



St Patrick's, Stawell

St Patrick's Parish Newsletter Stawell and Landsborough

Second Sunday of Advent Year A

December 8, 2019



St Francis of Assisi,
Landsborough

THIS WEEK:

St Pauls Sunday Missal Page 106



ANNIVERSARIES: Brian Molan,
Vera Friend and Win Heenan

WEEKDAY MASSES THIS WEEK:

Tues; Thurs, Fri 10.00am.
Wed: Mass at Eventide, 10.30am
Wed: Mass at School 5.00pm

CONFESSIONS —Before or after 10.00am weekday
Masses by request (i.e. – just ask Fr Eric.); 10.00am
Saturdays; Landsborough—before Sunday Mass.
Any other time contact Fr Eric 0419 597 063.

**CENSUS FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH
THIS WEEKEND AND YOU ARE ASKED TO TAKE
THESE HOME, FILL THEM IN AND BRING THEM BACK
ASAP. THESE FORMS ARE NOT JUST FOR PLANNED
GIVING PURPOSES, BUT WILL BE USED TO UPDATE
OUR PARISH RECORDS.**

LIZ McINTYRE— ST PAT'S PRINCIPAL: A letter re-
garding Liz McIntyre's new position in Catholic Educa-
tion is on page 6 of this notice sheet. I have granted
Liz a 12 month release from her contract with St Pat's
School, and wish her well. Her leadership at St Pat's
over the past three years has been exceptional. Thank
you Liz, and every blessing.



GIVING TO THE NEEDY AT CHRISTMAS:

Christmas is not a happy time for those in
need in our community. Last year our lo-
cal St Vincent de Paul and Stawell Inter
Church Council Welfare distributed Christ-
mas grocery shopping vouchers to 113
households in Stawell and region, made up of 357 individu-
als. New toys and books were given to 133 children aged
13 years and under. You can help locals in need by leaving
a donation of a new unwrapped toy or children's book under
the Christmas giving tree at the back of the church. Dona-
tions will be collected on Sunday 15th December and will be
distributed on Wednesday 18th December.



COLUMBAN CALENDARS are on sale from
this weekend for \$9.00 each.. A great cath-
olic calendar to have in the home with feast
days, catholic art, etc..

CHRISTMAS CARDS: Available for sale this weekend,. Dif-
ferent qualities at marked prices.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS: will be performed on December 17th outside
shop 108 in Main Street.

Practices will be held at the Uniting Church on Thursday 12th Decem-
ber . Any singers most welcome to take part.



CUP OF TEA/COFFEE: after 10.30 am Mass this week-
end. All welcome.



CHRISTMAS MASSES, STAWELL AND LANDSBOROUGH:

Eve— Stawell—Carols 5.30pm, Mass
6.00pm

Landsborough 8.00pm
Christmas Day—Stawell 9.00am.
New Years Day—10.00am Stawell

INVITATION FROM ST PATRICK'S SCHOOL



**TO ATTEND THEIR END OF YEAR CELEBRATIONS,
ESPECIALLY THE MASS AT 5.00PM AND MEAL AT
6.00PM FOLLOWED BY
90 MINUTE BUSH DANCE.**

**RSVP TO JILL AT THE SCHOOL OFFICE THIS MON-
DAY. 5358 2493**

FINANCES LAST WEEKEND:

Presbytery Collection \$ 390.15

Parish Collection: \$ 809.00

Loose Collection: \$ 98.50

Collection is for the clergy stipend, presbytery costs and support of the
bishop and sick and retired priests. The 2nd collection is for the upkeep
of the parish.

SICK LIST

Noah Amarant; Kathryn Young; Glenis Leddin; Lourdes de
la Cerna; Kath Hayes (Ballarat); John Delaney; Lynn
Wright; Simon Monas; Angela Moore; Kate Sargent;
Yvonne Evans; Margaret Boag; Nigel James (Canberra);
Ian Kindred; Sharron Pickering; Andrew Van Diesen; Ben-
jamin Wolfson; Robbie Loxton; Nicole Lee (Horsham); Bri-
an O'Loughlin; Beryl Walsh; Shirley Gerritsen; Steven
Oates; Maree Parkin; Rosemary Chisholm (Bendigo); Har-
ry Comitti, John Dalziel; Mollie Barton; Patty Fenwick;
John Farrell (Swan Hill); Bailey Young, Graeme Blake,
Pat Rathgeber

**NB: A Family member of the sick person must contact
the Parish Office to have names added. They must also
have the permission of the sick person if they are able
to give it.**

HUMOUR:

A missionary priest works in rural India among the poor. The monsoons come and the Villagers warn him that the river is rising and he must come with them to the shelters in the hills, but the missionary refuses to go, saying "God will rescue me so that you may have faith." The river keeps rising, the priest climbs on a local roof to stay dry and a rescue boat crew comes, telling him to get in and they will bring him to safety. The priest refuses, saying "God will rescue me so that you may have faith."

