

# St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Ballarat

## Fifth Sunday of Lent Year A – 26<sup>th</sup> March



3 Lyons St Sth Ballarat - Telephone: 53 312 933

[ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

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

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

**Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday, 10.00am – 3.00pm**

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 the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather, the Wadawurrung People of the Kulin nation.*

*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 Admin:**

Tony Beggs

### **Finance Officer:**

Kerrie McTigue

### **Sacraments:**

Tony Beggs

### **Safeguarding Officer:**

Tony Beggs

### **Readings this week: Fifth Sunday of Lent Year A (26<sup>th</sup> March)**

**First:** Ezekiel 37:12-14    **Second:** Romans 8:8-11

**Gospel:** John 11:1-45

### **Readings next week: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord Year A (2<sup>nd</sup> April)**

**First:** Isaiah 50:4-7    **Second:** Philippians 2:6-11

**Gospel:** Matthew 26:14-27:66



### **RECENT DEATHS:**

Sr Sheila Mary Belleville RSM, Nell O'Sullivan

### **ANNIVERSARIES:**

Patricia Aitkin, Desmond Burke, Margaret Bym, Adele Hildora Byrne,  
Michael Kevin Caulfield, Basil Clark, Charles Coghlan, Diana DeCarli,  
Kathleen Collier, Fr Meredith Delahenty, Sr Emmanuel Fay SJG,  
John Fitzgerald, James Healy, Gloria Kennedy, Margaret Miller,  
Helen Poole (Bennett), Mary Ralston, Doreen Rogers,  
Mark Taylor, Luciana Turicchi

## **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)**

At 5.00 pm Mass each Sunday those on the RCIA journey gather with sponsors and team members. Currently the Elect (those in our midst who are preparing for Baptism at Easter) are participating in very special rites celebrated over the middle three Sundays of Lent, known as the **Scrutinies**.

These are ancient rites and they may, at first, seem strange to us. But they are profoundly rooted in our human experience. We need to examine (scrutinize) how we are, the areas of our lives where we are tempted, or seriously sin - in what we do and what we fail to do. We all need healing and the strength that can come from the support of our sisters and brothers.

After the homily, the Elect are invited to come forward with their sponsors. Then, the whole assembly is invited to pray for them *in silence*. It is a very solemn moment. This community has cared for these elect and the candidates, for some months now on their journey. We have sent them to reflect more and more deeply on the Word of God, and expressed to them our longing for the day on which they would join us at the table of the Lord. Now we pray for them in this sacred silence, deeply asking God to protect them and heal them in the weeks ahead.

In a silent ritual deliberately reminiscent of the rite used for ordination in the Sacrament of Holy Orders, the priest laid his hands for a brief moment on the head of each of the Elect. It is a solemn act of calling down the Spirit of Jesus to be with them and protect them.

Our Elect and Candidates (those who have been baptised in another Christian Church) were handed the Apostles Creed during the first Scrutiny and for the first time they remained and stated their beliefs with the rest of the community.

The Elect were then sent forth to reflect upon the Word and this powerful gesture of love on the part of the community, that cares for them so deeply, with the love of Christ.

## **TRIDUUM CHOIR PRACTICE**

As mentioned at our Masses last weekend, the date for the second practice for the Triduum Choir clashed with 2<sup>nd</sup> Rite of Reconciliation for the Cathedral community.

Therefore, we have changed the date (and time) to 7.15 on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March with our final practice at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April. This is a combined choir and there is an open invitation to members of the Cathedral Community to come and sing at Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil ceremonies.

## **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION IN PREPARATION FOR EASTER**

On **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March**, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Rite of Reconciliation will be celebrated at the Cathedral at 7.00 pm. Several priests will be available during this Communal Liturgy of Prayer and Forgiveness in our parish.

Reconciliation (officially called the Sacrament of Penance, and also known as Confession) is a Sacrament instituted by Jesus Christ in his love and mercy to offer us forgiveness for the times we have sinned and turned away from God. At the same time, we are reconciled with the Church because it is also wounded by our sins.

