



St Patrick's Cathedral
3 Lyons St South,
Ballarat VIC 3350
Ph: 53 312933
ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au



St Columba's Church
306 Gregory St,
Ballarat North VIC 3350
Ph: 53 311012
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St John the Baptist
11 Leichardt Street,
Beaufort VIC 3373
Ph: 53 311012
beaufort@ballarat.catholic.org.au

BALLARAT CATHEDRAL PARISH

St Patrick's Primary
Principal: Ben Shields
Ph: 53 327680

St Columba's Primary
Principals: Shaun Mohr &
Bambi Afford
Ph: 53 324894

St Thomas More Primary
Principal Simon Duffy
Ph: 53 342244

Siena Primary
Principal: Shelley Ryan
Ph: 53 343096

Ballarat 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: Bishop Mark Freeman

Administrator: Fr Edward Moloney

Assistant Priests:

Fr Abraham Thomas MST

Fr James McKay

Fr Alex Valliyamthadathil (Syro Malabar)

Parish Coordinators:

Antony Beggs: Tues-Thurs 10am-3pm

Lia Andanar Yu: Wed-Thurs 10am-2pm

Suzanne Dooley: Fri 9:00am-4:30pm

Gail Hall & Bernadette Franc: Parish
Support, St John the Baptist.

Safeguarding Officers:

Cathedral: Antony Beggs, Maria Noonan

St Columba's: Anthea Hinchey

St John the Baptist: Sandy Watkins

Finance Officer: Jackie Wrigglesworth

MASS TIMES

St Patrick's Cathedral

Mon: 12:05 pm

Tue: 7:00 am, 12:05 pm

Wed: 7:00 am, 12:05 pm

2:00 pm Requiem Mass, Fay Frawley

Thu: 7:00 am, 12:05 pm, 11:00 am SJOG

Fri: 12:05 pm, 10:45 am Reconciliation

Sat: 10:00 am, 10:45 am Reconciliation

Saturday Vigil: 5:30 pm

Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:30 am, 5:00 pm

St Columba's

Wed: 10:00 am, 10:30 am Reconciliation

Sunday: 10:00 am

St John the Baptist, Beaufort

2nd & 4th Sunday, 8:30 am Mass

1st / 3rd & 5th Sunday, 10:00 am LLA



TWENTYFIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year A 20th September

Responsorial Psalm:

The Lord is near to all who call him.

Readings for next weekend:

Ezekiel 18:25-28

Ps 24:4-9. R. v.6

Philippians 2:1-11

Matthew 21:28-32

We pray for the faithful departed:

Fay Frawley, Maryel Hentapa, Andrew Igun Lewis

We remember the anniversaries:

Ernest Auchettl, Mark Bourke, Susan Briody, John Francis Carroll, Judith Conroy, Daniel Cosgriff, Catherine Cullen, Francis Curran, William Fogarty, Brian Frawley, Helen Griffin, Jean Hayes, Gregory Jones, Wally Jones, Ann Julian, Leonie Kelly, Angela Lazzo, Mark Leonard, Marie Linane, Sheila Lourey, Margaret Mahar, Jamie Marek, Geoffrey Moncrieff, Kerry Mullane, Luigi Palanca, Ruth Rush, Kenneth Russell, Christine Rylance, Kathleen Sims, Frances Sloan, Wilma Tagliabue, Frances Wilson

Sr Agnes Connellan, Beni Duka, Jack Engwerda, Denis Farney, Patrick Roache, Kath Sullivan, Margaret Walsh



Blessing of pets The Cathedral Parish of Ballarat is celebrating the **Feast of St Francis of Assisi**, with a gathering of families and pets in the Cathedral grounds on Saturday 3rd October 2026, at 11.00 am. Our friends from other parishes are also welcome to have their pets blessed at this event. Please ensure your smaller pets are in an appropriate carrier and that dogs are on leashes and friendly.