The river rises and the priest is perched on the building chimney. A rescue helicopter comes to save him, but he says "God will rescue me so that you may have faith."

The priest drowns and stands before God at judgement and says "Lord, I don't understand! I had such faith that you would save me, why am I here so young?"

God says "What? I sent you smart Villagers, a rescue boat and a helicopter. What did you expect, an engraved invitation?"

NEWS:

Youth festival to begin with a prayer

Published: 06 December 2019



The Experiential Prayer Room will showcase different styles of prayer (The eRecord/Alphonsus Fok)

Pilgrims from across Australia have started arriving in Perth for the three-day Australian Catholic Youth Festival that begins on Sunday. Source: The eRecord.

Many pilgrim groups are scheduled to attend Mass at Perth's St Mary's Cathedral on Saturday ahead of the festivities.

During ACYF, many exciting features will enable the young Church of Australia to share ideas, interact, pray, "Listen to what the Spirit is Saying", and learn more about the work of the Church.

The Encounter Expo, with more than 80 exhibi-

tors, will allow pilgrims to discover ways to connect with other Christians, grow and develop in their own faith journey and be inspired to take on one of the many opportunities for sharing that faith with others.

Many ACYF 2019 pilgrim groups are accompanied by a Catholic priest who will provide spiritual guidance, scriptural and prayer formation, as well as access to the Sacraments.

Another highlight, the Experiential Prayer Room, will showcase different prayer styles.

The Perth Archdiocese will distribute copies of its latest handbook, The Power of Freedom, which is dedicated to young people. The handbook was launched at a pre-ACYF gathering for Perth locals on Tuesday.

The festival will end with a Closing Mass held at Trinity College, with an expected 7000 to attend, including the wider Perth Catholic community.

**PRAY FOR OUR YOUTH,
ESPECIALLY THOSE OF OUR
CHURCH AND ALL CHRISTIAN
CHURCHES..**

HELP WANTED:

Any volunteers to help put census data on parish computer.

Also, any one prepared to help with data input/output during the Planned Giving Program in February.

Please contact Fr Eric if you are willing to help.



**HELP
WANTED:
'MOST ANY-
ONE COULD
DO IT!**

NEXT WEEKENDS READINGS:

(A chance to prepare ahead for next week's readings, especially for our Lectors)

Sunday 15 Dec 2019

Third Sunday of Advent A

First Reading **Is 35:1-6, 10**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

God himself will come and save us.

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.
The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.
Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees
and say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.
'Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.
They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.
The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm **Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4**

(R.) Lord, come and save us.

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. *(R.)*
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. *(R.)*
3. It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. *(R.)*

Second Reading **Jas 5:7-10**

A reading from the letter of St James

You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation **Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)**

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

Gospel **Mt 11:2-11**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

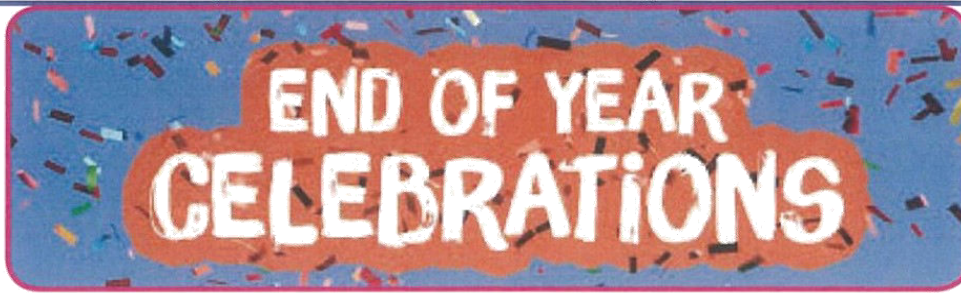
John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'
As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'
The Gospel of the Lord.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Why would John the Baptist send messengers to question Jesus? We recall from last week's gospel passage that John had a somewhat 'fire and brimstone' perception of what Jesus would be like. Perhaps as he sat in his prison cell John began to wonder whether Jesus was indeed the Messiah that John believed him to be. Perhaps the question was not for himself but rather for his disciples that he sent to Jesus. Given the answer that Jesus provided them, perhaps John's intention was for the disciples to recognise that Jesus was in fact the one that John had proclaimed and that the disciples should switch their allegiance to Jesus. John probably guessed that he would not be leaving that prison alive and may have been leading his disciples to the next step in their discipleship by having them go and scrutinise Jesus.

