

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Ballarat

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B – 28th January



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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 in Ordinary Time Year B (28th January)

First: Deuteronomy 18:15-20 **Second:** 1 Corinthians 7:32-35

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

Readings next week: Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B (4th February)

First: Job 7:1-4, 6-7 **Second:** 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23

Gospel: Mark 1:29-39



RECENT DEATHS:

Nguyen Xuan Bien

ANNIVERSARIES:

Rhonda Bateman, Judith Bates, Eileen Bongiorno, Noreen Brennan, Alannah Bryan, Tessie Burke, Margaret Cook, Edwin Coulter, Kevin Daly, Stanley Dean, Stella Fryar, Kyle Gillett-Veenstra, Anne Higgins, Luke Higgins, Melitta Legg, James Leonard, James Little, James Maher, Bill Martin, Mary Martin, Rosemary McGee, Brian O'Meara, Sr Anne Reidy, Grilo delos Reyes, Bill Reynolds, Helen Roberts, Natasha Sinclair, Elisabeth Wansink, Colleen Woof

Responsorial Psalm: If today, you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Reflection for the 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

How the saints teach us the path to salvation – Fiona Bradley

This has been a great week of celebration for us Catholics with the feast days of two doctors of the Church—St Francis de Sales and St Thomas Aquinas—and the feast of the Conversion of St Paul. All three of these saints have had a profound impact on me over the years and their feast days serve as good reminders to seek their intercession more often.

St Francis's gentle and considerate approach to preaching and ministry has been a source of inspiration in my own life. His motto—*He who preaches with love, preaches effectively*—reminds us to bring love into each action we take not only for our sake but, crucially, for the sake of others. In this way our actions become a silent, but powerfully effective, way of preaching the gospel of Christ in our increasingly secular society. St Francis lived during the Protestant Reformation in a largely Calvinist area of Europe. He undertook a four year missionary expedition to reach out to them. His kind and loving approach was so successful that by the end of his mission he had helped 72,000 Calvinists return to the Catholic Church.

Dominican theologian and philosopher, St Thomas Aquinas, produced some of the Church's most important work, particularly on how to live a Christian life. His greatest body of work, the *Summa theologiae*, is broken up into three parts with a somewhat surprising order. The first part looks at God and creation. Christ and the sacraments of salvation, which you may think would follow this, have been held back until the third part. Centre stage has been kept for St Thomas's extensive teaching on the moral life. This "what-how-why" structure of the *Summa* emphasises that the path from creation to salvation is dependent on how we live our life. Critically, that path must be one that is guided by *caritas* (charity, or, love). St Thomas identifies Charity as "friendship with God" and that our possession of this virtue is the key both to our ultimate happiness and to our salvation. The greater the possession of the virtue of Charity (through practice), the more profoundly the person enjoys the graces of a stronger union with God, a foretaste of heaven if you like. This is the ultimate goal for each one of us, the attainment of heaven and the eternal embrace of God the Father.

St Paul's story is one we are all familiar with. His great conversion from persecuting Christians to preaching the Good News to Gentiles came after his encounter with the Risen Christ on the road to Damascus. When Baptism took away the blindness he had incurred during the divine encounter he realised that the promise of salvation lay not in adherence to the Law but rather in friendship with Christ. And this we know, thanks to our saintly friend, Thomas Aquinas, to be Charity.

Equipping professionals for their lives of service

The University of Divinity has launched a new School of Professional Practice in 2023. The School exists to meet current and future needs in faith-based agencies, churches, and other organisations for mature practitioners in a range of professional disciplines. A range of new courses on offer at the University include a Bachelor of Counselling, Master of Leadership and Doctor of Professional Practice. Here, students engage in deep learning to inform head, heart and hands in the service of others. Scan or click the QR code for more information.



Marriage Encounter

Celebration of 50 years of this Catholic movement that has enhanced many marriages will include a Formation Day on Sunday 16th March at St John's Parish Mitcham. Couples or spouses who have attended a Marriage Encounter weekend are warmly invited to attend the day finishing with a celebration over a shared meal. Contact Steve and Sue Hollowood on 0431 477556 or 0412 130845.

A New and Authoritative Teaching

Reflection on the Gospel-4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

(Mark 1:21-28)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Today's gospel reading recounts the first episode in a section of Mark's gospel that focusses on a typical day in the ministry of Jesus as authoritative teacher and prophetic healer (1:21-38). Jesus comes with his disciples to Capernaum. On the Sabbath day, Judaism's holy day, he goes into the synagogue, Judaism's local gathering place, and preaches. The verbal forms in the first sentence indicate that teaching in the synagogue was part of his customary activity. Jesus is thus located firmly within Israel's prophetic tradition of proclaiming God's word to the people.