Reflection on the Gospel-25th Sunday, Year A (Matthew 20:1-16a) - Veronica Lawson RSM

From 1973 to 1975, I was a student at the Ecole Biblique in East Jerusalem. Until women were admitted as resident students there in 1974, I lived at the Chaldean Patriarchate. Early each morning, I would cross the road from the Patriarchate and greet the Palestinian day labourers lined up beside their vehicles, waiting for employment in the vacant lot that divided Israel from occupied Palestinian territory. In the wake of the Yom Kippur War, these workers were living through hard times. In the morning, they were chatty and cheerful. Those who found work no doubt remained cheerful: they had the means to support their families and could find some meaning in their lives. Those still waiting for work at midday or later were dejected and shamed, not least by the prospect of returning home without the means to purchase their daily bread. Those who were hired found honour in the society and the means to sustain themselves and their families. Those who missed out on work suffered hunger, indignity and a sense of powerlessness. Confronted by this spectacle day after day, I began to understand the parable of the labourers in the vineyard.

In Matthew's parable, those who have worked all day grumble because the underemployed are made "equal" to them. Jesus makes it clear that people's worth is not to be measured in terms of their capacity for economic production. Pope Leo XIII, writing in 1891 about the condition of the working class, echoes this aspect of the parable. Those who cannot find work and those who cannot work on account of disability or visa restrictions understand something of the experience of the Palestinian workers. Their needs are no less urgent than the needs of those who have productive and well-paid employment. Minimal social security benefits might address their basic material needs but are less than effective in addressing the underlying issues of human dignity.

Parables yield meaning differently in different contexts. We may want to consider the corrosive effects of "envy". Faced with the dramatic disparity between rich and poor in our world, we may wish to raise questions about the concentration of wealth and power in the hands of the landowner. Those who are conscious of the plight of many of our First Nations People, of refugees or migrants, as well as those ineligible for benefits, may come with questions about "generosity" offered from a base of power over against equal access to Earth's resources. In the face of climate crisis and the effects of war and pandemic, many of those who used to be safe in economic terms now find themselves with huge debts and diminishing security. Many in our world are every bit as desperate as the Palestinian day labourers, waiting in line as never before. As we celebrate this third Sunday of the Season of Creation, we might accept the invitation of today's gospel story to live in ways that promote quality of life for every one of Earth's inhabitants.

Baptism Celebrations this weekend We welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism:



**Julian Peter Benfield, Evelyn
Melanie Matheson, Ivy Maree
Benson, Lottie Mae Benson, Jayden
Paul Niblett and Jordan John
McKenzie**

"The Church gives the faith to your children through Baptism, and you have the task to make it grow...."

Pope Francis.

May **Julian, Evelyn, Ivy, Lottie, Jayden and Jordan** grow in faith with the support of their families, Godparents and our Catholic Community.

Feast of St Vincent de Paul, Sunday Sept 27th

Parishioners are invited to join Bishop Mark and



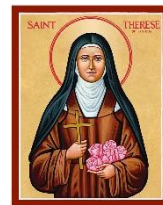
St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

past and present members of St Vincent de Paul for the 10:30am Mass at the Cathedral. We are commemorating those who have served our parish with the St Vincent de Paul Society from 1906-2026. You are invited to join us in a commemorative tree planting after Mass and a cuppa in the Mary Glowrey room.



Mass for the Feast of St Therese of Lisieux and Vocations to the Priesthood

All parishioners are invited to a 6:00pm Mass in the Cathedral on Thursday October 1st to celebrate the Feast of St Therese of Lisieux. Following this Mass, young men who are interested in vocations to the Priesthood are invited to gather in The McKillop Glowrey rooms in the Cathedral precinct for a talk and meal focused on discerning vocations to the priesthood.



Admission to Candidacy for Ordination as Deacons and Priests

Diocesan seminarians Simon Zakari and Channa Tilikarathna, will be admitted as candidates for ordination to the diaconate and later to the priesthood. Bishop Mark Freeman will celebrate Mass on Sunday, September 27th at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 5.00pm and during this Mass, Channa and Simon will publicly express their intention to receive ordination as a deacon and priest. All welcome.



Season of Creation 2026

The Season of Creation is held from 1st September – 4th October and is a time for Christians to come together in prayer and action for Creation. The theme for Season of Creation this year is "Living Water".

During this time, our Parish Catholic Earthcare members invite all parishioners to bring their favourite "living water" photo(s) to add to our display board in the south transept of the cathedral.



