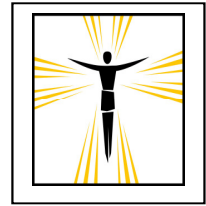


St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Ballarat

www.stpatscathedral.weebly.com



The Ascension of the Lord (C) *Sunday 8th May 2016*



Scripture Reflection by Sr Veronica Lawson RSM

Loss is part of the human condition, and the physical death of a loved one is one of the most painful experiences of loss. Today's Feast of the Ascension invites us to face the experience of loss in a transformative way. In Ordinary Time, we celebrate the life and ministry of Jesus. Over the period of Lent and Easter, we have been re-membering his death and resurrection. As we approach the end of the Easter season, the liturgy draws us into another aspect of the Mystery, that of the presence and absence of Jesus who has been raised. The Lukan Ascension stories as found in the gospel and in today's first reading (Acts 1:1-11) presuppose a pre-scientific, three-tiered understanding of the structure of the world. In this ancient view, God is in the heavens above and the prophet Jesus, like the prophet Elijah of old, is caught up into God's realm from whence the Holy Spirit will "descend" upon God's people. This vertical (up and down) movement is balanced by a horizontal movement.

In Acts, Jesus' family and friends who grieve the loss of their loved one are told not to keep looking up to the heavens. They have work to do: they must return to Jerusalem for the present and be empowered by the Holy Spirit to continue the prophetic ministry of Jesus ("clothed with power from on high"), to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth. They have to face the fact that the physical loss of Jesus means a new and different sort of presence and that they have a role to play in making him present in their world. Like us, the early Christians needed time to grasp each dimension of the one great Mystery of God's life in their midst.

In the gospel account, the disciples gathered in Jerusalem are to be witnesses to the death and resurrection of Jesus. They are to proclaim a gospel of "repentance and forgiveness". In the gospel (Luke 24:47) their audience is "all peoples", while in Acts 1:8, they are commissioned to be witnesses to Jesus "in all Jerusalem, in Judaea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth". In other words, the good news is not only for the earth's human inhabitants but for the earth itself. Pope Francis, in calling us to be attentive to the cry of the poor, insists that the earth itself is "among the most maltreated and abandoned of our poor" (Laudato Si' 2).

Joy, prayer, and blessing have the final word in Luke's gospel. They have permeated Luke's story from the outset. As we prepare for the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, we might pray that the spirit of joy that animated the earliest Christians might fill our hearts so that the entire planetary community might know the blessing of God.

Anniversaries: Mary Bettes, Elena Bucovaz, Brian Daenke, Ellen Fay, Gerard Madden,
Kathleen Mary Martin, Brian Murnane, Jacob Ozolins, Nancy Weightman.

Next week's readings: *Sunday 8th May 2016* *The Ascension of the Lord (C)*
Acts 1:1-11 Ps 46:2-3. 6-7. 8-9. R. v.6 Ephesians 1:17-23 Luke 24:46-53

We welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism;

Sebastian Matthew Mulcair son of Matthew & Alba
Henry Thomas Glover son of Jonathan & Stephanie



May they grow in faith in their loving families and our Catholic Community.

Apostolic Exhortation (papal document)

Pope Francis has published an Apostolic Exhortation on marriage and family life, in which he presents and develops the outcomes of the two Synods on this subject. The title of the Apostolic Exhortation is *Amoris Laetitia*, 'The Joy of Love: On Love in the Family'.

You can download the text of the Exhortation below or read the summary document and Q&A provided by the Vatican. <https://www.catholic.org.au/synod-2015/blog>

Memorial Mass for Bishop Mulkearns

Bishop Paul Bird invites priests and people to join him at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat on Monday, May 16 at 12.05 pm to celebrate a Memorial Mass for Bishop Ronald Mulkearns.

Ballarat Interfaith Network

Bus trip to The Great Stupa's remarkable light show, in Bendigo, Saturday May 28th, for more information or to book tickets phone 0477477658 or go to <https://goo.gl/IfGehl>

Parenting Strategies for Teenage Success – Free Community Event

Success Coach, Darren Pereira, is founder and managing director of Success Integrated. His presentation will provide you with practical tools on how to create a positive home environment conducive to raising a child's academic performance, mental health and wellbeing. Wednesday, May 18, 2016 at Damascus College, Ballarat, John Shannon Centre at 7.00 pm. Go to the Damascus College website to book your free tickets online at www.damascus.vic.edu.au.

