

# St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Ballarat

Fourth Sunday of Lent Year A – 19<sup>th</sup> March



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<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.*



St. Patrick's Parish, Ballarat

## **Cathedral Clergy:**

Fr Ed Moloney

Fr Abraham Thomas

Fr Jim McKay

## **Visiting Priests:**

Fr Dan Arundell

Fr Barry Ryan

## **Parish Admin:**

Tony Beggs

## **Finance Officer:**

Kerrie McTigue

## **Sacraments:**

Tony Beggs

## **Safeguarding Officer:**

Tony Beggs

## **Readings this week: Fourth Sunday of Lent Year A (19<sup>th</sup> March)**

**First:** 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7,10-13 **Second:** Ephesians 5:8-14

**Gospel:** John 9:1-41

## **Readings next week: Fifth Sunday of Lent Year A (26<sup>th</sup> March)**

**First:** Ezekiel 37:12-14 **Second:** Romans 8:8-11

**Gospel:** John 11:1-45

*IN LOVING  
Memory*

## **RECENT DEATHS:**

## **ANNIVERSARIES:**

Christine Austin, Olivia Banks, Ellen Bryce, Kevin Buckle, Peter Burke, Margaret Button, John Callahan, Dorothea Crameri, Basil Dawson, Ivan Dean, Ronald Digman, Marie Fitzpatrick, Joseph Foley, John Hayden, Paul Heenan, Thomas Karras, Eileen Kennedy, James Kenney, Sharon Mai Kerr, Roslyn Lench, John Joseph Moloney, Harry Morris, Anne (Nancy) Morrison, Lucille O'Brien, Shirley Robertson, Carmelo Sgro, Gregory Slater, Michael Spiers, Harry Strik, Margaret Waight, Margaret Wake, William Bernard Walsh

## **Legion of Mary, Acies Ceremony**

Consecration to Our Lady will be held on Saturday March 25<sup>th</sup>, Feast of Annunciation, following the 10:00am Mass in St Patrick's Cathedral. All are welcome to participate.

## **Triduum Choir 2023**

For the celebration of the Triduum, the Cathedral Liturgy Team is inviting all those interested in singing to form a combined choir. Members may be able to sing at all or some of the ceremonies over the three days. Ms Judy Gustus will co-ordinate the choir and the practices, which will include hymns from all ceremonies. The dates set for practice in the Cathedral are: 7pm - 9pm on Thursday 23 March, Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March and Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April. If you have any questions please email Susan at [sm.crowe23@gmail.com](mailto:sm.crowe23@gmail.com) or Judy at [jgustus58@gmail.com](mailto:jgustus58@gmail.com). We look forward to having many singers at the Triduum. At least two celebrations will be downstairs.

## **St Patrick's Cathedral Junior Choir**

Students from Years 3 to 8 are invited to join our St Patrick's Cathedral Junior Choir to sing at four Parish Masses this year. Our first Mass will be on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm, the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent. The choir will be accompanied and led by Judy Gustus on guitar and will be singing a variety of music that students may be familiar with from school. Last Practice will be on: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 4.15pm

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## **Reflection on the Gospel-4th Sunday of Lent Year A**

**(John 9:1-41)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Last week, we journeyed with the woman of Samaria from bewilderment to deep insight into Jesus' identity and mission and to a strong personal faith commitment. This week, we are invited on a faith journey with a man born blind and with the varying groups of participants in the drama. All have the opportunity of coming to faith. Ironically, the blind come to see, both physically and spiritually, while those who are gifted with physical sight remain in spiritual darkness.

In healing the man born blind, Jesus performs the sixth of eight powerful actions or "signs" in John's gospel that reveal God's power at work in Jesus and in the lives of those who seek life. The "signs" invite the reader/hearer/viewer to accept Jesus and his revelation of God and God's purposes.

Time features significantly in the story. Jesus heals the blind beggar on the Sabbath. The Jerusalem authorities have already raised objections about Jesus' Sabbath healing activity (John 5). Once again, they object that he is failing to observe the Sabbath. They label him a sinner. Ironically, in the final authoritative analysis, it is they who "remain in their sins".

This story reminds us of the need to check our assumptions and, if necessary, to revise our thinking and action. It also reminds us to accept the fact that we can be wrong about things we have always believed. It invites us to be open to seeing differently or from a new perspective. Jesus' disciples, the parents of the man born blind, his neighbours, the religious authorities all operate out of unchecked assumptions. They mostly come to the wrong conclusions. Only those willing to admit that they have it wrong have any chance of coming to faith. In the present global political climate, admitting that one "got it wrong" seems to be anathema. And yet, from a gospel perspective, it is a sign of real strength.

In the common estimation, the man was blind, so he or his parents must have sinned. Not so, according to Jesus. From the perspective of the authorities, Jesus heals on the Sabbath and is therefore a sinner. Not so, from Jesus' point of view. The man was born blind and so needs others to speak for him. Not so, say his parents, he can speak for himself. He does speak for himself and quite eloquently, to the chagrin of the religious authorities. He presents them with the truth about Jesus but they refuse to accept the word of an outcast. Their reaction is violent: they drive him out. But Jesus goes in search of him and leads him to yet deeper levels of faith and understanding. You may like to read the story once more and put yourself in the place of the different characters. It seems to me that there is a little bit of each character in every one of us.

## BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND

We welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism:



**Marley Elizabeth Hobson** child of Justin and Hannah  
**Luke Francis Bedson** child of Melissa and Rebecca

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

The next **baptism preparation session** is due on April 6<sup>th</sup>, which is Holy Thursday.

**Only the 10am session will be held.**



### Fourth Sunday of Lent 18 & 19 March



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Thu lost his leg after stepping on a land mine in Vietnam. With the support of the Centre for Sustainable Rural Development, Thu can now earn extra income and care for his wife as she recovers from a stroke.



**Please donate to Project Compassion 2023.**

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow ***For All Future Generations.***

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes/envelopes available from your parish, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion), or by calling 1800 024 413.

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION IN PREPARATION FOR EASTER

The Second Rite of the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00 pm in the Cathedral.

Several priests will be available during this Communal Liturgy of Prayer and Forgiveness in our parish.

### Wisdom at the Cathedral

All are welcome to the next talk in the Cathedral parish's series Wisdom at the Cathedral. Professor John Ozolins from the University of Divinity will speak on *St Augustine and the Early Church Fathers on the relationship between Faith and Reason*. The talk and discussion time will go for an hour and will be followed by a cup of tea.

7pm, Friday 21 April in the MacKillop/Glowrey rooms. Entry by donation.

For all enquiries please contact Fiona Bradley on 0402 474 074.

### Palm Sunday Walk for Justice

This year's walk will call for Justice for Refugees: Permanent visas for all, fair processes and income support for people who are seeking recognition as refugees. While the change of government at the federal election last year has brought hope for more compassionate policies, thousands of refugees and people seeking asylum are still in limbo waiting for certainty about their future. Walk with us this Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023 at 1.00pm for a group reflection and prayer led by Fr Andy Hamilton SJ, with the official Walk for Justice music and speeches starting around 1.30pm. Meet at the far right side of the State Library of Victoria (near the Joan of Arc statue and next to Little Lonsdale Street – you'll see a large 'CAPSA', 'Jesuit Social Services' or 'Xavier Social Justice Network' or 'CSSV' banner). If you have any questions, please get in touch with Maeve at CAPSA, email [info@capsa.org.au](mailto:info@capsa.org.au).

## Reconciliation Program

The 2023 Junior Reconciliation program has begun and dismissals will occur during the **6:30 pm Mass Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March and 10:30am and 5pm Masses on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March**, when candidates continue their preparations. Please pray for the candidates.

## Mass of the Oils 2023

All are welcome to attend the Mass of the Oils to be held on Monday, April 3, 2023 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 6.30pm. Supper will follow in the Hall.

## Choir for Mass of the Oils 2023

Singers and musicians in the diocese are invited to join the music group which is being formed for the Mass of the Oils on Monday, April 3, 2023. Practice times are Sunday, March 19, Sunday, March 26 and Sunday, April 2 at 6.15pm (following 5.00pm Mass). Please contact Julie Boyd in the Pastoral Ministry Office to register your interest ph. 5337 7159 [julie.boyd@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:julie.boyd@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

## Good Friday Holy Land Collection

The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land will take place again this year on Good Friday.

## Enrolments are still open for Semester 1 at Catholic Theological College.

We have many areas of study that may be of interest such as John Henry Newman and the Church in the Nineteenth Century, Pastoral Leadership for a Safe Church and many online options. For more information contact: [registrar@ctc.edu.au](mailto:registrar@ctc.edu.au) or visit [www.ctc.edu.au](http://www.ctc.edu.au)

## Lent resources

There are a number of Lent prayer resources available from the diocesan <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/liturgy-sacraments/liturgy-resources/>

## PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS

Thank you for contributing to the Cathedral collections this week:

**First Collection** - \$ TBC

(Presbytery - Priest support)

**Second Collection** - \$ TBC

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

## WEEKDAY MASSES

**Monday** – 10.30am

**Tuesday** – 7.00am and 10.00am

**Wednesday** – 7.00am, 10.00am

**Thursday** – 7.00am, 10.00am

**Friday** – 12.05pm, 6.00pm  
(Reconciliation at 11.00am until midday)

**Saturday** – 10.00am  
(Reconciliation at 10.30am)

## WEEKEND MASSES

**Saturday** 6.30pm Vigil

**Sunday** 8.00am, 10.30am, 5.00pm

## DEVOTIONS

**Monday-Saturday** Morning Prayer 7.30am

**Monday-Friday** Evening Prayer 5.00pm

**Tuesday** after 10.00am Mass  
Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet

**Wednesday** after Mass Litany to St Joseph  
Holy Hour & Benediction 7.00pm – 8.00pm

**Thursday** after 10.00am Mass – Rosary &  
Divine Mercy Devotion

**Friday** after 12.05pm Mass  
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
Silent Prayer

**Stations of the Cross** will be celebrated during Lent after 6pm Mass each **Friday**.

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

## PARISH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

**Tuesday**

7.00pm – Life in the Spirit  
(MacKillop/Glowrey Room)

**Wednesday**

1.30pm Legion of Mary