

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Ballarat

Fourth Sunday of Lent Year B – 10th March



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[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.

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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
Priest in Charge of Syro Malabar Community:
Fr Alex Valliyamthadathil
Parish Secretary
Sacramental Coordinator
Tony Beggs
Finance Officer:
Bernadette Prestwood
Safeguarding Officers:
Tony Beggs/Maria Noonan

Readings this week: Fourth Sunday of Lent Year B (10th March)

First: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23 **Second:** Ephesians 2:4-10 **Gospel:** John 3:14-21

Readings next week: Fifth Sunday of Lent Year B (10th March)

First: Jeremiah 31:31-34 **Second:** Hebrews 5:7-9 **Gospel:** John 12:20-33



RECENT DEATHS:

Patricia Gunn, Noel Jess, Jean McNeil, Margaret O'Bryan, Norma Petrusch

ANNIVERSARIES:

Carmel Ainley, June Blaby, Lina Bomitali, Annie Burke, Edward Campion, Kevin Clinton, Edward Drohan, Dmytro Dziuba, Gloria Gallagher, Barbara Gleeson, Patricia Grant, Anne Hellyar, Charlotte Holmes, Kaylene Jarvis, Boleslaw Kasek, Pat Kennedy, Isaac Lund, Tom Meich, Richard Mooney, Kathleen Noy, Kathleen O'Donnell, Maimae O'Sullivan, Helen Powell, Patricia Scanlon, Vojko Skontra, Maria Vamos, Gertrude Verberne, Doreen White, Margaret White

Responsorial Psalm: Let my tongue be silenced, if ever I forget you!

God's saving love for the whole Earth community

Reflection on the Gospel-4th Sunday of Lent Year B

(John 3:14-21)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

The gospel for today is the concluding section of Jesus' conversation with a Pharisee called Nicodemus who comes to him "by night". It features a number of typically Johannine themes: life, eternal life, believing, seeing, God's love, salvation, judgment, light, darkness, the world, truth. John loves to play on words. Without losing sight of the material reality underlying each image, we need to keep asking: how is this word or expression to be understood in this particular context? In John's gospel, the characters often misunderstand and this gives Jesus the opportunity to lead his hearers to a deeper or different understanding of his words.

As 21st century readers, we operate out of a symbol system that belongs in a different time and a different place. Hence the need to explore the traditions informing the stories. The first two verses of today's reading evoke the ancient Israelite tradition of the bronze serpent (Numbers 21:5-9). According to the story, the Israelites are unhappy with their lot in the desert. They complain about the food or lack thereof. They blame both God and Moses. Their situation worsens with the outbreak of a plague of poisonous snakes whose bite has killed a considerable number of them. The people interpret the plague as punishment for their sin of speaking against God. They ask Moses to intercede with God. God instructs Moses to make an image of a fiery serpent and set it on a pole: anyone affected by snakebite has only to look upon the image to find life and healing. And so it happens: the bronze serpent is lifted up and those who "see" or "look upon it" find life.

Life and death, seeing and believing in God's love and mercy are at the heart of the story of the bronze serpent. The gospel writer taps into the collective memory of the emerging Christian community: just as the serpent was lifted up and the people found life, so will Jesus be lifted up and those who believe in him will find life. In John's gospel, seeing is often equated with believing and believing leads to "life".

The bottom line is God's saving love for "the world", for the whole Earth community, human and other-than-human. Most of the themes in this passage have already been introduced in the prologue to the gospel. Here for the first time in the gospel, God's saving activity is expressed in terms of "love". God's love is explicitly related to the gift of Jesus, God's Son, for the salvation of the world. Salvation resides in acceptance of Jesus while judgment is the refusal to accept Jesus as the revelation of God. Later in this gospel (12:33), Jesus will again reference the bronze serpent story in an expansive embrace of all creation: "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all to myself."

Evangelise+ Women's Leadership Series

The new Evangelise+, 'Women's Leadership' series launches on Friday, March 8, 2024 at 8.00am (AEDT) at

<https://www.evangeliseplus.com.au/>. The series includes videos on the following five topics: - Defining

Leadership - Women's Gifts - Catholic Faith as Guide

- Attributes for Leadership - Dealing with Challenges

Palm Sunday Walk for Justice and Peace - March 24, 2024

The focus this year is on the impact of war where people have been forced to flee to seek places of refuge within their own country (internally displaced) or as refugees and asylum seekers to other countries. The program will commence at 10.30am at the Parliament Gardens (Spring Street/Albert Street, Melbourne) with an interfaith segment and prayers for peace, followed by speeches/presentations from 11.00am and the Palm Sunday 'Walk for Refugees' concluding by 12.00noon.

Mission Inspired Leadership Program 2024

There are still some places available for the 2024 Mission Inspired Leadership Program. This four-part online program is open to organisational leaders, board members and expert practitioners and is designed to equip participants with the conceptual tools and approaches they need to deliver social impact and thrive sustainably for the common good. There will be one session per month from March to June 2024. Find out more at <https://css.org.au/mission-inspired-leadership-program-2023/>



Project Compassion 2024 – Fourth Sunday of Lent: Meet Memory

As the eldest child in a low-income farming family in rural Malawi, Memory faced many barriers to her education. But, with the support of Caritas

Australia, she enrolled in a technical school and became the first female carpenter in her village. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting <https://www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion> or by calling 1800 024 413.