Catholic Theological College East Melbourne Annual Knox Lecture

On Monday May 16th at 7.30 pm Archbishop Mark Coleridge will present the annual Knox lecture: "*From Wandering to Journeying: Thoughts on a Synodal Church*". Journey and pilgrimage are important themes in Scripture and throughout Christianity. Catholic Leadership Centre East Melbourne RSVP: Wednesday 11 May jill.allen@ctc.edu.au 9412 3304.

menALIVE Men's Weekend - Hamilton

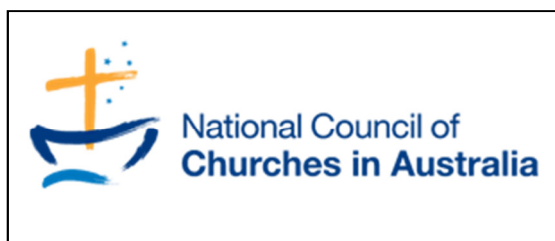
The purpose of menALIVE is to bring men together, to renew their faith in God, and to encourage them to become an active force within the Church. St Mary's Parish Hamilton is hosting a menALIVE weekend on July 30 & 31, 2016. Contact John Hockey 0439 319 823 manager@stmaryshamilton.org.au Pasquale Mammone (W/bool) 0438 247 765, pasquale_mammone@yahoo.com.au The weekend commences Saturday at 8:30am and concludes at 1:30pm on Sunday. Billed accommodation will be available. More information can be found at www.stmaryshamilton.org.au Online Bookings www.trybooking.com.au/KNVH

Christian Dances of the 13th/14th Centuries

Dance played an important part in the life and liturgy of medieval times. Dances from the Court of Alfonso the Wise of Spain and the pilgrims of Montserrat will be seen at the Art Gallery of Ballarat on Sunday, May 15, 2016 at 2.15pm, when the Rippon Lea Dancers and Early Music Consort present 'The Woman's Song'. Period costumes and instruments will be featured and soprano Erika Tandiono will perform with historic gesture. Admission to the one-hour program is \$20.00, \$40.00 family. Bookings, ph. 5320 5858 or www.artgalleryofballarat.com.au

Council for Australian Catholic Women's Colloquium 2016

The CACW Colloquium will be held this year on September 17 & 18 at Mary Mackillop Place in North Sydney. The Colloquium theme, Women as Witnesses to the Joy of the Gospel will set the scene for theological and pastoral reflection on Pope Francis' call to "create still broader opportunities for a more incisive female presence in the Church" (Evangelii Gaudium 103). The keynote addresses and workshops will examine this theme and consider the issues facing women in the family, women in the Church and women in society. Expressions of Interest can be registered on the Colloquium web-site www.cacwcolloquium.org.au



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – May 8-15

Called to proclaim the mighty acts of the Lord

The week of Prayer for Christian Unity is held each year in the week leading up to the Feast of Pentecost.

All are invited to Evening Prayer at 5.30 pm in the

Following Churches in Ballarat

Tuesday May 10th St John's Lutheran Church Doveton St,

Wednesday May 11th St Patrick's Cathedral

Thursday May 12th Uniting Church Dana St

Friday May 13th Christ Church Anglican Cathedral, Lydiard St

Each of the Churches will use the resources prepared by the National Council of Churches

Welcome back to Fr Anthony

Welcome back to Fr Anthony who will return this week from his visit to India where he has spent time with family, friends and the Salesians. Since Easter Sunday, the priests from the Cathedral parish are celebrating the weekend Masses in the parishes of Hopetoun, Nhill and Warracknabeal. Fr Neville Stanislaus is the Parish Priest of these parishes but is on compassionate leave in Canada where his mother is dying. We pray for Lourdes Stanislaus, for Neville and all of their family.

Collections Envelopes \$2,085 Parish Loose \$455.00 Presbytery \$1,904.70

Counters 8th May Team 1 Next week team 2

Parish Office hours Monday - Friday 10.00 am – 5.00 pm Phone 5331 2933



ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Clergy Frs Justin Driscoll, James Kerr, Anthony Nagothu SDB
Parish Office Jacinta Westbrook, Finance Officer Philip Westbrook
Family Ministry Anita Houlihan, Hospital Pastoral Care, Kaye Stringer
Principals St Patrick's Primary Mark Hogbin, St Thomas More Rosa Tocchet

Cathedral Parish Masses	May 14 th /15 th	Smythesdale	Skipton	Rokewood	
6.30 pm Vigil, 8.00 am,	10.30 am,	5.00 pm	7.30 pm	9.00am	10.30 am

Masses during the coming week

Monday	12.05pm Cathedral			
Tuesday	9.30am Redan	12.05 pm Cathedral		
Wednesday	9.30am Sebastopol	12.05 pm Cathedral		
Thursday	9.30am Redan	11.30 am St John of God	12.05pm Cathedral	
Friday	No Mass Sebastopol	12.05 pm Cathedral	1.30 pm Benediction	
Saturday	10.00am Cathedral			

Sacrament of Reconciliation Friday 11.00 am, Saturday 11.30 am

A Prayer for Mothers

All-loving God, we give you thanks and praise for mothers young and old. We pray for young mothers, who give life and count toes and tend to our every need; May they be blessed with patience and tenderness to care for their families and themselves with great joy. We pray for our own mothers who have nurtured and cared for us; May they continue to guide us in strong and gentle ways. We remember mothers who are separated from their children because of war, poverty, or conflict; May they feel the loving embrace of our God who wipes every tear away.

We pray for women who are not mothers but still love and shape us with motherly care and compassion. We remember mothers, grandmothers, and great-grandmothers who are no longer with us but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love. Amen