

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Ballarat

Fourth Sunday of Advent Year C – 22nd December



3 Lyons St Sth Ballarat - Telephone: 53 312 933

ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au

[stpatscathedral.weebly.com/](https://www.facebook.com/patricks.cathedral.9/)

<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 in a timely manner.

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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:

Jackie Wrigglesworth

Safeguarding Officers:

Tony Beggs/Maria Noonan

Readings this week: Fourth Sunday of Advent Year C (22nd December)

First: Micah 5:1-4

Second: Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

Readings next week: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Year C (29th December)

First: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Second: Psalm 127:1-5 R see v.1

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

RECENT DEATHS:

Kevin McKinnon, Michael Sproules

ANNIVERSARIES:

Patricia Batten, Father James Caise, Gregory Dean, Catherine Mary DeGraaff, Thomas Donohue, Sr Joan D'Orsa, Christiaan Ducardus, Leo Durrant, Moya Hall, Annie Hand, Leslie Hearn, John Higgins, Kevin Jones, Eileen Kierce, Melanie Kis, Gerald Leonard, Stanislaw Lewashkewicz, Michael Lourey, Mavis Maher, Thomas Mahar, Isobell McInerney, Irene McIver, Bob Morris, Kathleen Murphy, Joseph Nunan, Thomas Ratcliffe, Olga Roglic, Clara Scott, Isabelle Sherritt, Joan Sherritt, Marie Thomson, Betty Turner, Franco Urbini

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2025

Parent Meeting dates for the St Patrick's Parish Sacramental Program for 2025

The Catholic schools will have morning meetings at the relevant schools with the Parish putting on the following meetings for parents of children not at Catholic schools and parents who would prefer an evening time slot.

First Reconciliation Parent Information Meeting	Thursday 20 th February 5:30pm
First Communion Parent Information Meetings	Thursday 24 th April 5:30pm, Thursday 1 st May 7pm
Confirmation Parent Information Meeting	Thursday 24 th July 5:30pm

The Catholic Primary Schools will prepare children for the celebrations and the Parish Sacramental Team will prepare those students not attending Catholic schools. Confirmation is generally for year 3 students with the other two Sacraments celebrated at year 4.

First Reconciliations will be celebrated in April, First Communions in May/June and Confirmations will be celebrated in August. Email the office with any questions ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au




2025 Enrolments are open

Study scripture, theology, pastoral ministry and spirituality

- Introductory or further studies available
- Face-to-face or online modes available
- Audit, undergraduate or postgraduate level

For more information:

view our [2025 Prospectus](#)
ctc.edu.au/contact/contact-the-registrar/



Making a Scene at Christmas

As part of the exhibition Making a Scene @ Christmas in the Archives Gallery, around 20 pieces of John Schonfelder's work are displayed. These include meticulously and beautifully crafted fret and scroll-saw work. John Schonfelder lives in Wendouree. He has been a member of the local Parish for the past 50 years and was initially part of St. Patrick's Cathedral Parish.

John has been into woodworking for the past 50 years and specialized in fretwork and scroll saw work for the past 35 years. He has actively participated in exhibitions and events organised by the Scroll Saw Network Australia-wide. He is a life member of the network and achieved awards for his work. John has also been a member of the Ballarat Woodworkers Guild for the past 35 years. In the past decade with Fr Andrew Hayes and Fiona Tonkin he has contributed annually with his work for the Making a Scene @ Christmas organised at Bridge Mall.

John's work shows excellent craftsmanship, meticulous precision, and creativity. His passion for woodworking is expressed in his miniature pieces, decorations, and more significant nativity scenes.

Villa Maria Catholic Homes Christmas Hamper Appeal 2024

Each year VMCH relies on donations to ensure hundreds of vulnerable people receive a little joy at Christmas through our hamper appeal. Scan or click the QR code to donate to the Christmas Hamper Appeal. Scan or click the QR code to donate.



CatholicCare Victoria Christmas Appeal 2024

This Christmas, we want to give young people and their families the support they need, so that they can enjoy their Christmas together rather than face the tough times alone. CatholicCare Victoria believes families should never have to choose between seeking help for their kids or putting food on the table. Scan or click the QR code to donate.



Christmas Mass Times can be found on the diocesan website

<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/christmas-mass-times/>

Christmas Message 2024

In these days leading up to Christmas, I'm very pleased to have the chance to say hello and offer you my best wishes as we prepare for the feast. I wish you peace and joy as we celebrate the birth of Christ.

I hope your Christmas has something of the joyful spirit of the recent celebration at Notre Dame cathedral in Paris. Five years ago, Notre Dame was severely damaged by fire. Yet, through the wonderful work of many people, the cathedral has been restored to its former beauty. The restoration is a tribute to the cooperation of a team of dedicated workers. Architects planned the project. Carpenters fashioned the oak beams that support the roof. Workers in stone carved the figures that adorn the cathedral. Experts in stained glass restored the windows. So many skilled people combined their talents to achieve a magnificent result. Together they rebuilt the cathedral and the reopening was celebrated with great joy.

