

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Contact: St Patrick's Ballarat: 5331 2933

Email: ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Administrator: Fr Ed Moloney **Assistant Priests:** Fr Jim McKay & Fr Francis Kureeckal

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Sandy Watkins: 0409 492 508

Parish Support - *If you need help with anything, please phone one of our members:*

Gail Hall: 0412 311 586 Bernadette Franc: 0427 678 830

Special Parish Events (Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals) Phone: Bernadette Franc 0427678830

beaufort@ballarat.catholic.org.au

APRIL 6TH 2025 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR C

YEAR OF HOPE

RECENT DEATHS: Dorothy Pearson

ANNIVERSARIES:

Teresa McDonald, Ellen MacAuley, Mathew Delaney, Graeme Loader, Tony Carnes, Phon Briody, Gayle O'Louglan, Jill Briody-McCaig, Charlie Franc, Patrick Briody, David Owens & Peter Geddes.

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Dennis Davies (Genevieve's brother), Pat Byrne, Blake Dridan, Shelagh Mulcahy, Fr Adrian McLnerney, Graeme Trethowan, Mia Hanrahan, Colleen Hains, Michelle Smith, Danny Doyle, and all those in need of prayer

ROSTER:

Introduction & Reading

Today: Sue Mahony

April 13th: Bernadette Franc

Prayers of the Faithful

Today: Therese Jess

April 13th: Maureen Schirmer

Assembly Leaders

April 6th: Angela Gerrard & Carita Clancy.

Special Minister

April 6th: Clarrie Johnston

Music

Sue Mahony

Church Cleaning, Linen, Flowers

April 6th: Genevieve Johnston

Church Grounds

April 6th: Clarrie Johnston

Newsletter

April – Bernadette Franc 0427678830

MASS TIMES

April 13th: Mass 8.30 a m Palm Sunday

April 20th: Mass 8.30 a m Easter Sunday

DATES TO REMEMBER:

MASS OF THE OILS: Monday, April 14, 2025 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 1.00pm.

Afternoon tea will follow in the Hall. The Mass will also be livestreamed at

<https://youtube.com/live/qUVA7OFoZ9c?feature=share>

Thanks to Genevieve & Clarrie for volunteering to collect our oils.

GOOD FRIDAY: 10 a m

(NB this is a new time for this year.)

EASTER SUNDAY: Mass 8.30 am

Requesting help for roles over the Easter Period.

Please feel free to put your name down on the sheet.

KEEP THIS DATE FREE: Sunday May 18th for **Parish Picnic.** Venue will be at the Beaufort Community Bank Complex. Please encourage family and friends and anyone who might be interested in coming along to this gathering.

DIOCESAN NEWS

For the Diocesan E-News see the link below:

<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/news-events/e-news/>

FR JUSTIN HAS ASKED US TO PUT THIS INFO ON OUR NEWSLETTER:



In this Jubilee year, dedicated to becoming Pilgrims of Hope, pilgrims are invited to experience the world of the early Christian communities. The Acts of the Apostles will come alive as we go out with St Paul and his companions to rediscover the faith and struggles of the early Christian communities. The proposed itinerary departs Melbourne on Sunday, September 21st 2025 with the pilgrims arriving in Istanbul and proceeding to Adana, Tarsus, Antioch, Ephesus, Troas, Kavala, Philippi, Thessalonica and Athens with the possibility of an extension to Rome. For further information please contact Lifestyle Travel, 11 Armstrong Street North (PO Box 740), Ballarat, 3350, ph. 03 5331 8077, email info@lifestyletravel.com.au or Fr Justin Driscoll justin.driscoll@ballarat.catholic.org.au

PRAYER FOR RAIN:

"Father, we pray that you will send rain to bless our local area. Also, look after those in our country who are battling floods. Amen"

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED LETTER FROM FR. ED WITH IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT 'FORMING A PARISH' IN RELATION TO OUR CURRENT TRANSITION PROCESS.

THE JUBILEE PRAYER

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, Reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.

May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen

Pope Francis message for Lent



“Let Us Journey Together in Hope” is Pope Francis’ message for Lent 2025.

He reminds us that we cannot stay where it is comfortable, that we must

always accompany others, and that we must always do everything with the hope that never disappoints.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Joel 2: 12-13

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of
endless glory!

With all your heart turn to me,
for I am tender and compassionate.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of
endless glory!

GOSPEL

Jn 8: 1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according
to John.

Let the person without sin be the first to throw a stone.

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them.