Download the weekly reflection by Michael McGirr from the diocesan website

<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/mission-and-outreach/project-compassion-2024/>

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide ecumenical movement of women of many faith traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year.

This year, Nazareth House will hold a service on Thursday March 21st at 11am.

An offering will be taken up on the day and all are welcome to attend. This money is used to distribute Bibles in poorer countries. A choir from our Cathedral will be assisting and Pastor Max White officiating. Please come along and support this World Day of Prayer.

Inquiries - Carmel – Treasurer World Day of Prayer Ballarat ph 0401175045

Mary Ward for Saint

For those of you who have had the privilege of contact with the Sisters of the “Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary”. You might like to assist them in their quest to have Mary Ward, their foundress recognised by the Church as a Saint for our times.

If you would be so kind as to assist, please click on the link “[Sign this Petition](#)”, at the bottom of the image, just ignore the request for funds, (unless you wish to do so).

Kind regards Fr Greg Tait [Petition · Help our cause to have Mary Ward declared a Saint! · Change.org](#)



Liturgical Ministry:

To ensure that Presiders at our Liturgies are supported by the local community a number of Liturgical Ministries can be carried out by members of the Laity. These ministries include Welcoming, Sacristan, Proclaiming the Word, Extraordinary Ministry of Holy Communion, Serving at the Altar, different aspects of music and processing the Gifts.

Over the weekend and on a daily basis, St Patrick’s Cathedral Parish celebrate a number of Masses at which the need for people from the community to undertake these various ministries is vital. Over the years the Liturgy Committee has offered times of formation and preparation to those who wish to take on a Ministry and in 2024 will again offer such gatherings. If you are interested in being a Liturgical Minister in any of these very special roles please contact the Presbytery, or a member of the Liturgy Committee.

Mass of the Oils livestream

This year the Mass of the Oils will be livestreamed at <https://youtube.com/live/SdivlKiHSs?feature=share>

Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission Annual Report

A copy of the annual report from the Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission is available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/social-justice/>

Ballarat Diocese Priest’s Retreat

The annual priest’s retreat which was held at Hall’s Gap this week was very fruitful. The director Fr Frank O’Loughlin presented reflection on current reality of church life grounded in the Pascal Mystery.

All reflections were grounded in a realistic hope for the future opportunity of our church.

We thank all those who prayed for Bishop Paul and the priests this week.

Holy Hour and Visit of Bishop Richard Umbers (Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney)

Every Wednesday Evening from 6-7 pm the Cathedral holds a Holy Hour which includes Benediction.

On March 20, Bishop Richard will conduct a Holy Hour and afterwards give a talk in the Mackillop Glowrey Room. The topic will be International Eucharistic Congresses, the Eucharistic Congress in Quito and the planning for the Congress in Sydney.

Parish Mass with Anointing, Friday, March 15th

On Friday, March 15th our Lenten Mass with Anointing for the Parish will be held in St Patrick's Hall at midday. This is a great opportunity to celebrate as a Parish Community. It has been our custom to serve lunch to the Parishioners following Mass. Donations of cakes or slices would be appreciated for this occasion. If convenient they could be left at the hall before Mass. Assistance to prepare lunch at 10.00 am and help with the serving would be very much appreciated. This is a great opportunity to pray, eat and enjoy the company of our Parish Community. If you require transport on the day do not hesitate to phone the Parish Office on 53312933.

The Season of Lent

- * Daily Masses - see Mass Times on bulletin.
- * Holy Hour & Benediction Wednesdays: 6-7pm. (reflection this week will be on fasting)
- * Stations of the Cross Fridays: 6pm- 7pm.
- * Lenten Daily Reflection Books are available at the Piety Stall at the back of the Cathedral.
- * Caritas Project Compassion Envelopes and Boxes are available in the Cathedral to help us in our almsgiving.

Palms Australia

Communities in Africa, Asia, Australia and the Pacific are looking for qualified and experienced Australians from Bishop Paul has written a letter of endorsement for the work of Palms Australia. Learn more at <https://palms.org.au/> or ph. 02 95605333

A Note of Thanks

Thank you to Fr Jim McKay for the idea and Pat McOwan for his work on the speed humps.

PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS

Thank you for contributing to the Cathedral

First Collection - \$ TBC

(Presbytery - Priest support)

Second Collection - \$ TBC

Tap & Go - \$ TBC

(Parish - Online & Collection – buildings, office, admin, grounds and maintenance)

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday – 12.05pm

Tuesday – 7.00am, 12.05pm
2.00pm Requiem Mass Andrew Calleja

Wednesday – 7.00am, 12.05pm
2.00pm Requiem Mass Patricia Gunn

Thursday – 7.00am, 12.05pm

Friday – 12.05pm
(Reconciliation at 10.30am until midday)

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/Tuesday

11.20am Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet

Wednesday

11.20am Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet,
Litany to St Joseph

6.00pm-7.00pm Holy Hour & Benediction

7.00pm Bishop Umbers Speech

Thursday

11.15am Divine Mercy Devotion

Friday 11.00am to 12.00pm -

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Silent Prayer

*changes may occur due to Funerals/Liturgical events.

PARISH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Tuesday

4:30pm Reconciliation

7.00pm Life in the Spirit Prayer

Wednesday

1.00pm Legion of Mary

7.00pm RCIA Meeting

Thursday

9.30pm Play Group

4.00pm Earthcare Meeting

6.00pm St Patrick's Young Adults