

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Ballarat

Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A – 17th September



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<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.

Bishop of Ballarat:

Most Rev Paul Bird CSsR

Parish Administrator:

Fr Ed Moloney

Assistant Priests:

Fr James McKay

Visiting Priests:

Fr Barry Ryan

Parish Secretary

Sacramental Coordinator

Tony Beggs

Finance Officer:

Bernadette Prestwood

Safeguarding Officers:

Tony Beggs/Maria Noonan

Readings this week: Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A (17th September)

First: Sirach 27:30-28:7 **Second:** Romans 14:7-9

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

Readings next week: Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A (24th September)

First: Isaiah 55:6-9 **Second:** Philippians 1:20-24, 27

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

RECENT DEATHS:



Mario Perovic, Clare Dickman, Graeme Harvey, Joanne Jans,
Katrina Viccars

ANNIVERSARIES:

Ernest Auchettl, Therese Booth, Bride Family, Michael Corrigan, Catherine Cullen,
Francis Curran, Leslie Dickinson, Robert Elliott, Jeanette Emery, Mollie Flynn,
William Fogarty, Gauci Family, Helen Griffin, Jean Hayes, Sr John the Baptist
Hennessy IBVM, Ann Julian, Mark Leonard, Marie Linane, Sheila Lourey,
Margaret Mahar, Steven Molloy, Kerry Mullane, Luigi Palanca, Ruth Rush,
Christine Rylance, Brian Scarff, Schembri Family, Frances Sloan,
Wilma Tagliabue, Patrick Toohey, Kenneth Wilson

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is kind and merciful: slow to anger and rich in compassion.



St Brigid's College Horsham Reunion

St Brigid's College Horsham invite past pupils of the Classes of 1973, 1983, 1993, 2003 & 2013 for the milestone reunion! The reunion will be held at St Brigid's College on Saturday 21st October, 2023, at 2pm. Attendees can RSVP by calling the Front Office on (03) 5382 3545 or via this link: <https://forms.gle/uKfjHb2KMsZ1huXa9>

Community of the Sons and Daughters of God

The Community of the Sons and Daughters of God in Ballarat, who Bishop Paul blessed into his Diocese on 2 May 2019, recently celebrated the Consecration into the community of Ximena Boteros, now of Saint Alipius Parish and the taking of First Vows in the Community of Simone Kyatt of the Cathedral Parish. The Community is a recognised Lay Association of the Faithful having the Mother House in Florence, Italy and has been in Australia over 25 years. While it has its own Priests, one of whom lives along with a Brother at Dookie, and Sisters, it is basically a community of lay people who wish to live a more contemplative way of life. We have a small group in Ballarat who meet every week. If anyone is interested in learning more about the Community please contact, Simone Kyatt... 0429176081 or Adrian Pervan...0417705488

McAuley House for Women and Children

McAuley House is celebrating 15 years since the establishment of McAuley Community Services for Women, following the merger of Mercy Care and Regina Coeli. Over the past 15 years McAuley House has supported more than 13,000 women and children. The demand for services remains high. McAuley House will continue advocating for real change that will allow more women and children to remain safely in their homes after violence and avoid homelessness and further disadvantage. A donation to McAuley House supports women and children to be safe and continue this important work. Scan or click the QR code.



Faithful Toolkit

Majellan Media have launched "Faithful Toolkit" - a dynamic collection of smart apps on their website designed to nourish and foster your faith journey. Built with the wisdom of the church's teachings and augmented by the power of AI, these tools provide a new, interactive way to explore various aspects of faith. Scan the QR code.



CSSV Annual Conference 2024 – updated notice from last week

Date claimer: The Catholic Social Services Conference will be held from February 21-23, 2024, in conjunction with Catholic Social Services Australia at the Catholic Leadership Centre. The theme of the conference is "Commons, Commonality, Common Good." Early bird tickets available. Scan or click the QR code for more information.



Catholic Mission Immersion to Timor-Leste

Catholic Mission invites adults to participate in this engaging immersion where you will learn more about the grassroots projects supported by Catholic Mission in Timor-Leste from November 4-12, 2023. The immersion provides a special opportunity to return with newfound friends, a broader vision of God's Family, and a revitalised understanding of Jesus' Mission. Be prepared to be changed and challenged. For more information and to register scan or click on the QR code.

BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND

We welcome and pray for **Mack Turkenburg** and **Scarlett Rose Dovey** and their families as they enter into our faith community through the Sacrament of Baptism.



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

Reflection on the Gospel - 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

(Matthew 18:21-35)

-Greg Sunter

This gospel passage follows directly from last week's passage. It concludes the whole of Matthew Chapter 18 that deals with sin, forgiveness and reconciliation. Peter's question to Jesus and suggested answer is a reflection of the view that there is a limit to the number of times we should forgive someone. Seven is a significant number in scripture and implies a 'perfect' amount. Even though by his use of seven, Peter is suggesting that he should forgive someone many, many times, Jesus quickly corrects Peter and says not seven, but seventy-seven times (or seventy times seven). Jesus plays on the use of the number seven and multiplies it to indicate that one should forgive as many times as is required – without keeping count; without keeping score.

The story of the unforgiving servant is a familiar one of forgiveness and mercy being shown but not passed on. The sting in the tail of this parable is Jesus' final warning that, 'So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives his brother from his heart.' This is an unsettling statement, as we believe God's forgiveness to be without measure and without end. Jesus warns that unless we seek to imitate God's forgiveness and forgive others 'from our heart' (with compassion) then we are not going to recognise the forgiveness of God and will cut ourselves off from it.