Choral Scholars' Music Pilgrimage to Geraldton



A big thank you to the parishioners who donated towards the Geraldton trip, and who attended and performed at the Cathedral Parish's Got Talent! concert in late July. Twenty parishioners are departing for Geraldton on the morning of Wednesday 23 September, and we will be away for a week.

We invite all parishioners to attend the Cathedral Choral Scholars' send-off:

7:00am Mass this Wed 23rd, followed by a cooked breakfast in the McKillop/Glowrey room and a blessing from Fr Ed. Please come and pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide our young people in their mission for the Church.



Request from the Finance Office

Could the Parishioner with Envelope No 42, please call Jackie on 337 7128?

Our Diocesan Community – Issue 2, 2026 The second edition of ODC for 2026 has been published. Please take a copy for yourself and feel free to take copies to the homebound, nursing homes, hospitals, etc., to spread the good news of the diocese.

Caritas Australia: Nepal Floods Appeal

Communities in northern Nepal are facing a humanitarian crisis after devastating flash floods swept through the Rasuwa District on August 26. Over 1,000



people have lost their lives, many remain missing, and thousands of families have been affected. Homes, roads, bridges, schools and essential infrastructure have

been destroyed, leaving vulnerable communities in urgent need of support. Caritas Australia is working with Caritas Nepal and local partners to provide lifesaving assistance, including emergency shelter, food, safe drinking water, healthcare and protection support for affected families. Together, we can provide urgent relief and hope to families rebuilding their lives in Nepal. To donate to the Caritas Australia Nepal Floods Appeal, visit www.caritas.org.au/nepal or call 1800 024 413.

Invitation to parish workers - EMMAUS Pastoral Retreat



You are invited to attend the Emmaus Pastoral Retreat 2026 at Mountain View Lodges near Halls Gap. Arrive Sunday 25th Oct. Depart around midday on Tuesday 27th Oct. The

focus this year is drawn from our Conversations in the Spirit held last year. Our retreat is kindly supported by Bishop Mark and the Catholic Development Fund. All welcome. Please contact Anna Schlooz ecomyriad@gmail.com or Bernadette Wurlod bernadette@bernadettewurlod.com.au

Marriage Encounter: Live Your Best Life in Love...

A Marriage Encounter weekend is a gift for every married couple and for priests. It's a special opportunity to take time to focus on your most precious relationships. You will come away feeling more deeply connected and with tools to help your relationships to thrive. No group sharing is required. The weekend is based on Catholic values and couples of all faiths are very welcome. We have just one more weekend in 2026.

When: November 6-8th, Friday, from 7pm, to Sunday afternoon around 4:30pm

Where: St Paul's Retreat Centre, Wantirna South.

Information/Bookings: Please phone Mercy & James 0409 183 676 or Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au

Website: wwme.org.au



Catholic Youth Conference 19-22 November

La Trobe University, Bundoora



You are invited to **Chosen**, a four-day Catholic Conference for young Australians who are open to

encountering God in a real and personal

way. Hosted by Jesus Youth Australia, the conference brings together teens (16+), young adults (18-35) and young couples (married up to 5 years) from across the country. Over four days you'll experience worship, talks, prayer, Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, workshops and more. More info <https://chosenconference.org.au/> or contact Emil Mary Tom 04 0625 6263

emilmarytom@gmail.com

St Patrick's Cathedral Choral Scholarships on offer

Is your child between Year 3 and Year 9 and interested in singing?

St Patrick's Cathedral Choral Scholarships provide \$1000 per annum for students with musical aptitude to sing regularly at the

Cathedral. Choral scholars will learn traditional styles of sacred music, experience musical and faith formation and may also visit other Cathedrals to sing. If you and your child are interested in a choral scholarship, please contact Vincent Sully on

Vincent.sully@ballarat.catholic.org.au or 0407 310 115 for further information.



Presence: Advent & Christmas Daily Reflections

Presence offers a prayerful companion for the entire Advent and Christmas journey. \$6 a copy. Email the office at ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au if you would like to order a copy of the book before October 1st when a bulk order will be placed.



