

# St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Ballarat

Fourth Sunday of Advent Year B – 24<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas Day – 25<sup>th</sup> December



3 Lyons St Sth Ballarat - Telephone: 53 312 933

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[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: Fourth Sunday of Advent Year B (24<sup>th</sup> December)**

**First:** 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

**Second:** Romans 16:25-27

**Gospel:** Luke 1:26-38

## **Readings next week: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Year B (31<sup>st</sup> December)**

**First:** Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

**Second:** Colossians 3:12-21

**Gospel:** Luke 2:22-40

## **RECENT DEATHS:**

Pamela Bignell, Denis Edgar



## **ANNIVERSARIES:**

Patricia Batten, Maureen Burke, Patricia Byrne, Father James Caise, Catherine Gregory Dean, Mary DeGraaff, Sr Joan D'Orsa, Leo Durrant, Connie Garland, Moya Hall, Annie Hand, Leslie Hearn, Kevin Jones, Eileen Kierce, Melanie Kis, Mani Kosikkal, Frank Krpic, Gerald Leonard, Francis Loughnan, Bramwell Le Lievre, Mavis Maher, Thomas Mahar, Isobell McNerney, Irene McIver, Edward Monkivitch, Eileen Moody, Bob Morris, Kathleen Murphy, Bob Nichols, Joseph Nunan, Olga Roglic, Clara Scott, Isabelle Sherritt, Joan Sherritt, Betty Turner

**Responsorial Psalm: For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

## SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2024

Parent Meeting dates for the St Patrick's Parish Sacramental Program for 2024

|   |  |
|---|--|
| First Reconciliation Parent Information Meeting | Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> February 10am & 5:30pm |
| First Communion Parent Information Meeting      | Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 10am & 5:30pm     |
| Confirmation Parent Information Meeting         | Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> July 10am & 5:30pm     |

The 3 Catholic Primary Schools will prepare children for the celebrations and the Parish Sacramental Team will prepare those students not attending Catholic schools. Confirmation is generally for year 3 students with the other two Sacraments celebrated at year 4.

First Reconciliations will be celebrated in March, First Communions in June and Confirmations will be celebrated in August.

### New College of Consultors - from Bishop Paul Bird CSsR

Hello Everyone,

The College of Consultors is a group of priests who serve as an advisory body for the bishop in the pastoral care of the diocese.

The members of the present College of Consultors will conclude their five-year term at the end of this month and a new College will take up this role from the beginning of January, 2024.

I am happy to announce that the following will be members of the new College of Consultors: Fr Marcello Colasante, Fr Andrew Hayes, Fr Kevin Lenehan, Fr Ed Moloney, Fr John Monaghan, Fr John Corrigan, Fr Justin Driscoll, Fr George Kuruvila and Fr Neville Stanislaus.

Five of these are members of the current College (Fathers Colasante, Hayes, Lenehan, Moloney and Monaghan). Four will be new members (Fathers Corrigan, Driscoll, Kuruvila and Stanislaus). Three members of the current College will be retiring from this role at the end of this month. They are Fr Kevin Maloney, Fr John Fitzgerald and Fr Jorge de Chavez.

To all the members of the current College of Consultors I offer my hearty thanks for the counsel they have provided over the past five years. To all the members of the new College I express my gratitude for their generosity in being ready to serve in this way.

I am also happy to announce that Fr Justin Driscoll will be the contact person for Clergy Life and Ministry.

God bless you all.

Bishop Paul

### 57th World Day of Peace – January 1, 2024

Pope Francis' message for the 57<sup>th</sup> World Day of Peace, "Artificial Intelligence and Peace" is available from <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace/documents/20231208-messaggio-57giornatamondiale-pace2024.html>.

### Advance Notice 2024

**Rite of Election 2024:** Saturday, February 17, 2024 at 12.30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat. Lunch will follow in the Hall.

**Mass of the Oils 2024:** Monday, March 25, 2024 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 11.30am (please note change of time). Lunch and displays will follow in the Hall.



*Laudato Si'*



An integral ecology is inseparable from the notion of the common good,  
a central and unifying principle of social ethics. #156

*reduce reuse recycle rethink repurpose*

## Reflection on the Gospel-4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Year B

(Luke 1:26-38)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

We are all familiar with Luke's story of the annunciation, a story that has inspired artists through the ages. God's messenger, Gabriel, approaches a young Galilean Jewish woman, Mary of Nazareth, and greets her as God's graced one. The angel's greeting to Mary is unique. No other person in the Christian scriptures is addressed as "favoured/graced one" or "mercied one". The Greek form *kecharitōmenē* contains within it the notion of grace or mercy.

