brooks, Kevin Cunningham, June De Beer, Suzanne Donnelly, Edward Fanning, Kevin Foley, Werner Gotthold, Daphne Haley, Brendan Hammond, Geordie Hayes, Jodie Hughes, Shirley Krzempek, Helen Lange, Elizabeth Lumsden, Christopher Lyons, Basil Maher, Andrea Pagliaro, Sr Mary Majella Pierce, Veronica Re, Arthur Riley, Sr Eileen Riley IBVM, Ellen Segrave, Laurence Stevens, Patrick Thompson, Joseph Tobin, Andries van der Horst, Roma Vaughan, Veronica Widdison, James Woodruff

# Welcome to Parish – Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

We welcome the Elect: Odette Hearn, Ashley Martin, Sarah Martin, Myles Medwell, Felicity McClounan, Brannon McDonald, Liam McDonald and Jesse Walsh and Candidate Bronwyn Maher who will be fully initiated into the Catholic faith at the Easter Vigil this weekend.

Despite the many challenges of Covid, these faith-filled have continued their journey throughout the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) process for the past twelve months. We congratulate them on this achievement and support them as their faith journey continues.

## The Bishop's Easter Message 2022

### On the road again

Over the past couple of months, I have been on the road again, travelling around the diocese. This is in contrast to the last couple of years when travel has been limited because of the COVID-19 pandemic. While the virus is still having an impact, sometimes causing severe illness, we have been able to resume many of our usual activities. This includes moving around more freely. For this I am most grateful, because it has allowed me to resume visits to our parishes and schools.

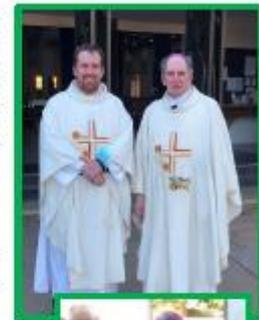
It has been wonderful to celebrate Sunday Masses in churches in the Swan Hill parish and join the students and staff of St Joseph's College Mildura for Mass in their college gym. I have been able to join in a meeting in the parish office in Warrnambool and prayer times with primary school students in Wendouree. These visits have brought home to me how much people all around our diocese have done to bring their communities through the pandemic and how much they are doing to help one another as we resume more normal activities in our parishes and schools and our lives as a whole.

I offer my thanks to you all for your patience during the pandemic and the kindness you have shown in supporting one another during this time. May that patience and kindness stay with us even as the pandemic subsides.

As we come to celebrate Easter this year, we are conscious of various trials that people are suffering around Australia and around the world – the ongoing effects of bushfires that have charred the lives of communities in the past couple of years, the recent devastation of floods, the terrible destruction of war in Ukraine. In the face of such sorrows, the joy of Easter might seem far away. Yet, our Christian faith can be a source of joy even in the midst of distress. The gospel assures us that God is close to us in times of struggle as well as in times of peace, that Christ has shared our pain, and that, just as God's love raised Jesus from the grave, so God's love can raise us to new life.

The Ukrainian word for "Easter" is "Velykden", meaning "Great Day". Easter does indeed celebrate a great day, the day of Christ's resurrection. The traditional Ukrainian greeting at Easter is "Christ is risen!" The response is "Christ is risen indeed!" Even as they endure much suffering, may this Easter be a great day for the people of Ukraine as they rejoice in the resurrection of Christ. May this Easter be a great day for us as well as we too rejoice in Christ's resurrection. May you have a blessed Holy Week and a Happy Easter.

*Bishop Paul Bird CSsR*



## **Gospel Reflection**

It is not always wise to discount someone's story just because it sounds like fantasy. In Luke's resurrection account, that is what the "eleven and all the rest" do with the women's stories of a rolled-back stone, no body and heavenly interpreters. The notion of resurrection was not in itself extraordinary in a first century Jewish context. The Pharisees believed in a general resurrection, but the idea that God would raise one person from the dead before the time of the general resurrection was quite unthinkable. From the men's perspective, therefore, the women are talking nonsense. Peter decides to go and confirm their testimony, indicating that he suspects there is some truth in what they have to say. Their account checks out and he goes away in amazement, no apology, just amazement.

This gospel and the whole Easter celebration is about "the one who lives". Luke's account leaves no doubt about the death of Jesus: there are witnesses, there is evidence. The same goes for the burial. Now, in the story of the empty tomb, Luke wants to assert that Jesus is alive. The women (Mary of Magdala, Joanna the wife of Chuza, Mary the mother of James and unidentified others) are confronted with the question: "Why are you seeking among the dead the one who lives?" They are then entrusted with the message of resurrection: "He is not here, but has been raised." They are invited to remember the prophetic words of Jesus. They do indeed remember and they return to proclaim the good news. In line with countless prophetic figures before and since, their testimony is rejected, but is nonetheless effective through the telling and retelling of the story.

In the reading from John's gospel for Easter Sunday morning, mention of the first day of the week "while it was still dark" evokes the first day of creation and God's word bringing light. The two angels guarding the tomb call to mind the heavenly creatures who barred the way to the tree of life in the Genesis garden story. The biblical story has come full circle, from creation to resurrection and new creation.

We take time at Easter to re-member, re-enact and re-tell these originating stories of our tradition, to dramatise and celebrate in solemn ritual what we celebrate in lower key every Sunday of the year. In our liturgical re-telling, all the power of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus is present to us and to our world. Resurrection faith is a commitment to life. In these times of planetary uncertainty, a commitment to life includes taking seriously the findings of reputable climate change scientists who no doubt can feel a bit like the women of the gospel whose message was discounted. In a world where vested interests distort truth and where constant repetition of lies leads to confusion, distrust and the unspeakable violence of war, resurrection stories remind us that Christ remains present in the community and that the seemingly impossible is not beyond reach.

*Veronica Lawson RSM*

A Reminder from Bishop Paul Bird CSsR:

**During this time of pandemic, Communion should be received in the hand rather than on the tongue.**

**No sharing of the chalice**

Those distributing Holy Communion should use **hand sanitiser** prior to distribution and **not touch anyone when giving a blessing**, and **holy water fonts should still be empty**.

## **“Where is the will of God for us in loss”**

You are invited to a day of reflection, “Where is the will of God for us in loss” being held at OLHC Parish, Wendouree, Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May from 9.30am - 2.00pm.

Numbers are limited.

For bookings contact Kath 331 2677.

## **Divine Mercy Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2022**

***Prayers for Healing, Forgiveness and Conversions***

See Parish noticeboards for further information.

## **ANZAC DAY**

Please note the annual ANZAC Day commemoration Mass will be the usual 10.00am Mass, Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April.

There will be possible road closures in the Cathedral area.

## **Please note:**

### **Weekend Masses**

From Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2022, Mass times will be as follows:

**Saturday 5.30pm Vigil**  
**Sunday 8.00am, 10.30am, 5.00pm**

### **Parish Contributions**

Thank you for contributing to the Cathedral collections this week:

#### **First Collection**

(Presbytery - Priest support)  
\$1,761.00

#### **Second Collection**

(Parish – buildings, office, admin, grounds and maintenance)  
\$1,594.00  
*(including envelopes, credit cards and direct debits)*

### **Project Compassion**

Happy Easter from all at Caritas Australia! Thank you for your continued support for Project Compassion – past, present and future. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow For All Future Generations.

Thank you for supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion 2022 Lenten appeal.

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.