

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Ballarat

Second Sunday of Advent Year_B – 10th December



3 Lyons St Sth Ballarat - Telephone: 53 312 933

ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au

[stpatscathedral.weebly.com/](https://www.facebook.com/patricks.cathedral.9/)

<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 Priest:

Fr James McKay

Visiting Priest:

Fr Barry Ryan

Parish Secretary

Sacramental Coordinator

Tony Beggs

Finance Officer:

Bernadette Prestwood

Safeguarding Officers:

Tony Beggs/Maria Noonan

Readings this week: Second Sunday of Advent Year B (10th December)

First: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Second: 2 Peter 3:8-14

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

Readings next week: Third Sunday of Advent Year B (17th December)

First: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

Second: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Gospel: John 1:6-8



RECENT DEATHS:

Leonie Read, Anthony Dzaja, Francis Kealy, Carmel Waight

ANNIVERSARIES:

Dulcie Bottel, Laurence Brennan, Thomas Cash, Anthony Crimmons,
Bryan Everard, Elizabeth Geyle, Andrew Hartwig, Violet Hazlett, Leon Kelly,
Joan Martin, Samantha McArthur, Ryan Monteau, Ronald Moss, Czeslaw Mytyk,
Lawrence O'Shannessy, Eugenia Piazzolla, Jim Power, Rosita Reyes, Wilma Ring,
Jamie Rogers, Ljubomir (Loui) Saric, Mary Sawtell, Eileen Segrave, David Sim,
Boris Skontra, Francis Tagliabue, Graham Thomson, Mary Wilkie,
Thomas Williams, Wieslaw Wozniak

"Wait in joyful hope a Saviour will come, Jesus Christ the light of the world.

Wait in joyful hope a Saviour will come welcome to the Word of God"

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Second Rite of Sacrament of Reconciliation

On Thursday 14th December at 7pm at the Cathedral there will be a few priests available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The liturgy consists of: The Liturgy of the Word / Homily / A time of reflection and recollection of our relationship with God, others, and our world / It also includes Confession with a priest, and Sacramental Absolution
And leads us to gathering once again for the Lord's Prayer and Final Blessing

FUNDRAISER FOR SEMINARIANS - Christmas stall.

Please support the Catholic Women's League to assist our Seminarians this weekend and come to our Cake Stall after the 8am Mass and 10.30 Mass. We will continue to the 5pm Mass if there are cakes still available.

We will draw the Competition for the Decorated Christmas Cake at the end and welcome donations for the stall and assistance.

Tickets for the Decorated Christmas Cake are \$2 and available now and on Sunday.

Inquiries. Carmel 0401 175 045 E. annkav1234@gmail.com.

Donations can be left at 30 Waller Avenue from 5pm Saturday. This appeal for assistance will be ongoing. PRAY FOR YOUR FUTURE PRIESTS

St. Vincent de Paul Jesse Tree Christmas Appeal 2023

We again ask that you support our Jesse Tree Appeal during the Season of Advent. It would be appreciated if non-perishable food items could be placed under the Jesse Tree prior to Christmas. Vinnies Christmas Appeal envelopes will be available in the pews for those wishing to make a cash donation to the Appeal.

Bishop's Letter to Diocese re: Restructuring of Parishes in the Ballarat Region

Hello Everyone,

Over the past few months, our Diocesan Pastoral Planning Panel has met with priests and parishioners of parishes in the Ballarat region to review the ministry districts proposed in our Looking Forward Pastoral Plan.

The timing of this review is linked with some changes in appointments that we are anticipating in the coming months. Fr Eugene McKinnon has indicated that he would like to retire from his responsibilities as Parish Priest of Redan, Sebastopol and Linton when he turns 75 in April 2024. Also, Fr Jorge de Chavez has advised that his Congregation, the Oblates of St Joseph, plans to transfer him from his current role at Ballarat East to serve in a parish in Western Australia. Another Oblate priest will come to serve in our diocese. In the context of these expected changes, it seems opportune to review the appointments to the Ballarat region parishes generally.

In the light of the recent discussions, I am pleased to announce the following ministry districts, with the new grouping of parishes to take effect after Easter 2024. The new ministry districts will be:

Cathedral Parish, Ballarat North Parish and Beaufort Parish

Ballarat East Parish, Bungaree Parish and Gordon Parish

Redan Parish, Sebastopol Parish and Linton Parish

Wendouree Parish, Creswick Parish and Daylesford Parish

The priests who are currently serving in these parishes will continue in their current appointments until April 10, 2024. They have agreed that they will then conclude their appointments to allow new appointments to be made corresponding to the new ministry districts. I will contact priests throughout our diocese inviting them to express interest in serving in any of these ministry districts.

In consultation with our Diocesan Personnel Board, I will consider the expressions of interest early in the new year, with a view to making appointments to take effect on April 10, 2024. I hope this advance planning will be helpful in allowing time to prepare for the transition to the new arrangements.

God bless you all.
Bishop Paul



Reflection on the Gospel: 2nd Sunday of Advent Year B

(Mark 1:1-8)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

The first verse of Mark's gospel evokes the opening words of Genesis and thus situates the saving presence of Jesus the Christ in relation to the creation of earth and of all earth beings. The whole of Mark's story of Jesus is presented as a beginning. It is the beginning of a faith journey into which the listener/reader is invited. In some manuscripts of the Greek text, there are five words in this verse. In other manuscripts, there are seven. Our English translation requires twelve. The term *gospel* (*euangelion*) means good news. It referred originally to the news of victory delivered by a messenger, usually in time of war. The good news in this context is about Jesus, a name meaning "YHWH saves". The reader learns that this Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed One of God, Israel's longed for Messiah. The actors within the story have to discover this truth as the drama unfolds. The two additional words present Jesus as "son of God", as one having the characteristics of God.

