

# St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Ballarat

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B – 18<sup>th</sup> August



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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

Fr Abraham Thomas

**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: Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B (18<sup>th</sup> August)**

**First:** Proverbs 9:1-6

**Second:** Ephesians 5:15-20

**Gospel:** John 6:51-58

## **Readings next week: Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B (25<sup>th</sup> August)**

**First:** Joshua 24:1-2, 15-18

**Second:** Ephesians 5:21-32

**Gospel:** John 6:60-69

*In Loving Memory*

## **RECENT DEATHS:**

Kath Crameri, Bill Jeffrey, Lorna Kennedy, Leo Meade, Brodie Toohey

## **ANNIVERSARIES:**

Harold Bromley, Elsie Butler, Eileen Caelli, Joseph Casey, Leda Chwesik, Antonio Churkovich, Maree Clifton, Laurie Franklin, David Griffiths, Kirk Kelevitz, Monica Lange, Irene Loverso, Rita Madden, Ronald Males, Francis McAloon, Noela Millar, Albert Myles, Pdraig O'Siochain, Irene Parkin, Philomena Reidy, Michael Wethling

**Responsorial Psalm: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

## **The Presence of the Absent One**

### **Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58**

*'The bread that I shall give is my flesh for the life of the world.'*

Today's Gospel is the whole purpose of this long discourse, for today's passage focuses on the Christian Eucharist. The change is signalled by the words 'flesh to eat'. Up until now, Jesus has spoken of eating *bread* in a metaphorical sense, but the word 'eat' that is now used is very physical, it is like 'munch' or 'chew'. The imagery Jesus uses 'to eat the flesh and drink the blood' would be particularly horrific to a Jewish audience for whom blood is forbidden, and animals are killed in a special way so that all the blood is drained out, since the blood is the life-force and belongs to God.

This language also directs attention to the future death and resurrection of Jesus – his flesh given for the life of the world. In speaking also of blood, in Jewish terms Jesus is speaking of his essential life-force. To speak of eating flesh and drinking blood is therefore not to be speaking about something that is dead, but something that is still living, something that still has its life-force. Jesus has passed through death and returned as a living presence to his community. Because Jesus now lives with eternity life, he is able to offer the same eternity life to believers. Today's passage needs to be understood as reflecting on the living presence of the risen Jesus now present with the community. Only in this resurrection perspective will the discourse have any sense and Eucharist have any meaning. 'Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood live in me and I live in them.' In other words, those who believe in me, live in me and I live in them.

The very first disciples all had personal experience of Jesus. They were able to be with him, to hear his words and to express their belief in him directly. By the time John's Gospel was written, around 95 C.E., most of the community would be second or third generation Christians who have not had such personal contact. Where can these Christians experience the living presence of Jesus and how can they express their faith in him? The Gospel points to the presence of Christ in the celebration of the Christian Eucharist.

When the community gathers Jesus is present in their midst and the consuming of bread and wine sacramentalises that presence. Eating and drinking is something we can physically do, making our belief concrete. We are not simply giving intellectual assent to Jesus – we profess our faith bodily. How else can God come to us except through our bodies? How else do we *communicate* with others, except through our bodies? Our liturgical celebration of Eucharist engages our entire self, in all our senses of sight, touch, smell, hearing and taste. God has come to us incarnated in the flesh of Jesus, and through Eucharist this incarnate, bodily presence is still available to us, and we can make our bodily response in faith to him.

At this point, you and I are drawn into this Gospel, for like the Johannine community we have not encountered Jesus of Nazareth. Our encounter with Jesus must be through the sacramental symbols of bread, wine, the word and the community gathered to celebrate the Lord's Supper. Again, the contrast is made between the Eucharist and the *manna*, for the life Jesus offers is life forever. The Jewish Christians of John's first community have not lost touch with their traditions, nor have they lost touch with the God of their ancestors who fed them bread from heaven. In and through Jesus, God's nourishing gift of life for the world is available to all people of all ages.

But what is our response? The invitation is given, 'Come and eat my bread and drink my wine,' but some find this too hard to accept. This long Gospel passage continues with this question next week.

## RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA)

An evening of Enquiry will be held at St Patrick's Cathedral in the MacKillop Room, on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August at 7.30 pm. All adults interested in being initiated into the Catholic Faith are invited to attend this evening to find some answers to some of their questions. If you know of someone interested, please invite them to attend this evening – you may even like to come along with them.

Further enquiries contact Susan at [sm.crowe23@gmail.com](mailto:sm.crowe23@gmail.com)

## RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR CHILDREN OF CATECHETICAL AGE (RCICCA)

What is the 'Right of Christian Initiation for Children of Catechetical Age'?

It is a preparation process that is more than bringing your child for Baptism – you are bringing them to be *fully* initiated into the Catholic Church through Baptism, Confirmation and Communion. It is about your child forming a relationship with Jesus and with a community that welcomes them. Catechetical age of children is 7 – 13 years.

If you wish to learn more about RCICCA an information afternoon will be held in the MacKillop Room of St Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September at 2.00 pm.

