

# St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Ballarat

First Sunday of Lent Year B – 18<sup>th</sup> February



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[stpatscathedral.weebly.com/](http://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.*

**Bishop of Ballarat:**  
Most Rev Paul Bird CSsR  
**Parish Administrator:**  
Fr Ed Moloney  
**Assistant Priests:**  
Fr James McKay  
Fr Francis Kureeckal MST  
**Priest in Charge of Syro Malabar Community:**  
Fr Alex Valliyamthadathil  
**Parish Secretary**  
**Sacramental Coordinator**  
Tony Beggs  
**Finance Officer:**  
Bernadette Prestwood  
**Safeguarding Officers:**  
Tony Beggs/Maria Noonan

## **Readings this week: First Sunday of Lent Year B (18<sup>th</sup> February)**

**First:** Genesis 9:8-15

**Second:** 1 Peter 3:18-22

**Gospel:** Mark 1:12-15

## **Readings next week: Second Sunday of Lent Year B (25<sup>th</sup> February)**

**First:** Genesis 22:1-2,9-13,15-18

**Second:** Romans 8:31-34

**Gospel:** Mark 9:2-10



## **RECENT DEATHS:**

Sr Angela Caine rsm, Michael Denton, Maureen Russell

## **ANNIVERSARIES:**

Verna Aldenhoven, Liam Begbie, Zoltan Bodi, Delio Borri, Bryan Coffey, Theadora Den Ouden, Gordon Fox, Audrey Gonsalves, Patricia Green, Raymond Grundell, Maureen Heaney, Stanislaw Izydorczyk, Marcus King, Doris Lyons, Dezse Magyar, Kevin Martin, Christopher Moloney, Jacob Pamula, Kathleen Petrowski, Lorna Quinlan, Francis Ryan, Lawrence Ryan, Nora Scanlon, Cecilia Stevens, Bryce van der Linden, Monica Voss, Philip Weissenfold, Jacinta Wilson

**Responsorial Psalm: Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth  
to those who keep your covenant.**

## Reflection on the Gospel-1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent Year B

(Mark 1:12-15) -Veronica Lawson RSM

Lent comes around each year and presents us with its usual challenge to take stock of our lives, to see more clearly what is in our hearts and to discover what might be calling us out of our comfort zones. It is a time to consider how we might respond to the pain of the world and of its inhabitants. It is a time for personal as well as group reflection, a time for entering into “the wilderness” and for grappling with the mysteries of life. It is a time of preparation for Easter when we will renew our baptismal vows and celebrate the greatest mysteries of our faith.

The gospel reading invites us to reflect on Jesus’ forty-day experience in “the wilderness”. Jesus is said to be “filled with the Holy Spirit” and, like so many human beings before and since, is “led by the Spirit” into the wilderness of life to be “tested” there. [“Tested” is a more accurate translation of the original Greek term than is “tempted”]. Forty is a symbolic number in Israel’s story: the great flood lasts forty days and forty nights; Moses spends forty days and forty nights on the mountain of God; Israel wanders for forty years in the wilderness; King David reigns for forty years; the prophet Elijah travels forty days and forty nights in the wilderness on his way to the mountain of God.

The wilderness of Judah, with its unique desert flora and fauna, its wadis and waterholes, is ever so real. At the same time, it functions symbolically in the narrative. In Israel’s story, it is the place of testing for God’s people: “Remember the long way that your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness... testing you to know what was in your heart” (Deuteronomy 8:2). Jesus now passes the tests that Israel failed in the wilderness.

Jesus is “with the wild beasts”. This terse statement recalls the prophet Isaiah’s vision of a future time of reconciliation and harmony when “the wolf will lie down with the lamb” (Isaiah 11:6-9). Jesus is presented as the one who ushers in that age of peace and healing of division. God’s agents care for him in his time of testing: “angels minister to him”. In this context, Jesus announces the coming of God’s empire or reign. His message is to “repent”, “think again”, to take stock in a way that might turn lives around in God’s direction, and to “believe the good news” that he is set to proclaim in word and action. The call to repent is a call to expand our thinking and to change our behaviour. At a time of growing divide between the mega-rich and the desperately poor, we might look back to our symbolic tradition and forward to ways of bringing good news to those most deeply affected by the inequities in our world.

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### **World Day of Prayer 2024 – Friday, March 1, 2024**

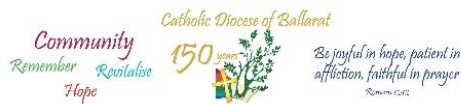
WDP is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome all to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. An ecumenical group of Palestinian Christian women have prayed and reflected together over the past several years to respond to the invitation from the WDP International Committee in 2017 to write the 2024 program. The theme is “I Beg You... Bear With One Another in Love,” based on Ephesians 4:1-6. Our Christian sisters invite the global church to pray for peace, justice and freedom for every individual irrespective of nationality, religion or origins. World Day of Prayer services in Ballarat and Creswick this year on Friday, March 1:

- 10.00am at St Peter’s Anglican Church, 1307 Sturt Street West, Ballarat
- 2.00pm at St Mary’s Anglican Church, Birchip
- 6.00pm at St Paul’s Anglican Church, 3 Humffray Street, Bakery Hill
- 7.00pm at St John’s Anglican Church, 103 Napier Street, Creswick

### **Baptisms this Sunday**

We welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism **Wyatt Scott Williams** and **Stiofan Og Patrick Cusack** who will be baptised at 10:30 Mass.





