

# St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Ballarat

**Ascension – 29<sup>th</sup> May, 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.

\* \* \*

*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

## **Readings this week: Ascension of the Lord (29th May)**

**First:** Acts 1:1-11 **Second:** Ephesians 1:17-23

**Gospel:** Luke 24:46-53

## **Readings next week: Pentecost (4th June)**

**First:** Acts 2:1-11 **Second:** 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13

**Gospel:** John 20:19-23

## **RECENT DEATHS:**

Bill Breen, Cath Faye, Con Glennen, Frank Selvatori

## **ANNIVERSARIES:**

David Blaw, Michael Clancy, Angelina Costa, William Fay, Honorata Hrymakowski, Mario Iafrate, Patrick McMahon, John MacDonald, Benjamin Mackiewicz, Vincent Madden, Val Murphy, Aileen Pryor, Angela Nesci, Shirley Porter, William Ross, Norma Sarah, Teresa Scholten, Desmond Segrave, Jack Stuart, Nadzia Studzinski, Julie Anne Tebb, Bernard Vaughan, Marguerite Victor, Gertrudis Volders, Joan Wels, Joseph Welsh, Rita Wildner, Irvine Wilkie,

## **Baptisms This weekend**

We welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism:

**Riley Cromb**, son of Timothy and Karina  
**Hugo Romeo Meagher**, son of Simon and Laura

We also welcome to our Parish, through the  
Rite of Christian Initiation of Children (RCIC) process:

**Alfie Ryan and Eve Mary Carter**, children of Jason and Sara  
**Samuel Neal Gerard Cranston**, son of Richard and Siobhan  
**Matilda Honey Loughnan**, daughter of Timothy and Tahlia  
**Jake William and Levi James Martin**, sons of Ashley and Sarah  
**McKenna Jane McClounan**, daughter of Paul and Felicity  
**Isabella Rose and London Patrick Scullion**, children of Lee and Nicole  
**Edward William Stephen**, son of Lachlan and Monique

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

### **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2022 - 29<sup>th</sup> May – 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

**"We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship him."** (cf Matthew 2:2)

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Australia will be observed in the week between Ascension and Pentecost. The theme in 2022 was chosen by the Middle East Council of Churches **"We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship"** (cf Matthew 2:2) More than ever, in these difficult times, we need a light that shines in the darkness and that light, Christians proclaim, has been manifested in Jesus Christ.

Please note the dates, times and host churches for the week:

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May @ 2.30pm** - St Patrick's Cathedral

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May @ 2.30pm** - St Peter's Anglican Church  
1307 Sturt Street, Ballarat

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June @ 2.30pm** - Peel Street Church of Christ  
37-39 Peel Street South, Ballarat

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June @ 2.30pm** - Ballarat Central Uniting Church  
103 Lydiard Street South, Ballarat

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June @ 2.30pm** - Christ Church Anglican Cathedral  
49 Lydiard Street South, Ballarat

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

Loss is part of the human condition, and the physical death of a loved one is among the most painful experiences of loss. Today's Feast of the Ascension invites us to face the experience of loss in a transformative way. In Ordinary Time, we celebrate the life and ministry of Jesus. Over the period of Lent and Easter, we have been re-membering his death and resurrection. As we approach the end of the Easter season, the liturgy draws us into another aspect of the Mystery, that of the presence and absence of Jesus who has been raised.

The Lukan Ascension stories as found in the gospel and in today's first reading (Acts 1:1-11) presuppose a pre-scientific, three-tiered understanding of the structure of the world. In this ancient view, God is in the heavens above and the prophet Jesus, like the prophet Elijah of old, is caught up into God's realm from whence the Holy Spirit will "descend" upon God's people. This vertical (up and down) movement is balanced by a horizontal movement. We must begin to use language in prayer and liturgy that recognises God's presence everywhere, not only in the "heavens" above.

In Acts, Jesus' family and friends who grieve the loss of their loved one are told not to keep looking up to the heavens. They have work to do: they must return to Jerusalem for the present and be empowered by the Holy Spirit to continue the prophetic ministry of Jesus ("clothed with power from on high"), to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth. They have to face the fact that the physical loss of Jesus means a new and different sort of presence and that they have a role to play in making him present in their world. Like us, the early Christians needed time to grasp each dimension of the one great mystery of God's presence among them.

In the gospel account, the disciples gathered in Jerusalem are to be witnesses to the death and resurrection of Jesus. They are to proclaim a gospel of "repentance and forgiveness". In the gospel (Luke 24:47) their audience is "all peoples", while in Acts 1:8, they are commissioned to be witnesses to Jesus "in all Jerusalem, in Judaea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth". In other words, the good news is not only for the earth's human inhabitants but for the earth itself. Pope Francis, in calling us to be attentive to the cry of the poor, insists that the earth itself is "among the most maltreated and abandoned of our poor" (*Laudato Si'* 2).

Joy, peace, prayer and blessing have the final word in Luke's gospel. They have permeated Luke's story from the outset. As we prepare for the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, we might pray that the spirit of joy that animated the earliest Christians will fill our hearts so that the entire planetary community might know the blessing of God.

This coming week as we prepare for Pentecost, we follow in the footsteps of Mary and the Apostles to pray to the Holy Spirit that our parish community will be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit's presence amongst us so that we in our time, can live our mission to our families, community and world. Below is a prayer we might like to pray in the coming week:

*I praise you, Lord, for the Spirit of Truth,  
the Advocate who leads me to eternal life.  
I praise you, Lord, for the gift of faith, that  
my heart desires to be in deep relationship  
with you.*

*I praise you, Lord, for the sun and the  
moon, the oceans and forests, for all the  
elements in nature that bring beauty and  
sustenance to my life.*

*I praise you, Lord, for the gift of clean air,  
that I may easily breathe in and out and  
have life to the full.*

*I praise you, Lord, for my family and  
friends, who bring such life and joy and  
meaning to my existence.*

*I praise you, Lord, for the sorrow and  
difficulties, I face, for they remind me of my  
vulnerability and constant need for you.*

*I praise you, Lord, for being by my side  
always, for the deep knowledge that I am  
loved, precious and never alone.*

*I praise you, Lord. Amen.*

## Parish Contributions

Thank you for contributing to the Cathedral collections this week:

**First Collection** (Presbytery - Priest support)  
\$2,003.45

**Second Collection** (Parish – buildings, office,  
admin, grounds and maintenance)

\$2,030.50

(including envelopes, credit cards and direct  
debits)

## Weekday Masses

**Monday** – 10.00am

**Tuesday** – 7.00am, 10.00am

**Wednesday** – 10.00am

**Thursday** – 10.00am

**Friday** – 12.05pm

Reconciliation at 11.15am until midday

**Saturday** – 10.00am

(Reconciliation at 10.30am)

## Weekend Masses

**Saturday** 5.30pm Vigil

**Sunday** 8.00am, 10.30am, 5.00pm

## DEVOTIONS

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

**Wednesday** after Mass 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.

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.