Further enquiries contact Susan at [sm.crowe23@gmail.com](mailto:sm.crowe23@gmail.com)

## Live Your Best Life in Love...

### A Marriage Encounter weekend is for you...

Every married couple deserves this very special weekend.

Time-out to nurture your most precious relationship away from daily distractions.

The two of you will come away from your weekend feeling more deeply connected and with tools to help keep the passion alive.

No group sharing required.

The weekend is based around Catholic values. Couples of all faiths are welcome.

Please check our website for more details and to book your special weekend:

Our next weekend is: 4 - 6 October 2024 at St Paul's Retreat Centre, Wantirna South.

Starts Friday evening at 7pm and finishes Sunday afternoon around 4:30pm

Information/Bookings: Phone Mercy & James 0409 183 676 or

Email: [vicbookings@wwme.org.au](mailto:vicbookings@wwme.org.au) Website: [wwme.org.au](http://wwme.org.au)

## Diocesan Social Justice Commission Reflection Day – Saturday, September 7, 2024

The Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission invite **all members of the diocese** to a Reflection Day, in celebration of the launch of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement 2024-2025, "Truth and Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World" on Saturday, September 7, 2024 from 10.00am - 2.30pm at Ss Michael and John's Horsham Parish Centre. Facilitator for the day is writer and educator, Michael McGirr. Registrations are essential through trybooking. Scan or click the QR code. A flyer is available from the diocesan website



<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/ballarat-diocesan-social-justice-commission-reflection-day-with-michael-mcgirr-saturday-september-7-2024/>.

The prayer for Social Justice Sunday is also available from the diocesan website.

## Launch of the ACBC Social Justice Statement 2024-2025

The 2024-2025 Social Justice Statement, "Truth and Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World" will be launched by Bishop Vincent Lond OFM CONV and Associate Professor Joel Hodge on Tuesday, August 20, 2024 at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish 198 Old Prospect Rd, Greystanes, St Paul's Catholic College Sports Hall from 10.00 – 12.00noon. To attend the launch please RSVP at <https://rb.gy/ewt929>. Recordings of the launch will be available following the event.

**Natural Fertility Awareness Week 2024 (August 19 – 25)** promotes an alternative, healthy option to family planning compared with chemical and other contraceptive devices.

The theme this year is: "*Trust your body's natural signs of fertility: Forget about drugs and devices.*"

You are invited to join the Billings LIFE free webinar on Monday 19th August 2024 at 7:30pm AEST where you can listen to the conversation about the basics of the Billings Ovulation Method® and its application, including during times of breastfeeding. Further info ph: 1800 335 860

<https://events.humanitix.com/trust-your-body-s-natural-signals-of-fertility-free-webinar>

## Help for those accompanying Catholics facing end-of-life decisions

Australia's Catholic bishops have released a new document to guide priests, chaplains and pastoral workers who are asked to provide pastoral support to Catholics who are considering accessing the Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) scheme. Access the document from [mediablog.catholic.org.au/help-for-those-accompanying-catholics-facing-end-of-life-decisions/#more-9889](https://mediablog.catholic.org.au/help-for-those-accompanying-catholics-facing-end-of-life-decisions/#more-9889)

## Position Vacant: Pastoral Care at Mercy Place Ballarat Aged Care

A permanent part-time position is available at Ballarat Mercy Place Aged Care. Applications are available on the seek link <https://www.seek.com.au/job/77920166?type=standalone&origin=jobCard#sol=bf828cb7ac33e2ee3f0a0309916d6ede9fc496a3>. For any further information or interest in formation regarding pastoral care, please contact Bernadette Wurlod, email: [BWurlod@mercy.com.au](mailto:BWurlod@mercy.com.au)

## Catholic Earthcare to host Season of Creation workshop in September

Caritas Australia's Catholic Earthcare team is inviting the Catholic community – including schools, parishes, diocese, organisations and religious orders – to join its 2024 Season of Creation convocation. Taking place from Thursday, September 12 to Saturday, September 14, the convocation will call participants to 'Wonder', 'Weave' and 'Heal' together. Attendees will enjoy keynote presentations, workshops, discussions and spiritual experiences, before gathering to transform learnings into action. Keynote speakers include Sr Anne-Maree O'Beirne RSM, Pedro Walpole and Sally Neaves. More information is available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/catholic-earthcare-to-host-season-of-creation-workshop-in-september/>

## Season of Creation 2024

The Season of Creation runs from September 1 – October 4, with the theme for 2024, "To hope and act with Creation". Resources are available from <https://seasonofcreation.org/>

## PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS

**First Collection** - \$ 2,669.90

(Blue bag Presbytery – Priest support)

**Second Collection** - \$ 1,996.45

(Red bag Parish – buildings, office, admin, grounds and maintenance)

**Tap & Go** - \$ 710.77

## WEEKDAY MASSES

### Monday –

10.00am Requiem Mass Bill Jeffrey  
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

11.15am Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet

### Wednesday

11.15am 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

### Sunday

6pm Youth Group

### Tuesday

5.15pm Liturgy Team Meeting  
7.00pm Life in the Spirit

### Wednesday

1.00pm Legion of Mary  
7.30pm RCIA

### Thursday

4.30pm Earthcare Meeting  
6.00pm ALPHA Meeting