In today's first reading from Deuteronomy (18:15-20), the term "prophet" appears eight times. Moses tells the people that God will respond to their request at Sinai (Horeb) and raise up from among them a prophet like himself, a mediator between God and the people, one who will speak God's word. Prophets do not appoint or authorise themselves: God calls and authorises the prophets to speak the word of God. Failure to heed the prophets carries its own consequences as does the attempt to assume a prophetic role without God's authorisation. Just as the prophets of old speak the authentic word of God only when they are authorised by the God of Israel, so Jesus of Nazareth, later to identify himself in this gospel as God's prophet (6:4), speaks and acts "with authority". In other words, he speaks with the authority of the God of Israel.

In this first Markan story of his divinely authorised activity, Jesus is approached by a man "with an unclean spirit". The man's loud scream sets up a confrontation between the power of God mediated through Jesus and the forces of destruction that often take hold of human lives. Jesus silences and expels these destructive forces and thus renders a seriously troubled person whole. In the ancient world, such forces were often personified as demonic beings. Confounding such "unclean spirit(s)" or demonic forces brought social and communal benefits to the troubled person as well as physical and emotional healing.

God's reign or empire is made real through a healing action that is perceived as "a new teaching". In this instance, Jesus' words, "Be quiet! Come out of him!" effect the cure of a deeply troubled person. For Jesus and his disciples, as for us, congruence between words and actions is integral to authentic gospel proclamation. While words have their place, we teach primarily by who we are and what we do.

Jesus is demonstrating to his newly formed group of followers that the gospel they are to proclaim is grounded in the ordinary struggles of ordinary people. This gospel carries the power to lift the burdens and restore the troubled of our world to wholeness and health. We may wish to acknowledge the "unclean spirits" that take hold of us from time to time and thus open ourselves to the power of God mediated through God's healer-teachers in our time.

Rite of Election 2024

The Rite of Election is an important part of the process of a person's journey to full membership in the Catholic Church community and one which is greatly appreciated by all who participate. This applies to adults who have undertaken formation. The Rite of Election for catechumens and candidates will take place on **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2024 at 12.30pm in St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat**. The presider will be Bishop Paul Bird CSsR. At the conclusion of the ceremony all are invited to join the Bishop in the Cathedral Hall for a light lunch.

Shrines of Our Lady Pilgrimage

Fr Richard Rosse would like to invite you for an 14-day pilgrimage departing on 21st May 2024. This pilgrimage features Fatima, Valladolid, Lourdes, Nice, Siena, Rotondo and Rome for all-inclusive price of \$8190. The fare includes Return Economy Airfares + Local Transfers in Deluxe coaches + Stay in Premium Hotels + All Breakfasts & Dinners + Catholic Priest + English speaking professional guides. For enquiries & bookings call 03 8839 6615 or 1300 721 561 or email us pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au.

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.

Legion of Mary

St Patrick's Cathedral Legion of Mary meetings will recommence on Wednesday 31st January at 1:30pm in the Mackillop/Glowrey room.

Praying with Pope Francis

The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) is an international movement that is more than 170 years old. Each month, the Pope puts forward a prayer intention and asks Catholics around the world to join him in prayer. These intentions cover all sorts of areas of life, encouraging faith, renewing hope and calling us to loving service. Praying each month 'The Pope Video' forms part of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network – view at www.thepopevideo.org.

The **St Patrick's Young Adult's** cordially invite you to join them every second and fourth Thursday of the month at 6:30pm for an hour of Adoration, Benediction and Confession followed by a dinner at the Golden City Hotel. Note our first holy hour will be the second Thursday of month - February 8th.

International Online Ignatian Lenten Series Six Mondays during Lent 2024

When: Six Mondays during Lent 2024 – February 19th and 26th, March 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th

Time: 7:30 – 9:00pm AEDT

Where: Online via Zoom

Price: \$240 AUD for all six sessions including input, guided contemplation, spiritual conversation and all retreat material.

Facilitated by: JISA Canisius Spiritual Directors Mary and Mark Diggins.

BOOK BY 15 FEBRUARY 2024

PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS

Thank you for contributing to the Cathedral

First Collection - \$ 2613.85

(Presbytery - Priest support)

Second Collection - \$ 1353.15

Tap & Go - \$ TBC

(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 10.30am 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 Holy Hour & Benediction 6.00pm-7.00pm

Thursday 11.00am

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

Monday

9.00am Catholic Education Mass

Wednesday

1.30pm Legion of Mary

Thursday

10.00am & 5.30pm Baptism Preparation

Friday

10.00am St Patrick's PS Mass