The whole idea of forgiving from the heart is a powerful contradiction of a popular concept: 'I can forgive, but not forget.' Is it really possible to forgive but refuse to forget? Surely holding on to a memory of hurt is holding on to the hurt itself and does not display that any forgiveness has occurred at all. To forgive but not forget is to keep count. How many times should I forgive the one who has hurt me? As many times as it takes!

The parable sees the unforgiving servant putting his fellow servant in prison 'until he paid back the debt'. This is almost exclusively what prisons were used for until only a few hundred years ago. When a person could not repay a debt, they were held in prison until the debt was paid. Of course, being in prison, they had little opportunity to repay the debt themselves and relied on friends and relatives to repay the debt on their behalf. To pay someone's debt was to 'redeem' them. The earliest ideas of Christ as a 'Redeemer' were based on the idea of Christ paying a debt on behalf of humankind.

Throughout the gospels, Peter is a fantastic example of the common person. He has insights of faith at times but usually messes it up with his next breath. His question in this week's gospel is one that any one of us might ask. I try to do what's right, but how long do I have to hang in there? There has to be a limit to patience with someone who keeps upsetting me, surely? Jesus shows us that if we operate from a motivation of compassion and a desire to constantly build relationships that are life-giving for both parties, then there is no end to the number of times that we try to re-build that relationship.

In the footsteps of Mary MacKillop Pilgrimage: October 17-28, 2023

This unique Australian Pilgrimage will take you on a journey to places associated with Mary MacKillop's life and ministry in Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales. The pilgrimage is operated by the Sisters of Saint Joseph and Mary MacKillop Place. It will be led by Sr Anne Bond rsj, a Sister of Saint Joseph and Mr Garry McLean, the inaugural Director of the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre. The pilgrimage will begin in East Melbourne on October 17 and conclude at Mary MacKillop Place in North Sydney on October 28. Along the way pilgrims will visit historic sites and towns including Portland, Penola, Robe and the Mary MacKillop Chapel in North Sydney. For more information and to register scan or click on the QR code.



Aid to the Church in Need Pakistan Appeal

Aid to the Church in Need is running an emergency campaign for Pakistan. Recently up to 24 churches, hundreds of Christian homes and a Christian cemetery were targeted in an attack in Pakistan which was sparked by reports of blasphemy allegations against two

Christians accused of desecrating the Qur'an. ACN is working with project partners on the ground to aid the current needs of the Christian people. To learn more or make an offering, scan the QR code.



2024 Study Tour: Journey with Paul

Dr Rosemary Canavan from CTC is leading a Study Tour in 2024, "Journey with Paul: Türkiye – Greece". There will be online information sessions on September 9, 16 and 23 at 2.00pm for anyone interested in attending. Click or scan the QR code for more information.

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS TIME SURVEY

It has been requested that the time for Saturday evening Mass remains the same all year around at 5.30 pm rather than changing to 6.30 pm for Daylight Savings. A survey will be held next Saturday night, 23rd September after Communion. The process of the survey would be a show of hands for or against. The counters will count numbers to determine that Mass will:

- a) remain at 5.30 pm for the whole year around or
- b) change to 6.30 pm during Daylight Saving

Results of the vote will be given on the bulletin on the weekend of 30th Sept/1st Oct.

Migrant & Refugee Sunday – September 24, 2023

The theme of Pope Francis' Message for this year's World Day of Migrants and Refugees is, "Freedom to choose whether to migrate or stay." The Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office (ACMRO) has created online resources including the Migrant and Refugee Kit 2023, a liturgy for primary and secondary schools, homily notes and prayers of the faithful, to help celebrate this special day. Resources are available from the diocesan website

<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/109th-world-day-of-migrants-refugees-sunday-september-24-2023/>

Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea Chapter

ISMAPNG would be grateful for your prayer, seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit, during the coming weeks as they gather for their Chapter – a time of evaluating the past and planning for the future. Venerable Catherine McAuley, pray for us.

Season of Creation: September 1 - October 4

Every year from September 1 - October 4, Catholic Earthcare Australia (Caritas and the Australian Bishops Conference) joins with Christian communities globally to celebrate the Season of Creation, to celebrate the gift of our common home. The theme for 2023 is "Let Justice and Peace Flow" drawing on the river imagery of in Amos 5:24. It challenges us to act for ecological justice, creating change and speaking out with communities most impacted by rising sea levels, biodiversity loss and other consequences of climate change. Resources for the Season of Creation are available from the diocesan website

<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/catholic-earthcare-ballarat-diocese/season-of-creation-2023/>

PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS

Thank you for contributing to the Cathedral Collection:

First Collection - \$ 2333.40

(Presbytery - Priest support)

Second Collection - \$ 1448.35

(Parish - Online & Collection – buildings, office, admin, grounds and maintenance)

Special Collection BCSF - \$ 535.00

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday – 10.00am

Tuesday – 7.00am, 10.00am

Wednesday – 7.00am, 10.00am

Thursday – 7.00am

10.00am Requiem Mass Joanne Jans

Friday – 12.05pm

(Reconciliation at 11.00am 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
Holy Hour & Benediction 6.00pm – 7.00pm
7.00pm Vigil Prayers for Joanne Jans

Thursday after 10.00am Mass -
Rosary and Divine Mercy Devotion

Friday 11.00am to 12.00pm -
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Silent Prayer

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

PARISH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Tuesday

7.00pm – Life in the Spirit (online)

Wednesday

1.30pm Legion of Mary

Thursday

9.30am Playgroup

1.00pm Sewing Repairs