The indirect answer that Jesus provides to the query would have not sounded like such a roundabout response as it does to us. The picture Jesus describes of the blind seeing, the lame walking, lepers cleansed, and the deaf hearing would have been very familiar to those who were listening and the first audience of this gospel. These were signs of the coming of the Messiah that had been foretold by the prophets. In his answer, Jesus effectively says, 'Well, all the things that are supposed to happen when the Messiah comes are happening now with me. There's your answer!'

The reading continues to build on the Advent themes of anticipation, preparedness and hope. As we draw closer to the celebration of the Nativity, in this reading is confirmation that our hope is not misplaced. Today's readings emphasise the joy that lies in the anticipation and expectation of what is coming.



END OF YEAR CELEBRATIONS

Our end of year celebrations are fast approaching.
Please see the order of the day / evening listed below.

**WEDNESDAY 11th
December**

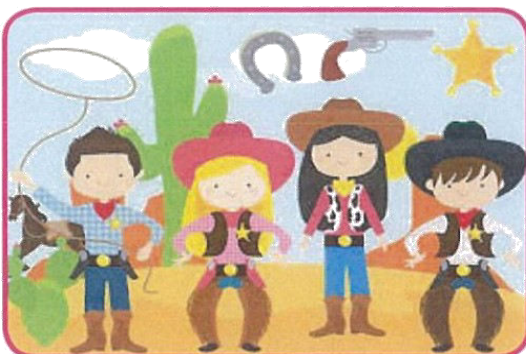
*A huge thankyou to Ann-Maree Browne and Jess from
Central Grampians LLEN and Freeza.*

*Central Grampians LLEN will be sponsoring our end of year celebrations and enabling us to
provide the following:*



Face painting
Try "Painting"

Jumping Castle



Billy Tea Bushband

freeza
www.freeza.vic.gov.au

Central Grampians
LLEN
engage. innovate. inspire.

ORDER of the DAY

11:30am - 1:20pm

Two x 50 minute workshops that include buddy groups with classes

2:00pm - 3:00pm

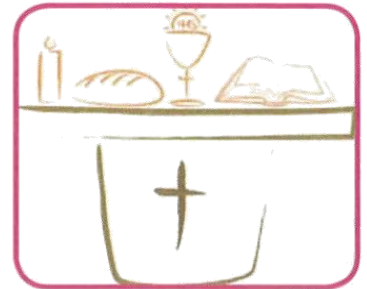
One x 60 minute afternoon bush dance concert with whole school

End of year Mass

5pm.

All are welcome to St. Patrick's End of School Year Mass in our Multipurpose Hall. During Mass our Grade 6 students will be acknowledged and also receive their Graduation certificates. We will also acknowledge all families that will be leaving our St Patrick's community. We hope all families can attend this Mass as it is such a special occasion for our school community.

We hope to see you there!



Spit Roast Dinner

6pm

Spit roast dinner catered for by Fabulous Feast. ALL St Patrick's Primary School children will be paid for by our Parents & Friends Association.

Adults - \$20 per head

Non - St Pat's Kids - \$10 per head

Please see Jill in the office if you have misplaced your RSVP slip.



Bush Dance

6:30pm - 8:00pm

90 minute community bush dance (this is an approximate time).

Students will showcase their dancing from afternoons lessons with the community invited to join in.



We hope to see as many families there as possible.

It is sure to be a fantastic way to end another terrific school year.

5 December 2019



TO: The Diocesan Education Community
RE: Leader Wellbeing, and Senior Education Officer Wellbeing (Primary)

Dear Colleagues

As a new strategic plan reaches the stage of implementation and the DOBCEL Wellbeing Standing Committee moves into its second year of operation, I am delighted to announce the appointment of two senior leaders who will bring their considerable experience and skill to the strategic enhancement of Wellbeing across our diocese from the start of the 2020 school year. **Mr Tony Perkins** has been appointed as the Leader Wellbeing and **Ms Liz McIntyre** has been appointed (for the 2020 school year) to the position of Senior Education Officer: Wellbeing.