Every time we sin, we hurt ourselves, other people and God. In Reconciliation, we acknowledge our sins before God and the Church. We express our sorrow in a meaningful way, receive the forgiveness of Christ and his Church, make reparation for what we have done, and resolve to do better in the future. (Diocese of Broken Bay)

*"When faced with the gravity of sin, God responds with the fullness of mercy. Mercy will always be greater than any sin, and no one can place limits on the love of God who is ever ready to forgive."*  
- Pope Francis, *Misericordiae Vultus*, 3

## Reflection on the Gospel-5th Sunday of Lent Year A

(John 11:1-45)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Sunday's readings touch into the most profound of mysteries, the mysteries of life and death. To hold a new born child or to see the sick restored to health is to experience the wonder of life. On the other hand, sudden death can bring unimagined grief and pain. The recent earthquake in Türkiye and Syria brought sudden death to tens of thousands of people and an extraordinary outpouring of grief. This unexpected tragedy has come at a time when thousands are dying every day in the world's major conflict zones and when extreme weather events continue to bring death and destruction and species loss. Death brings tears, even anger. Little wonder that "life" becomes a metaphor for transformation and new beginnings or that "death" so often signifies deprivation and loss.

The gospel reading is about the death and restoration to life of Lazarus, "the one whom Jesus loved". It is the last of the seven "signs" in John's "book of signs" that reveal the "glory" of God. It is also the greatest of Jesus' signs. It functions as a catalyst for the events that lead to his death: "...from that day on they planned to put him to death" (11:53). It provides the occasion for Jesus to assert "I am the resurrection and the life" and to invite assent to that revelation of his identity. It reveals the compassion and tender heart of Jesus who weeps at the grief of Mary his friend and at the death of her brother. It also reveals the goodness in the hearts of those "Jews" who share her grief and who come to faith in Jesus who raises the dead to life.

Though the story revolves around the plight of Lazarus, Martha and Mary are the characters who, with Jesus, occupy centre stage and into whose faith journey we are invited to enter. Martha and Mary are identified as "sisters" who live in Bethany. Are they blood "sisters" or sisters in their love of Jesus and the community around him, or both? Lazarus is Mary's sick "brother". Martha will later claim him as her "brother". Might they all be part of a little faith community in Bethany rather than biological siblings? A brief notice alerts the reader to the imminent death of Jesus: "Mary is the one who anointed Jesus with perfumed oil and wiped his feet with her tears". The reader will later discover that Mary's anointing of Jesus is "for the day of [his] burial".

As so often in John's gospel, misunderstanding and irony function to bring the actors in the drama, and to bring us as actors in the theatre of life, to new levels of understanding and faith. Right now, in the aftermath of earthquake and in the face of ongoing conflict, we are called, as sisters and brothers across the globe, to open our hearts and share our resources so that some measure of "life" might be restored.

## BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND

We welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism:



**Paisley Rose Whitehouse** child of Will and Katie  
**Maeve Marina Sarah** child of Thomas and Bridget  
**Charlie James Kuzmich** child of Joshua and Chloe  
**Levi Joshua Kuzmich** child of Joshua and Chloe

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

The next **baptism preparation session** is due on April 6<sup>th</sup>, which is Holy Thursday.  
**Only the 10am session will be held.**



### Fifth Sunday of Lent 25 & 26 March



Project Compassion brings together Australian schools, parishes and supporters to raise funds for people in vulnerable communities across the world. This year, we introduced you to the story of four inspiring people whose lives have been transformed with your generous support: Laxmi, Tereesa, Priscilla and Thu. Today, they are creating a better world for their families, their communities and for all future generations.

#### **Please donate to Project Compassion 2023.**



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 [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion), or by calling 1800 024 413.

### **A Parish Thank You.**

Appreciation and thanks are extended to all our Parishioners who gave of their time and talents in providing delicious cakes and wonderful treats for our Parish luncheon following the Mass with Anointing on St Patrick's Day. To all who assisted with the preparations and presentation your generous support was a truly wonderful experience of Parish. Thank you also to Father Ed, Father Abraham, and Father Jim for your Priestly Ministry and camaraderie on this occasion. We also express our gratitude to Tim Kearney and the staff of GC's for their generous support.

