

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Ballarat

Second Sunday of Easter Year B – 7th April



3 Lyons St Sth Ballarat - Telephone: 53 312 933

ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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.

* * *

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: Second Sunday of Easter Year B (7th April)

First: Acts of the Apostles 4:32-35

Second: 1 John 5:1-6

Gospel: John 20:19-31

Readings next week: Third Sunday of Easter Year B (14th April)

First: Acts of the Apostles 3:13-15, 17-19

Second: 1 John 2:1-5

Gospel: Luke 24:35-48



RECENT DEATHS:

Jack Donovan, Matthew Ryan

ANNIVERSARIES:

Vittorio Bernardeschi, Carole Breen, Jill Briody McCaig, Christina Cummins, Marcus Duffy, Brian Edwards, David Elkins, Shaun Kelly, Francis Klein, Dale Lumsden, Molly Martin, Anne Meich, James Mevey, James Rieniets, Dominga Rodriques, Andrew Sherry, Stefania Slivinsky, Valda Stevens, Dorothy Strybosch, Pauline Stuart, Alojz Tos, Mary-Joy van Gaans, Roma Vaughan

Responsorial Psalm: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

Reflection on the Gospel-2nd Sunday of Easter B

(John 20:19-31)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Some of us may remember when we spoke of the Sundays *after* Easter. The terminology has changed and we now speak of the Sundays *of* Easter. In other words, we now recognise that the liturgical readings and prayers for each Sunday between Easter and Pentecost invite us into a different movement of the one great symphony of resurrection faith.

The first scene in today's gospel has the disciples hiding behind closed doors "for fear" of those who had handed Jesus over to be executed by the Roman authorities. The Risen One appears among them, offers a greeting of peace, and tells them that he has been sent by God, his "Father". They receive from him the gift of the Holy Spirit. He sends them in turn to bring peace and to mediate the forgiveness of God through the power of the Spirit. In other words, he sends them to create communities of people who listen to one another and who love one another into life. The story invites us as believers to place ourselves in the shoes of the earliest disciples. It invites us to receive the gift of the Spirit, to emerge from behind the doors that close us in on ourselves and that prevent us from rising above the fears that control and even paralyse us. We render the gospel ineffective, even powerless, when we make self-protection our priority.

The second and third scenes in today's gospel focus on Thomas who is not with the other disciples when Jesus first appears in their midst. Thomas is not exactly the trusting type. He seems to trust only his own experience. We all know people like Thomas. They test our patience because they seem to lack imagination. Then they make big statements when they come around to understanding what everyone else has known for a while. If we think, however, that the other disciples are any better than Thomas, we need to note that the doors are still closed eight days down the track! The simple fact of knowing has not dispelled the fears of the group.

Even those of us who do believe and trust need a bit of time and encouragement to take the gospel message to heart. We often need the example and support of others to move out beyond our personal fears and embrace the pain of the wider world. We are asked to do this right now as we emerge from the worst of the COVID pandemic. Some are too fearful to engage with the distress of our world and remain turned in upon themselves. It may be helpful to look back to today's first reading from Acts (2:32-35) where Luke presents an idealised picture of the post resurrection Jerusalem community: all things in common and the gospel received with great respect. While taking reasonable precautions, we are called to rise above our own fears and respond with love and generosity in times of crisis, to live the gospel message from death through resurrection and into "ordinary time".

DIVINE MERCY SATURDAY & SUNDAY 6-7 APRIL AT ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL.

Prayers for Peace and God's Merciful Love for the World, the Holy Land, and the Church.

Saturday

6.30pm after Saturday 5.30pm Vigil Mass. The Novena includes Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Benediction, Readings from St Faustina's Diary and Sacred Music.

Sunday (Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confessions will be available)

1.15 pm Rosary

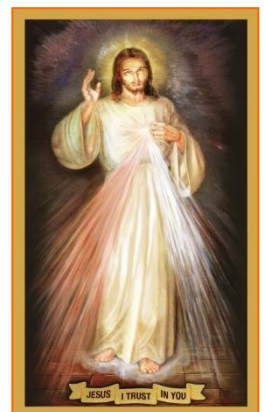
1.45 pm Mass

2.45 pm Hour of Mercy- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

3.30 pm Benediction

3.45 pm Blessing with Relics and Conclusion

8 first class relics will be exposed for prayers and viewing, of Saints who are well known for their holiness and their intercession for people in need (**Pope St. John Paul II, St Jadwiga Queen, St Faustina Kowalska, St Maximilian Kolbe, St Stanisław Papczyński, St Maria of Jesus Crucified from Bethlehem, Blessed Michał Sopoćko and Blessed Jerzy Popiełuszko**).



Bishop Paul's Easter Message

An Easter with a Special Anniversary. This Easter, our diocese marked a special anniversary. It was on March 30, 1874, that Pope Pius the Ninth issued a decree establishing the Diocese of Ballarat. So, when we gathered for the Easter Vigil on March 30 this year, it was 150 years since our diocese began.