As Leader Wellbeing, Tony brings to the role a sound knowledge, understanding and experience of system and school leadership, having held the position of Education Consultant to the Central Zone for the last six years in addition to previous positions as Principal of St Francis Xavier and Emmaus Primary Schools in Ballarat and St Patrick's Primary School in Stawell.

Tony has a thorough understanding of the system initiatives that include Professional Learning Communities and the Response to Intervention strategies in addition to the requirements associated with child safety and codes of conduct in schools. There is no doubt that he has a great deal to offer our Diocesan Education Community in this new role within Education Services.

As Senior Education Officer: Wellbeing, Liz will draw on three years as Principal at St Patrick's Primary School, Stawell and significant experience in various leadership positions in the Archdiocese of Melbourne including as Acting Principal, Deputy Principal, Religious Education Leader, Learning Diversity Leader and Wellbeing Leader. In particular, she has led her current staff team to develop as a Professional Learning Community and she engages collaboratively with cross-systemic colleagues as a member of the Stawell Learning Alliance.

Liz's ongoing commitment to her own professional learning is evidenced in her completion of further studies in Early Childhood and a Masters in Wellbeing and Inclusive Schooling.

We congratulate Tony and Liz on their appointment to these new leadership roles and look forward to working with them both as we further develop our capability for and diocesan approach to Wellbeing.

I acknowledge that it is late in the school year to be filling senior leadership positions and that the process of recruitment to fill the roles that Liz and Tony are vacating will need to be managed with sensitivity to minimise impact on our education community. Fr Eric Bryant PP has been generous in his willingness to release Liz from principalship for 2020. Mindful of these considerations, I will seek to keep you informed over coming days of any further developments.

Yours sincerely

Audrey Brown
Director of Catholic Education

PRAYER FOR RAIN:

In November we prayed this prayer at all Masses. Some may like to continue this prayer. I have included the word bushfire to cover those catastrophic events also.



Eternal God,

In wisdom and love
you created our earth
to sustain us and give us life.

We turn to you now
in faith, hope and love,
asking you to look with favour
on our drought-stricken land,
on our starving animals,
on our failing crops.

Strengthen, sustain and give new heart
to our farmers
and to all who are affected by
Drought and bushfire;
be with those who support them.

In your loving providence,
send abundant rain
and restore our parched earth.
Father of all compassion,
hear our prayer
through Jesus Christ your Son,
in whom the promise of new life
has dawned, and
through the power
of the Holy Spirit,
the Lord the giver of life:
Renew your faithful people;
Renew the face of the earth.

Our Lady of the Southern Cross,
Mary, help of Christians –
Pray for us.

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop –
Pray for us.



ADVENT

The season of Advent is peculiar to the Western church. It has no counterpart in the East. Outside of Rome it may have arisen as a three or six week period of preparation for baptism on the feast of the Epiphany. Administering baptism on this day would have appealed at a time when the baptism of Jesus was the primary “epiphany” being celebrated (along with other revelations of Jesus’ identity such as the visit of the Magi, the wedding feast at Cana and the transfiguration).

When the birth of Christ came to be observed in Rome on 25th December in the fourth century, Christmas was taken to be the beginning of the year. Thus Advent, once it took shape, served as the conclusion of the year. It was characterised by an emphasis on Christ’s coming in glory at the end of time rather than on preparation for his nativity. Certainly in the time of Gregory the Great (590-604) Advent was eschatological rather than incarnational. It was Gregory who shortened the season from six weeks to four.

Eventually a four week season became universal in the Western church that combined three themes: spiritual discipline (arising from preparation for baptism or from Ember Days), preparation for Christmas (originating in places such as North Italy before being adopted in Rome), and the last times. It was only in the 10th century with the merger of Roman and Frankish liturgical traditions that Advent came to be understood as the beginning of the church’s year. By the time liturgical books came to be standardised in the 12th and 13th centuries a four week Advent season focussed on John the Baptist and on the parousia was established as the norm.

Parousia (from the Greek) means ‘a coming’ or a ‘presence’, referring to the coming of the Christ at the end of time.