Sadly, this contrasts with the pain of other events in our world at the moment. For many people, this is not a time of celebrating the joy of building. Rather, it is a time of feeling the sorrow of destruction. So many places are enduring the devastation of war – the destruction of buildings and the destruction of people's lives. There is suffering in Ukraine and Israel and Gaza and Lebanon and many other places. In each case there is destruction and sorrow.

In a few weeks' time we'll be celebrating Christmas. We'll read of the angel appearing to the shepherds, announcing the birth of the Saviour. We'll hear that a host of angels sang, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace." (Luke 2:8-14) We might feel some sadness in hearing these verses as we think of the strife in so many countries. Yet, it's important not to lose hope.

Pope Francis has highlighted this in the theme for the coming Holy Year. The theme is "Pilgrims of Hope". The Pope is encouraging us to be pilgrims of hope, to walk on together in a spirit of hope – hope in God and hope in one another as brothers and sisters in the one human family. Hope can give us the strength to persevere in our search for peace. Jesus said to his first disciples, "Peace be with you." As we move towards Christmas, I pray the same for you. Peace be with you. We reflect in sorrow on the suffering in so many places. Yet, we continue to pray that conflicts might be ended and sorrow might turn to joy.

May this Christmas bring peace and joy to you and your family. May this Christmas bring peace and joy to our world. Merry Christmas, one and all. God bless us, everyone. **Bishop Paul Bird CSSR**

MacKillop's Christmas Gift Appeal

This Christmas, make a real difference by supporting MacKillop's Christmas Gift Appeal and bring the spirit of Christmas to young people in care across Australia. Scan or click the QR code to donate.



Melbourne Summer School of Evangelisation: 6 - 12 January 2025

Summer School of Evangelisation is a week-long Catholic retreat for 17-35 year olds hosted by the Disciples of Jesus Community. Summer School is a place to encounter the living God, who desires a personal relationship with you. It's a journey of opening up to God's love, mercy, and healing, making (or renewing) a personal commitment to Jesus Christ, surrendering to the loving action of the Holy Spirit, and being empowered to be witnesses of hope and joy in our world today. The week includes times of communal and personal prayer, including daily Adoration, chanting the liturgy of the hours, daily Mass, rosary, and praise and worship; keynote talks, lecture series, and practical workshops; sharing in small groups and times of recreation to connect with one another. Registrations are now open. More details at ssemelbourne.org.au. Enquiries: melbourne.sse@gmail.com

Father Robert McCulloch in Ballarat

Keep this date free. Father Robert will give a presentation on Thursday January 23rd at Nazareth House, beginning with Mass. This event will support his work in Pakistan. Further details to follow after Christmas. Inquiries 0401 175 045

Christmas Mass Times

St Patrick's Cathedral

Christmas Eve Tuesday 24th December
6.00pm 9.00pm 12am (Midnight)
Christmas Day Wednesday 25th December
8.00am 10 am CAROLS for 10.30am Mass

St Columba Ballarat North

Christmas Eve 5.30pm Tuesday 24th December
Christmas Day 10.00am Wednesday 25th Dec

Beaufort St John the Baptist

Christmas Eve 7.00pm Tuesday 24th December

Christmas Carols

All are invited to St Patrick's Cathedral to sing Christmas carols at 8pm on Tuesday 24th December, which will be followed by the 9pm Christmas Eve Mass. The choir will include the children who have joined the Cathedral as Choral Scholars.

On Christmas morning, the Cathedral 10:30am Mass and St Columba's 10am will both be preceded by half an hour of carol singing.

Priest visits to the sick and housebound

The priests are available over the next few days before Christmas to provide the Sacrament of Holy Anointing of the sick and Holy Communion. Please contact Tony in the presbytery if anyone you know would like a visit from a priest and we will arrange a time.

Parish Office hours reduced during January

The Parish Office will be closed on Tuesdays during January. The parish phone will continue to be answered 53 312933.

OLHC Parish Wendouree Christmas Day Lunch

OLHC Parish Wendouree volunteers are hosting a free lunch on Christmas Day in the Parish Hall, 482A Gillies Street North, Wendouree from 12.00noon – 2.00pm. Bookings are essential as seating is limited, ph. 0491 029217.

PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS

First Collection - \$ 2328.00

(Blue bag Presbytery – Priest support)

Second Collection - \$ 2706.00

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

Tap & Go - \$ 699.00

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday – 12.05pm

Tuesday – 7.00am, 12.05pm
No devotions due to Cathedral being prepared for Christmas Masses

CHRISTMAS EVE

6.00pm, 9.00pm, 12am(midnight)

Wednesday **CHRISTMAS DAY**

8.00am, 10:30am

Thursday – 7.00am, 12.05pm

Friday – 12.05pm

(Reconciliation at 10.30am)

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

11.15am Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet

Tuesday

Wednesday

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

Tuesday

CANCELLED Liturgy Team Meeting

Wednesday

Legion of Mary in RECESS until February