The official description of a diocese focuses on the people who make up the diocesan community. The Code of Canon Law describes a diocese as "a portion of the people of God, which is entrusted to the care of a bishop" (Canon 369). So, when the number of people increases, there comes a time when a new bishop is appointed to care for that community. This is what happened in 1874 with the start of the Diocese of Ballarat. The population in the Colony of Victoria had grown so much that there were too many people for the Bishop of Melbourne to care for, so the Pope appointed two new bishops, one in Ballarat and one in Sandhurst (Bendigo), with responsibility to care for the communities of those regions.

Pope Pius the Ninth wrote as "the successor of Saint Peter to whom the Eternal Pastor gave the care of his flock". This is how he explained the setting up of the new dioceses. "Lest spiritual helps become lacking to the flock of believers, we are accustomed to increase the number of bishops for their assistance and convenience when we learn that the number of the flock has increased. Since by now the size of the territory of the Church of Melbourne in the Australian Colony of Victoria and the number of the faithful living there are such that, in the opinion of the bishops of Australia and especially of the Bishop of Melbourne himself, it is too difficult for one bishop to exercise care for that part of the Lord's flock, it seems to us that for the spiritual good and convenience of the faithful we should erect two new dioceses in the aforesaid territory. Wherefore, after we have considered maturely all the circumstances of this matter, and after we have heard the advice of our beloved brothers in the Congregation of the Propagation of the Faith, we, by our apostolic authority and by the force of these letters, erect and constitute in the territory of the Church of Melbourne in the Australian Colony of Victoria two new dioceses, one in the city of Sandhurst and one in the city of Ballarat."

The Pope's decree described the boundaries of the new dioceses. The Diocese of Ballarat would include the western region of Victoria. "For the Diocese of Ballarat, we define as the boundaries the 144th degree of longitude as far as the sea and the Murray River, and that boundary which separates Victoria from the Diocese of Adelaide, or from the Colony of South Australia, in such a way that the same Murray River will be the northern boundary and the sea will be the southern boundary." One hundred and fifty years later, we continue to echo the Pope's words in describing our diocese today. Our diocesan vision statement begins with the words, "We are a community of communities from the Murray to the sea."

The 150th anniversary occurred on March 30, which in 2024 happened to be Holy Saturday. This meant that we were able to mark the anniversary as we celebrated the Easter Vigil. Each time we light our tapers from the Easter candle, we give thanks that Jesus is risen and is with us as we gather in his name. When we celebrated the Easter Vigil this year, we remembered that the risen Jesus has been with us as a diocesan community for the past 150 years. He has been with us through the joys and struggles of these years and he promises to remain with us always. Bishop Paul Bird CSsR

The Catholic Earthcare Parish Group has been meeting on a monthly basis for several months now to prepare an Action Planner for the next 3 years. This planner has set objectives for more sustainable methods in how our St Patrick's parish operates in relation to its people, our place and in practice.

Already, some notable outcomes have been:

- to ensure that the Sacristy now has paper recycling bins
- a reminder on the parish newsletter to purchase sustainably sourced Easter eggs
- celebrating the end of the Season of Creation with the Mass of St Francis of Assisi

We invite you to be on the lookout for future implementations.

New members are very welcome to join. Please contact through the Parish office.



Change of Parish Boundaries

On April 10th St Patrick's Ballarat, St Columba's Ballarat North and St John the Baptist Beaufort will form one parish. We look forward to working together and collaboratively as we face the future. All current Mass times and workings of the communities will remain the same whilst we work through any reorganisation.

Please note a change of venue for **Masses, Devotions and any possible Funerals from Monday April 15 to Thursday 18**. The Lighting in the Cathedral will be updated during this period.

Diocesan Community – Issue 1 2024

The first edition of ODC 2024 has been published. Feel free to take copies to the homebound, nursing homes, hospitals, etc., to spread the good news of the diocese.

Seminarists' Fundraising Afternoon Tea

The Cathedral Branch of the Catholic Women's League will be hosting an Afternoon Tea as a fundraiser to aid our Seminarists on Saturday April 20th from 1.30 onwards at 30 Waller Ave, Ballarat. Entry \$20 - Cash only - Stalls and Competitions. Donations Welcome. Donations to assist can be paid direct to Bendigo Bank Cathedral Branch Ballarat CWL BSB 633 000 ACC 21371 7255

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Ministers of the Word Online Training Programs

The ACU Centre for Liturgy, which is endorsed by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, offers online training programs for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Ministers of the Word. The next Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion program will begin on April 9 and Ministers of the Word program will begin on June 4. Both programs will be available again at various times throughout the year. For registration details and more information go to <https://www.acu.edu.au/about-acu/institutes-academies-and-centres/acu-centre-for-liturgy/pastoral-training>

PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS

First Collection - \$ 4616.80

(Presbytery - Priest support)

Second Collection - \$ 2529.80

Tap & Go - \$ TBC

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday – 10.00am

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

6.00pm-7.00pm Holy Hour & Benediction

Thursday

11.15am Divine Mercy Devotion

Friday 11.00am to 12.00pm -

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Silent Prayer

Saturday after 10.00 am Mass

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

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

PARISH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Tuesday

7.00pm Life in the Spirit Prayer

Wednesday

1.00pm Legion of Mary

5.15pm Liturgy Team Meeting

Sunday

11.30am Cuppa after Mass