### **Palm Sunday Walk for Justice**

This year's walk will call for Justice for Refugees: Permanent visas for all, fair processes and income support for people who are seeking recognition as refugees. While the change of government at the federal election last year has brought hope for more compassionate policies, thousands of refugees and people seeking asylum are still in limbo waiting for certainty about their future. Walk with us this Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023 at 1.00pm for a group reflection and prayer led by Fr Andy Hamilton SJ, with the official Walk for Justice music and speeches starting around 1.30pm. Meet at the far right side of the State Library of Victoria (near the Joan of Arc statue and next to Little Lonsdale Street – you'll see a large 'CAPSA', 'Jesuit Social Services' or 'Xavier Social Justice Network' or 'CSSV' banner). If you have any questions, please get in touch with Maeve at CAPSA, email [info@capsa.org.au](mailto:info@capsa.org.au).

### **Volunteers Pastoral Care Workers at Grampians Health Ballarat**

Grampians Health Ballarat is seeking expressions of interest for volunteers Pastoral Care Workers to provide regular pastoral care support to patients and visitors of all faiths and beliefs. If you are willing to commit to 2.5 hours per week, and provide a listening ear, then Grampians Health Ballarat would like to hear from you. Contact Paul Ryan, ph. 5320 8634 or email Paul at [paul.ryan@bhs.org.au](mailto:paul.ryan@bhs.org.au)

## Reconciliation Program

The 2023 Junior Reconciliation concludes with the candidates presenting for the sacrament

**5:30 pm Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March** and

**7:00 pm Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March.**

Please pray for the candidates.

## No Holy Hour this week

No Holy Hour and Benediction this Wednesday night due to reconciliations.

## Mass of the Oils 2023

All are welcome to attend the Mass of the Oils to be held on Monday, April 3, 2023 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 6.30pm.

Supper will follow in the Hall.

The **St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Pastoral Council** (PPC) met for the first time for 2023 in February.

Members of the PPC are: Doris Bastion, Jess Salazar, Xavier Mani Savari Dass, Tommy Theckumurry, Chris Kavanagh, Michael Kearney, Leo Styles (Chair), Peter Morris, Anthea Stanton, Fr Ed Moloney, Fr Abraham Thomas, Fr Jim McKay, Maria Noonan (Deputy Chair), Carmel Kavanagh, Giacomo Angeli, Thien An Tran, Carolyn Gately, Pat McOwan (Assistant Secretary), Susan Crowe (Secretary).

There were a number of items discussed during the meeting including:

- the Parish becoming an Earthcare Parish and how the community of St Patrick's Cathedral can implement the *Laudato Si* Action Plan
- Children's Liturgy of the Word
- Return of Altar Servers
- Parish Zones

As this was the first meeting with many new members, all of these agenda items need further discussion before outcomes can be finalised.

## PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS

Thank you for contributing to the Cathedral collections this week:

**First Collection** - \$ TBC  
(Presbytery - Priest support)

**Second Collection** - \$ TBC  
(Parish – buildings, office, admin, grounds and maintenance)

## WEEKDAY MASSES

**Monday** – 10.00am

**Tuesday** – 7.00am and 10.00am

**Wednesday** – 7.00am, 10.00am

**Thursday** – 7.00am, 10.00am

**Friday** – 12.05pm, 6.00pm  
(Reconciliation at 11.00am until midday)

**Saturday** – 10.00am  
(Reconciliation at 10.30am)

## WEEKEND MASSES

**Saturday** 6.30pm Vigil

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

## DEVOTIONS

**Monday-Saturday** Morning Prayer 7.30am

**Monday-Friday** Evening Prayer 5.00pm

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

**Wednesday** after Mass Litany to St Joseph

Holy Hour & Benediction **NOT THIS WEEK**

**Thursday** after 10.00am Mass – Rosary &  
Divine Mercy Devotion  
7.00pm Second Rite of Reconciliation

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

**Stations of the Cross** will be celebrated during Lent after 6pm Mass each **Friday**.

\*changes may occur due to Funerals/Liturgical events.

## PARISH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

**Tuesday**

7.00pm – Life in the Spirit  
(MacKillop/Glowrey Room)

**Wednesday**

1.30pm Legion of Mary