## 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat

The Diocese of Ballarat will turn 150 on March 30, 2024. During this year there will be many events to acknowledge this significant anniversary. Keep up-to-date at the diocesan website

<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/our-diocese/150th-anniversary-of-the-diocese-of-ballarat/>

**Logo:** The logo for the 150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat will feature on correspondence and events relating to the anniversary as well as on the candle and prayer card. It was prepared by a committee convened by Bishop Paul. The design incorporates the diocesan logo and the bough of a tree drawn by Sr Anne McMillan rsm in 1985. The words Anne had used with this drawing were, "If I keep a green bough in my heart, the singing bird will come". It is an old Chinese proverb, which could be interpreted as a reminder to keep hope alive and a call to open our hearts to all. The bough of a tree symbolises growth, interconnectedness and life. The leaves could symbolise the communities, the parishes, the people of the diocese.

**Text:** The text *Communities: Remember, Revitalise, Hope* reflects various aspects of the anniversary: The word "Community" highlights the fact that a diocese is essentially a community drawn together by Christ, a large community made up of many local communities. The word "Remember" refers us to the history of the diocese. In this remembering, we acknowledge the strengths and weaknesses of that history, celebrating the achievements and recognising the failures to live our Christian faith to the full. The word "Revitalise" calls us to invest ourselves in bringing new life to the community today. The word "Hope" encourages us to look forward to the future with confidence in God.

**Scripture:** The Scripture verse chosen for the 150th anniversary year reflects various elements of our vocation as a Christian community. "*Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer*" (Romans 12:12). The words are drawn from a passage in St Paul's letter to the Romans in which the apostle lists qualities appropriate for a community inspired by Christ. As the years go by, the community experiences times of trial as well as times of gladness. Through it all, their trust in Christ makes them joyful in hope and patient in affliction. They recognise that they need God's help in all they do and so they are faithful in prayer, seeking God's help day by day.

**Candles and prayer cards:** As part of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, the diocese will provide candles and prayer cards to all parishes, schools and agencies. The distribution of these is underway.

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### Wisdom at the Cathedral

All are welcome to the first talk for the year in the Cathedral parish's series *Wisdom of the Cathedral*. Fr Bill Lowry, from the Warrnambool parish, will speak on *Discerning God's Will in Your Life*. Learn about the processes employed by the saints and the Lord himself in discerning the Father's will for their lives. The talk and discussion time will go for an hour and will be followed by a cup of tea. 7pm sharp, Thursday 29 February in the MacKillop/Glowrey rooms. Entry by donation. For all enquiries please contact Fiona Bradley on [fionalouisebradley@gmail.com](mailto:fionalouisebradley@gmail.com).

**Sewing Repairs in the Glowrey Room** This ministry, which has been a very positive and useful one to many, will have a break for the foreseeable future. Thanks to Therese and the volunteer group.

### Lenten Program "A Resurrected Life" Daily Reflections for Lent

There are a limited number of booklets available from the Piety Store for parishioners who would like to follow a series of daily reflections on the Scriptures during the Lenten period.

**St Pat's Youth Group** will meet this Sunday from 6.00 pm to 7.30 pm in the Glowrey room. The group is for high school aged youth. Please bring a \$5 donation per family to cover food costs.

## Volunteering for Mercy Place

Enjoy the benefits of volunteering! Build rewarding connections with like-minded people. Make a positive difference to someone else's day. Share your passion, skills and experience with us. Help to contribute to your community. Interested? Get in contact with us at

[volunteer@mercy.com.au](mailto:volunteer@mercy.com.au)

Apply at <https://btrr.im/91or3> or scan the QR code. [www.mercyhealth.com.au](http://www.mercyhealth.com.au)

## Reconciliation Program

The 2024 Sacramental Program began this week with a parent information session on Reconciliation. In the coming weeks children will attend Mass for Commitment Sunday (when candidates will be presented to the parish), Prayer Sunday and Presentation Sunday. The program will be taught at the 3 Parish Schools and others will attend sessions held with the Parish Sacramental Team.

The program continues leading up to the children's First Confession on March 19, 20 & 26. Please pray for candidates.

Any queries, please contact Tony at the Parish Office.

## Holy Water in fonts

Bishop Paul issued the following update last week regarding Holy Water in fonts:

*Following some recent discussions about COVID provisions, I was asked about restoring Holy Water to fonts in our churches. While we did empty fonts at the height of the COVID pandemic, this restriction seems unnecessary now. Some parishes restored Holy Water to fonts quite some time ago and I fully support this. This makes Holy Water readily available for those who wish to use it. Of course, any parishioner who has concerns need not use the Holy Water from a font. God bless you all. Bishop Paul*

## The Season of Lent

- \* Daily Masses - see Mass Times on bulletin.
- \* Holy Hour & Benediction Wednesdays: 6-7pm.
- \* Stations of the Cross Fridays: 6pm- 7pm.
- \* Lenten Daily Reflection Books are available at the Piety Stall at the back of the Cathedral.
- \* Caritas Project Compassion Envelopes and Boxes are available in the Cathedral to help us in our almsgiving.

## PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS

Thank you for contributing to the Cathedral

**First Collection - \$ 2,696.80**

(Presbytery - Priest support)

**Second Collection - \$ 2,884.15**

**Tap & Go - \$ 553.89**

## 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**

11.15am  
Divine Mercy Devotion

### **Friday**

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

6.00 to 7.00pm Stations of the Cross

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

## PARISH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

### **Tuesday**

2.45pm Earthcare Meeting

7.00pm Life in the Spirit Prayer

### **Wednesday**

1.00pm Legion of Mary

7.00pm RCIA Meeting

### **Thursday**

9.30pm Play Group

### **Sunday**

5.15am RCIA Dismissals

6.00pm Youth Group