

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Ballarat

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time – 14th August, 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
Fr Jim McKay

Visiting Priests:

Fr Dan Arundell
Fr Barry Ryan

Parish Coordinator:

Anita Houlihan

Finance Officer:

Kerrie McTigue

Safeguarding Officer:

Anita Houlihan

Readings this week: Nineteenth Sunday Ordinary Time (14th August)

First: Jeremiah 38:4-6. 8-10 **Second:** Hebrews 12:1-4

Gospel: Luke 12:49-53

Readings next week: Twentieth Sunday Ordinary Time (21st August)

First: Isaiah 66:18-21 **Second:** Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13

Gospel: Luke 13:22-30

IN LOVING
Memory

ANNIVERSARIES:

Leonard Basham, Margaret Bromley, John Calistro, Philip Chatham, Leda Chwesik, Herbert Cluff, Thomas Coffey, Joanne Duke, Joan Fanning, Laurie Franklin, Dorothy Gibson, Elizabeth Goodwin, David Griffiths, Rosalie Henseleit, Mary Hutchinson, Margaret Hyland, Kirk Kelevitz, Julianne Krusche, Monica Lange, Donald Mahony, Cornelius McDermott, Bryan McEntee, Michael & Loreto Melican, Kevin Nester Molly Nunn, Mary O'Brien, Bill O'Donnell, Irene Parkin, Philomena Reidy, Valerie Smith, Michael Wethling

UNDERSTANDING THE MASS:

The Catholic Church expresses its character most powerfully in the celebration of the Mass, often called the Eucharist. *“Here is a gathering of people who have been reborn into the life of Christ. Some are fervent believers. Some are lukewarm. Some are not sure why they are there at all. Yet they are together in the Lord”* (Pilarczyk, 2006, p. 228). The Mass is a gift - a source of light, energy and joy.

When Catholics go to Mass, they gather as a community to hear the Word of God in order to gain direction and to give a purpose to human existence. At the celebration of Mass, the Catholic community gathers together, under the leadership of the priest and in the company of Jesus Christ. God is offered the gifts of the lives of the community gathered – thoughts, actions, words, work, relationships – symbolized by the bread and wine presented to the priest from the community.

The community is invited to sing, to respond to prayers, to engage with those present, to encounter God. Mass is not something to be attended it is something that is done – each person ‘fully, consciously, actively participating’. Just being there is not enough. The members of the Catholic Community need contact with each other, to be reassured that one does not live the life of Christ in solitude but is in fact a part of the larger body – the Body of Christ - the Church.

The Mass is the heart of the Catholic Church. It is an action of praise, of love, of thanksgiving to God, on behalf of the Church. Each celebration of the Mass finishes with a plan for each person who attends - a plan that fulfils God’s dreaming for the world.

Each and every participant in the Mass plays a vital role through their participation. Whether you are part of the assembled Worshippers, the Celebrant, or carry out a Ministry, your contribution is vitally important. With this thought in mind, we urge you to gather with our Cathedral Community on **Sunday August 28th at 1.00 pm**, to share your faith and deepen your understandings.

SOLEMNITY OF ASSUMPTION OF MARY INTO HEAVEN

This coming Monday 15th August is the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary into Heaven. This being a Holy Day of Obligation, obliges all Catholics to attend Mass.

Masses at the Cathedral will be 7.00 am, 10.00 am and 5.45 pm.

After the 10 am Mass will be an Hour of Prayer, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament which will conclude with Benediction.

The intentions for the Hour of Prayer will be to join with Rosary to the Shore to pray for the following intentions:

**Protection of Australia borders*

**Social, political, and economic stability and the world*

**Respect for religious freedom*

**Respect for the dignity of human life from its beginning to its natural end*

**Families and Young people*

**The Church, Clergy and all assisting the Church.*

**For further details of Rosary to the Shores visit the Cathedral website stpatrcathedral.weebly.com*

GOSPEL REFLECTION by Veronica Lawson

There is a sense of urgency in today's gospel. Jesus feels constrained or under stress until the "fire" he has come to cast on the earth is kindled and the baptism of fire that John the Baptist foreshadowed in 3:16 takes effect. Elsewhere in Luke's writing, fire is associated with judgement (3:9, 17; 9:17; 17:29), and with the presence of the Holy Spirit (3:16), especially in the Lukan story of Pentecost (Acts 2:3) where "tongues as of fire" appear and rest on all those assembled in the upper room. Fire is a sign of the end times when the Spirit of prophecy will come upon all God's people (Acts 2:18-19). Those who have experienced fires in Australia and California, as well as those presently suffering the effect of fires in northern Africa and southern Europe, can appreciate the power of this image. Climate change is undoubtedly increasing the risk of destructive fires across the globe. Drier conditions wither plant life that then becomes fuel for the fires. Fire can take all before it. It can also bring the most astonishing new life in its wake. We have much to learn from First Nations peoples on this score.

Linked with the image of fire is that of water: Jesus has a "baptism with which to be baptized". Once more, a sense of urgency is expressed as the power of water is evoked. Like fire, water has power to destroy and power to save. Fire and water become metaphors for the hard-won gospel path to peace. Jesus seems to be contradicting so much of what he has stood for to this point. At his birth, he is presented as the bringer of peace (Luke 1:79 and 2:14). He tells the hospitable woman of 7:50 and the faith-filled woman of 8:48 to "go in peace". He instructs his disciples to bring peace to the families they visit (10:5-6). He refuses to be a divider (12:13-14). And now he declares that he has come not to bring peace but division. His hearers can expect members of families to be divided one against another. How can this be?

The Lukan Jesus is almost certainly describing the status quo rather than prescribing what ought to prevail. In other words, by the time Luke is writing, it is clear that some have accepted the gospel way of peace and justice and compassion and others within the same families have not. Acceptance of the gospel and of Jesus as the Christ or Messiah would have involved a monumental shift for Jews on the one hand and for adherents of the diverse philosophies or faiths of the Roman world on the other. Today's families of mixed faith might be able to get inside this experience and to understand the suffering involved when a family member makes a life choice that other members of the family find hard to accept. This is not an easy text to understand or even to accept. We are invited to struggle with its ambiguity.

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BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND

We welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism:

Anna May Brittain, child of Luke and Georgia

Finn Thomas Fraser, child of Jack and Zara

Alby Wilkinson, child of Marcus and Eboni

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

Pope Francis

ALPHA PROGRAM

The Alpha program continues this **Wednesday 17th August from 6.30pm – 8.00pm** This week's subject is: **'Why and How Should I Read the Bible?'**

PARISH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Tuesday

7.00pm – Life in the Spirit
(via Zoom during winter)

Wednesday

1.30pm Legion of Mary
(St Patrick's Hall)

6.30pm Alpha
(MacKillop/Glowrey Rooms)

PARISH STAFF

After 13.5 years of generous service Anita Houlihan has resigned from her position as the Parish Coordinator. Anita was employed as the Family Ministry Coordinator and for the last 4.5 years has taken on the additional role of Parish Coordinator.

Anita will take up employment in the corporate sector and we take this opportunity to thank her for the dedication, generosity, professionalism and positive presence in all her duties. Anita will conclude in the office on Friday 19th August. We wish her well and ask God's Blessing on her and her family. Feel free to drop into the Presbytery to wish her well.

PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS

Thank you for contributing to the Cathedral collections this week:

First Collection - \$ 1,868.65
(Presbytery - Priest support)

Second Collection - \$912.20
(Parish – buildings, office, admin, grounds and maintenance, 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-Saturday Morning Prayer 7.30am

Monday-Friday Evening Prayer 5.00pm

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/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.