A reflection on Spiritual Retreats Come away and rest a while

Spiritual retreats are a gift in the life of the faithful, providing an opportunity to leave behind our everyday routines for a few days to focus on our relationship with God. Priests have a canonical requirement to participate in a yearly retreat to “come away...and rest a while” (Mk 6:31), to pray, and replenish their spiritual life. This is often done communally with their fellow priests, encouraging fraternal bonds and allowing them to rest in one another’s company.

For the laity it can be more challenging to etch out time from family and work commitments to go away for a few days on a retreat. Day retreats offer the option of a few precious hours of time for God and for resting in the company of others. That’s exactly what 110 people from all corners of the State did last weekend at St Peter’s in Daylesford. They arrived spiritually weary but with great anticipation and left beaming with contentment and hearts full of joy after having rested with the Lord in prayer, reflection, and community. The resounding message of the day was that our faith is relational, not only with God but with each other. We are made to share it and to walk alongside others in it, and that was evident in how people interacted throughout the day.

While confronting on paper, the retreat’s theme of redemptive suffering broke the chains of fear of sitting with pain and encouraged us to surrender to God’s divine plan. It pointed us to seek solace in Our Lady who compassionately accompanies us in our sufferings. The sword that pierced her heart brought a profound understanding of human grief, which has allowed her to step tenderly into our personal trials and walk faithfully alongside us in our darkest moments.

At the foot of the Cross, Mary didn’t avoid the occasion of suffering or look for ways to alleviate her grief. She could have averted her eyes or turned and fled from the trauma at any time. But she didn’t. For the sake of her son, Jesus, she kept her eyes and heart fixed on him, and she saw that suffering through to the end. By following her example, we too can face suffering by keeping our eyes and hearts fixed firmly on Jesus, and by clinging to him as we weather the storm of our sufferings.

The felicity of the retreatants upon departure was striking. Spending time away with the Lord had brought about a clear sense of joy and a renewed certainty that our faith is built on hope and charity. May they continue to find encouragement in knowing that our faith is deeply relational. We are at our best when we allow others to share in our burdens and when we support our neighbours in theirs.

Fiona Bradley



Make a Difference with Palms International



Volunteering Join Palms International Volunteering and contribute to sustainable development by sharing your skills in remote communities. We connect skilled Australians with partner organisations to work side-by-side, strengthening local capacities and fostering long-term change. View current volunteering opportunities at <https://palms.org.au/current-opportunities/>

Pope’s Prayer for September – For the care of water

Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it. Lord hear us.



Weekly Roster - St Columba’s Mass (Sept 27)

Leader of Song:	Mark Lacey
Commentator:	Mitch Chalmers
Minister of the Word:	Min Myers
Communion Minister	Lindsay Bingham
Digital Projector:	Bruce Chapman
Sacristan:	Barb Brown

Cathedral Parish Calendar

Tue 22 Sept	Life in the Spirit	7:00 pm
Wed 23 Sept	Choral & Organ Program	1:00 pm
Wed 23 Sept	Legion of Mary	1:00 pm
Wed 23 Sept	Choral & Organ Program	5:00 pm
Thur 24 Sept	RCIA Program	7:30 pm
Fri 25 Sep	Grand Final Holiday – no office	

Cathedral Devotions: All welcome to participate

Monday-Saturday Morning Prayer 7:30am

Monday-Friday Evening Prayer 5:00pm

Mon/Tues Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet 11:10am

Wed Rosary and Devotion to St Joseph, 11:10am

Wed Holy Hour & Benediction, 6:00pm-7:00pm

Thurs Divine Mercy Devotion, 11:10am

Friday Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Silent Prayer 10:45am to 12.00pm

Liturgical Calendar - 25th Week of the Year.

Mon, 21 Sept. S. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist.

Called to become an apostle, from being a tax collector! (Mt 9:9-3) Famously painted by Caravaggio.
Feast

Wed 23 Sept. S. Pius of Petrelcina, Religious and Priest. Padre Pio, Capuchin Franciscan friar, mystic, stigmatist, worked miraculous healings. Famously gifted and wise confessor. *Memorial*

Sat, 26 Sept. Ss. Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs.

Twin brothers, Arabian or Syrian Christian physicians. Treated patients without fees. Martyred under Diocletian. Painted by Fr Angelico and others. Named in the First Eucharistic Prayer. Also **Saturday Memorial of our Lady. Optional Memorials.**

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