ROSTERS:

LANDSBOROUGH (8.30AM):

This Week (December 8)

Readers: J Murphy/C Browne

Procession of Gifts: J Murphy/E Amarant

Ext Minister: J Murphy

Next Week (December 15)

Readers:

Processions of Gifts:

Ext. Minister:

Church Care: December 7—C Browne

Church Grounds— December—B & P Browne

STAWELL:

This Week (December 7) 6.00PM

Welcomer: N Rathgeber

Readers: M Howard/J Raeburn

Ext. Ministers: M Howard/S Parry

Procession of Gifts: J Croton

(December 8) 10.30AM

Welcomer: P Gooden

Readers: M R Thomas/I Sturt

Ext. Ministers: K Dalton/G Comitti/F Harney

Procession of Gifts: Cain/Rutter Family

Next Week (December 14) 6.00PM

Welcomer: M Cray

Readers: D Jones/T Brady

Ext. Ministers: M De Leon/E McIntyre

Procession of Gifts: M Smith

(December 15) 10.30AM

Welcomer: K Ashton

Readers: K Dallinger/D O'Donnell

Ext. Ministers: M R Thomas/F Harney/L Morgan

Procession of Gifts: P Gooden/I Little

Counters: Today: T & A Ellis

Next Week: June Raeburn

ALTAR SOCIETY : Next week: Liz & Kay

MARY'S STATUE:

December 8-14 J Raeburn; 15-21 D McIntosh; 22-28 H

Prowd; 29—January 4 J Launder.

ANY PERSON/FAMILY WISHING TO HAVE MARY'S STATUE IN THE HOME FOR A WEEK CONTACT MARGARET ROWE OR FR ERIC.

NOTES FOR MINISTERS AT MASS:

Extraordinary Ministers, part of your duty is to clean the Sacred Vessels in the sacristy after Mass and prepare them for the next Mass—fill wine and water cruets, etc. Sacred Vessels are to be left prepared on the bench after Saturday Evening Mass, ready for the Sunday morning Mass. Put filled cruets in the fridge.

Scripture Reader and Extraordinary Ministers are meant to process with the priest at the start and end of Mass. Reader carries the Lectionary to the Sanctuary at the start of Mass, but does not carry it out at the end.

ALL MINISTERS SHOULD TRY TO BE AT THE CHURCH AT LEAST TEN MINUTES BEFORE MASS AND ADVISE THE PRIEST THAT YOU ARE THERE. THIS GIVES HIM TIME TO ARRANGE A SUBSTITUTE IF THAT HAS NOT ALREADY BEEN DONE. ALL MINISTERS ARE TO PROCESS IN AND OUT WITH THE PRIEST AND SERVERS.



Prepare a way for the Lord



WEEKEND MASSES YEAR A

Stawell: Saturday 6.00pm

Sunday at 10.30am.

Landsborough: Sunday Mass at 8.30am.

WEEKDAY MASSES (YEAR 2):

Tues; Wed; Thurs; Fri 10.00am. 2nd & 4th

Wednesday of Month-Eventide-10.30am. **(Check front of Bulletin for any changes to this routine.**

Funeral Masses take the place of weekday Mass)

RECONCILIATION:

Stawell: Saturday 10.00 am, before or after each weekday Mass (by request) or by appointment at any time. At Landsborough: Before 8.20 am Sundays

MEETINGS & GATHERINGS:

Prayer Group: Every Monday, 1.30pm.

Cuppa tea Stawell—2nd Sunday after Mass;
Landsborough—3rd Sunday after Mass.

St Vincent de Paul: 3rd Monday 2.00pm in Parish Hall.

CWL: 3rd Wednesday commencing with 10.00am Mass.

The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations from the Lectionary for Mass © 1997, 1981, 1968, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved.

Our diocesan website:

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Our parish website can be accessed through the diocesan site.

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Any queries relating to rosters and volunteers please contact June Raeburn on 53583506.

ST PATRICK'S PARISH, STAWELL

Parish Priest: Fr. Eric Bryant.

Address: 27 Patrick St.,

PO Box 87, Stawell, 3380.

Phone: 03 5358 1119 /MOB 0419 597 063

Fax 03 5358 3000

E-mail: stawell@ballarat.catholic.org.au

eric.bryant@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Finance Manager: Gloria Pickering (Thursdays 11.00-12; 1.00pm -5.00pm)



Welfare /General Safety Officer;
and Child Safety Officer : Helen Potter



ST PATRICK'S SCHOOL

Principal: Mrs. Elizabeth (Liz)

McIntyre

PO Box 856

Stawell. 3380.

Phone 03 5358 2493

Email: principal@spstawell.catholic.edu.au