Mary is troubled by the angel's greeting. After being addressed as "favoured or mercied one", she is told only that God is with her. She knows the traditions of her people. She knows that those said to be the graced or favoured of God (Noah and Moses and Gideon and Samuel) are called to be agents of God's saving action entrusted with heavy responsibilities. Now a young woman is called to be God's agent. In a formula that forms part of angelic announcements of birth, the angel tells Mary not to be afraid and reassures her by stating explicitly that she has been graced by God. The angel then proceeds to announce the conception and birth of the child she is to name "Jesus". This child will reign forever. The prophecy of Nathan, recounted in today's first reading, is to be fulfilled in the conception and birth of Mary's son who is also, and especially, God's son in the line of David. David, in his turn, was first of many "sons of God" called to rule with the justice and the wisdom of God. In the face of almost constant failure on the part of the kings, later prophets projected Israel's hope into the future and looked for one who would have the characteristics of God, who would truly be "of God".

Mary's response to the angel, "How can this be...?" echoes the prayer of David in the continuation of today's first reading: "Who am I...and who are we that you have brought us to this point?" (2 Samuel 7:18). Mary learns that God's dwelling place is her own human flesh and that this extraordinary event will be accomplished through the grace of God and the power of God's Holy Spirit. Mary is also to learn that her cousin Elizabeth with conceive a child despite her age "for nothing will be impossible for God." The mysterious workings of God in our world invite Mary's response: "How can this be...?" As we approach the celebration of the ongoing comings of the Christ into our world, we pause to wonder at the goodness of God at work in all that incarnates the grace and mercy of God. Let us give thanks in the spirit of today's gospel for the deep incarnation we celebrate at this time, even as we pray that God's grace and mercy might touch the hearts of those who continue to perpetrate the mindless wars that destroy both human life and the beauty of God's creation.

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### 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.

### Aid to the Church in need Supporting Christians in the Holy Land

The pontifical foundation Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) has committed an aid package of 190,000 AUD to support the Christians of the Holy Land during the current crisis. This aid will assist impoverished Christians in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem, as well as Christian migrant workers and asylum seekers in Israel.



### Appointment of Diocesan Business Manager - from Bishop Paul Bird CSsR

Hello Everyone,

In July this year, at the conclusion of Andrew Jirik's time as Diocesan Business Manager, I appointed Ross Wheatland for an initial six-month term in this role. The six-month appointment was made with a view to making a longer-term appointment after appropriate advertising of the position.

The position was advertised in October and November. Five applications were received.

I appointed a panel to review applications and conduct interviews. The panel consisted of Marcello Colasante (Diocesan Consultor and Vicar General), Megan Ioannou (Deputy Director Stewardship DOBCEL) and Stephen McArdle (Diocesan Finance Council).

On the recommendation of the panel and after consulting the College of Consultors and the Diocesan Finance Council, I have now appointed Ross Wheatland as our Diocesan Business Manager for a five-year term.

I thank Ross for the way he has fulfilled this role over the past six months and I wish him well in this service to the diocese in the years ahead.

God bless you all. Bishop Paul

## Christmas Mass Times

### Christmas Eve

Sunday 24th December

6.00pm 9.00pm 12am (Midnight)

### Christmas Day

Monday 25th December

8.00am 10.30am (carols at 10.00am)

### Bishop Paul's Christmas Message 2024

Bishop Paul's Christmas Message is available to view on the diocesan website

<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/bishop-pauls-christmas-message-3/>. A hard copy of the message is also available to download from this page.

### Diocesan Office Closures

Diocesan Offices dates in December/January are available from the diocesan website

<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/diocesan-offices-dates-for-christmas-new-year/>

### Parish Office Closures

St Patrick's Cathedral Office will close on Tuesdays until the end of January but be open 10am to 3pm Wednesday to Friday.

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

Thank you to all who gathered at St Patrick's Cathedral last Saturday, or joined the livestream, to celebrate the Ordination to the Diaconate for Cay Trinh. To the Ballarat Cathedral Parish volunteers and to all who assisted with the morning – to the musicians, choir members, those whose prepared the Cathedral, welcomers, ushers and to anyone who helped out in any way – your time and contribution was very much appreciated by the Diocesan Liturgical Commission.

We pray for Cay as he begins this important ministry in his journey to priesthood.

### PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS

Thank you for contributing to the Cathedral

**First Collection** - \$ 2121.70

(Presbytery - Priest support)

**Second Collection** - \$ 4695.20

**Tap & Go** - \$ 314.00

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

## WEEKDAY MASSES

**Monday** – 12.05pm

**Tuesday** – 7.00am, 12.05pm

**Wednesday** – 7.00am, 12.05pm

**Thursday** – 7.00am, 12.05pm

**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, **NO 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 Holy Hour & Benediction 6.00pm-7.00pm

### **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.

## HAPPY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO ALL

**Thank you for all your service and help in the parish over the past year. May God fill you with many blessings.**