The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and don't sin any more.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



Unauthorised reproduction of this bulletin prohibited. Published with ecclesiastical approval by ST PAULS PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135. Tel 02 9394 3400 Fax 02 9394 3444. Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible, published and © 1966, by Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co. Inc. are used by permission of the publishers. Psalm text from *The Psalms, A New Translation*, © 1963, The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New translation of the Order of Mass from *The Roman Missal* © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj. Layout, commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 2025. No 2084. Website: www.stpauls.com.au

Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT / C

6 APRIL 2025

JESUS' LIBERATING GAZE

Today's Gospel from John might seem out of place in a year where the liturgical focus is on Luke. However, some scholars suggest that the story of a woman caught in an adulterous act belongs more in Luke's Gospel and became misplaced in time. Whatever of the story's history, it is the teaching that unfolds that is so important as we come to our final week in our Lenten journey.

In the story, the woman becomes a pawn in a dispute over Torah teaching and as an object to trap Jesus in his apparent moral liberality and rejection of Mosaic teaching. Never addressed is the way the knowledge of the woman's adulterous act is derived. How would her accusers know of her conduct if they had not set themselves in a position to spy upon her? They, too, are incriminated by their very witness. Jesus does not buy into their legal dispute nor their accusation of the woman.

As her accusers depart from the scene without condemning the woman, Jesus gazes upon her without judgement. His gaze frees her. The story leaves contemporary listeners with at least two insights. It affirms Jesus' forgiveness and his desire for our spiritual release. It also provides an opportunity to reflect on the way women are treated today in many contexts as objects of sexual desire, domestic violence, male abuse and pornographic depiction.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Isa 43: 16-21

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I am doing a new thing and I will give drink to my people.

Thus says the Lord, who made a way through the sea, a path in the great waters; who put chariots and horse in the field and a powerful army, which lay there never to rise again, snuffed out, put out like a wick:

No need to recall the past, no need to think about what was done before. See, I am doing a new deed, even now it comes to light; can you not see it? Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness, paths in the wilds. The wild beasts will honour me, jackals and ostriches, because I am putting water in the wilderness (rivers in the wild) to give my chosen people drink. The people I have formed for myself will sing my praises.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 125. R. v. 3

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, / it seemed like a dream. / Then was our mouth filled with laughter, / on our lips there were songs. **R.**
2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!' / What marvels the Lord worked for us! / Indeed we were glad. **R.**
3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage / as streams in dry land. / Those who are sowing in tears / will sing when they reap. **R.**
4. They go out, they go out, full of tears, / carrying seed for the sowing: / they come back, they come back, full of song, / carrying their sheaves. **R.**



SECOND READING

Phil 3: 8-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Philippians

Because of Christ I look upon everything else as useless in order to gain him.

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him. I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts, the perfection that comes from the Law, but I want only the perfection that comes through faith in Christ, and is from God and based on faith. All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I can assure you my brothers, I am far from thinking that I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

Forming of a New Parish attached to newsletter for April 6 and coming weeks

In recent years, the Ballarat Diocese has created new Ministry Districts under the direction of Bishop Paul and the Pastoral Planning Office to help meet the needs of the current situation of the Diocese. We are now in the process of coming together as one parish which will happen on 1st July 2025. Our new parish will be comprised of St Columba's Ballarat North, St John the Baptist Beaufort and St Patrick's Ballarat and (Streatham if it continues). Under the direction of Bishop Paul, the Council shall be called "Cathedral Parish."

The Parish is the basic unit of the Universal Catholic Church with its responsibility of evangelization, expression of faith and administration of Sacraments. It exists to improve the quality of the life of its members; spiritual, religious, and social. It is a community of love, based on a Communion of Faith. Its function is beyond that of a corporate entity.

Election Process of the new Cathedral Parish Council

As has been suggested by the previous separate Parish Councils, we now call for Election of 9 members 2 Beaufort, 3 North Ballarat, 4 Cathedral, (1 if Streatham continues).

Ex-officio Members

1 Representative from Primary School Principals

1 Representative from Finance Council

Priests

Timeline for elections:

- Information on newsletter 26th/27th April
- Nominations called for from 3rd/4th May (Parish Administrator will discern initial nominees before informing the parish).
- Parish informed of final nominees 17th/18th May.
- Discernment time for parishioners who wish to vote from 19 – 23 May
- Voting 24th /25th May if needed.
- Announced 1st June

A new Parish Finance Charter for Cathedral Parish is currently with Bishop Paul for his scrutiny and ratification.

Fr Ed Moloney