John the Baptizer is identified as the messenger who proclaims the need to prepare the way for the arrival of a new Presence in our world. Mark creates the impression that something momentous is happening here. John draws massive crowds from city and country alike. They come to him in the wilderness, the home of the other-than-human, home to diverse forms of life. At a metaphorical level, wilderness recalls Israel's experience in the Sinai desert. It is the place of testing and of new beginnings for God's people, the place of God's coming or God's "advent" to Israel. Jesus will be impelled by the Spirit into the wilderness where he will pass the tests that the people of Israel failed.

This reading invites us to prepare for God's advent or coming by ritualising *metanoia* (usually translated as "repentance"), and thus being ready for the one who comes. The translation "repentance" does not convey the nuances of the Greek term *metanoia* which literally means a "change of mindset" and suggests an "expansion of horizons". God's advent demands a new mindset that will predispose us to receive the gift of God's forgiveness and to be open to feel the pain of earth as well as the pain of those rendered poor.

Mark's depiction of John evokes the image of the prophet Elijah in 2 Kings 8 and the "hairy mantle" of the prophet in Zechariah 13:4. John is a prophet who, like the prophets of old, calls God's people to reconsider where they stand in relation to God. He is also the one who heralds the advent of the "stronger" one who will baptize "with the Holy Spirit", although there is nothing in the subsequent narrative about Jesus baptizing. As we reflect attentively on Mark's gospel during this liturgical year, we might ask ourselves what it means to "baptize" with the Holy Spirit and what it means to follow one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.

Volunteers Christmas Morning Tea

Parish volunteers who do any form of service are most welcome to attend a pre-Christmas morning tea 10:30am on Thursday 21st December to celebrate Christmas and be thanked by the parish staff and priests for your work during the year. RSVP Tony 53 312933 or email office.

Cathedral Piety Store

The St Vincent de Paul Cathedral Piety Store has reopened after Masses, leading up to the Christmas period. Christmas and miscellaneous cards, Columban calendars and items for sale.

Marist House, Fitzroy: unique living opportunity for university students

Marist House is a residential program for university students studying in Melbourne. It provides a safe, stable and supportive environment. It is hosted by a resident community of Brothers. Situated in Fitzroy it is very accessible to many universities and tertiary colleges. Enquiries for 2024 are most welcome. Contact Br Frank, ph. 0407943473. For more information scan or click the QR code.



Announcement regarding CDF Merger Bishop Paul Bird CSsR has made an announcement regarding the merger of our Ballarat Catholic Development Fund with the Melbourne-Sale-Bunbury Catholic Development Fund.

Details are available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/new-era-for-cdf/>

Nazareth House Christmas Stall

Nazareth House Auxiliary Christmas stall. Cakes, gifts, Christmas decorations. Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th December. 10am. 2pm. Foyer of Nazareth House. 218 Mill St. Ballarat.

Choir for the Ordination to the Diaconate Mass for Cay Peter Trinh – Saturday, December 16, 2023

Singers and musicians in the diocese are invited to join the music group which is being formed for Cay Trinh's Ordination to the Diaconate Mass on Saturday, December 16, 2023 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 10.00am. Roger Hillman will be conducting the choir and Geoff Martin will be playing the organ. Practice time is Sunday, December 10 at the Cathedral at 6.30pm (following 5.00pm Mass). There will also be a run through prior to Mass on December 16. Contact Julie Boyd in the Pastoral Ministry Office to register julie.boyd@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7159.

Prayer Vigil for Cay Trinh pre Diaconate Ordination

All are invited to join in prayer for seminarian Cay Trinh in the lead up to his Ordination as Deacon. A special way you might do this will be to join in a special Prayer Vigil on Friday 15th, 6pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat. We will offer a Holy Hour for Cay as he prepares for this special step in answering God's call to service, as well as prayer for vocations in our Diocese.

Ordination to the Diaconate

All are welcome to the Diaconate Ordination of Cay Trinh, which will be celebrated at St Patrick's Cathedral in Ballarat at 10.00am on Saturday, December 16, 2023.

Christmas Carols

All are invited to St Patrick's Cathedral to sing Christmas carols at 5pm on Sunday 24th December, which will be followed by the 6pm Christmas Eve Mass. The choir will include the children who have joined the Cathedral as Choral Scholars.

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve Sunday 24th December
6.00pm 9.00pm 12am (Midnight)
Christmas Day Monday 25th December
8.00am 10.30am

OLHC Parish Wendouree Christmas Day Lunch

OLHC Parish Wendouree volunteers are hosting lunch on Christmas Day in the Parish Hall, 482 Gillies Street, Wendouree from 12.00noon – 2.00pm. Bookings are essential, ph. 0419 975914.

PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS

First Collection - \$ 2671.60

(Presbytery - Priest support)

Second Collection - \$ 4606.20

Tap & Go - \$ 510.38

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

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday – 12.05pm

Tuesday – 7.00am, 12.05pm
6.00pm St Patrick's PS Graduation Mass

Wednesday – 7.00am, 12.05pm
5.00pm St Thomas More PS Graduation Mass

Thursday – 7.00am, 12.05pm
10.00am Siena PS Graduation Mass

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
11.20am Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet

Wednesday 11.20am Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet, Litany to St Joseph
NO Holy Hour & Benediction due to Graduation Mass Siena PS

Thursday 11.20am
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

10am Play Group – Faith Based
7.00pm – Life in the Spirit
7.00pm Parish Pastoral Council

Wednesday

1.30pm Legion of Mary
5.15pm Liturgy Team Meeting

Thursday

1.00pm Sewing Repairs
7.00pm Second Rite of Reconciliation