

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Ballarat

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2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)
Sunday 17th January 2016



Gospel Reflection – © Mary Coloe

Signs of Love

1 Corinthians 12:4-11; John 2:1-11

Usually in Year C, the Gospels are taken from Luke, but today, in keeping with a theme of 'beginning' we hear the first miracle story from the Gospel of John. It is a story you are probably familiar with; how Jesus was able to provide an enormous amount of very good wine for the wedding group at Cana. But this is just the surface story. The way John's Gospel works is to use these dramatic miracles as 'signs' pointing to something far deeper. We are told at the end of this scene, 'This was the first of the signs' so it is important when reading John to know that the meaning of the miracle will be hidden below the surface sign.

The Gospel was written to be understood by its audience/readers, and the writer frequently communicates the deeper meaning of his narratives using key symbols that would be familiar to the audience or readers of his time. Since this Gospel was written for an audience living towards the end of the first century familiar with the traditions and Scriptures of Israel, today's readers will need help to understand these symbols. Frequently the Gospel depends on the reader knowing an Old Testament text, either explicitly quoted, or just alluded to. Often the reader is expected to know Jewish customs or the rituals and symbols associated with Jewish festivals. Without this knowledge, the modern reader can miss the major point of a Johannine episode.

At first glance, the miracle at Cana appears to be a simple miracle story – Jesus provides abundant wine at a wedding. But a closer reading reveals far more. The steward of the feast called the bridegroom to congratulate him on the provision of such abundant good wine towards the end of the feast (2:9-10). This indicates that, at a Jewish wedding ceremony, the bridegroom had the task of providing the wine. But, in this case, it was Jesus who provided the wine and so the evangelist is giving a clue, or a sign, that *Jesus is the bridegroom* at this feast. Within the Old Testament, the image of a bridegroom and bride was frequently used to speak of the loving relationship between God and Israel, as in today's first reading (see also Hos 2:19-24; Jer 2:2) and a feast was a symbol of the covenant (Exod 24:9-11; Isa 25:6-9). In presenting Jesus as the bridegroom, John identifies Jesus as the covenanting God of Israel, now enfleshed.

Recent Deaths: Peter Conlon, Jack Costa, Basil McKay

Anniversaries: Kevin Daly, Sr Alice Driscoll RSM, Francis Gallagher, Ann Higgins, Luke Higgins, Morrie Holloway, Stephanie Mitchell, Claire Murphy, Bert Pollard, Glen Taffe

Next week's readings: *Sunday 24th January 2016* *3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)*
Nehemiah 8:2-6, 8-10 Ps 18(19):8-10, 15 1 Corinthians 12:12-30 Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21

We welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism

Archie James & Louis George Ryan	children of Bradley & Melissa
Harrison Tom Kerr	son of Jason & Carla
Phoenix Alexander Arrow	son of Jack & Yvette
Ella Angela Wilson	daughter of Stephanie
Jensen Michael Johannas Fehring	son of Steven & Caitlin



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

RCIA and RCIC Rite of Election

The Rite of Election is an important part of the process of a person's journey to full membership in the Catholic Church community and one which is greatly appreciated by all who participate. This applies to both adults and children of catechetical age. The Rite of Election for catechumens, candidates and children of catechetical age will take place on Saturday, February 13, 2016 at 12.30PM in St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat. The presider will be Bishop Paul Bird CSsR. At the conclusion of the ceremony all are invited to join the Bishop in St Patrick's Hall for a light lunch.

Communion to the sick, aged and housebound

Each week, parishioners who are unable to be at Sunday Mass because of sickness or frailty, have holy communion taken to them in their home, in hospital or aged care facility. At the Ballarat Health Services, Kaye Stringer is employed by the Cathedral Parish to minister to the Catholic patients who are in the Base Hospital. Kaye visits and ministers holy communion to those who desire to receive communion. At Gandarra (palliative care) Dorothy Ludwell takes communion to the Catholics who are there while Heather Miles visits the Jim Gay aged care unit and Talbot Place. Residents at Kallara, special accommodation facility in Alfredton, receive weekly visits with holy communion from Yvonne Beaston, Bev Caligari, Trudi Dickinson, Frances Elliott and Max Smith. For those at home, there are teams of parishioners who visit with holy communion, Julie Flett, Diane Hanlon, Sharon Moss and Lorraine Stuart are one team, while Jo Jans, Val Lange and Marie Taffe are another. Thank you to these parishioners who serve as ministers of holy communion and visitors to our parishioners who are unable to be with us in person at Mass each week. Please contact Jacinta in the Parish Office to have someone receive communion at home or in care.

World Interfaith Harmony Week

A flag raising ceremony will be held on Thursday, February 4th 2016 to mark World Interfaith Harmony Week. The ceremony will be at 11.00am in Sturt Street, Ballarat at Victoria Square, opposite the Ballarat Town Hall. Bishop Paul Bird CSsR will be in attendance and anyone else who wishes to attend would be very welcome.

Review, Reimagine, Renew: Mission making a difference in a changing world

The Catholic Social Services Victoria Conference will be held in Melbourne on February 24th – 26th at the Catholic Leadership Centre, East Melbourne. It aims to equip leaders, practitioners and supporters to set new directions wisely, make difficult decisions, and build their networks for mission-impact by informing and inspiring around the drivers and directions of change; providing valuable opportunities for reflection and spiritual development; strengthening connections and information sharing; and capacity building to create change for the common good. Leading US writer and journalist John L Allen Jr is a keynote speaker, and will lead a workshop on media engagement. Other specific content includes Catholic Social Teaching in action, and social investment for mission-impact. For more information to go <http://www.css.org.au/MissionRenew>

New Catholic Primary School in Lucas – Opening in 2017

The new Catholic School in Lucas will be the third in the Cathedral Parish with St Patrick's Drummond St and St Thomas More Alfredton. Community information evenings for the new Catholic Primary School in Lucas have created great interest from many prospective families. The new school will be designed to accommodate a long term enrolment of approximately 350-400 students and will encompass Prep/Foundation to Year 6. The position of Principal or Co-Principals for the new school has been [advertised](#) with applications closing on February 12th with a commencement expected mid-2016. The [architects Y2](#) have been appointed to master plan the site and have commenced working with the Steering committee (Frank Stuart – Cathedral Parish, Fr Justin – Governing Authority, Mark Hogbin and Rosa Tocchet – our current Parish School Principals, Brad Carr, Julie Duynhoven and Tony Perkins – Catholic Education Office Ballarat).

Mercy Connect Ballarat

Supporting refugee students in local schools. Volunteer mentors needed. Mercy Works is currently recruiting volunteers to support refugee students in Ballarat Schools through their Mercy Connect Project. The volunteer commitment is for approximately three hours per week for four school terms. Experience working in an educational setting is preferred, but you will receive ongoing training and support. Initial training for new volunteers will be held in February 2016.

Contact Paulene Barton - Mercy Connect Project Coordinator on 0417 624 330 or email:

mercyconnectb@gmail.com for information and application form.

Applications close on February 5th 2016.

Organs of the Ballarat Goldfields

Welcome to all visiting the Cathedral as part of the Twenty First Annual Festival

The festival will conclude on Sunday, January 17th with the final recital also in St Patrick's Cathedral at 8.00 pm with music from the Basilica of San Marco, Venice by The Australian Chamber Choir directed by Douglas Lawrence. Supper will be served in the Cathedral Hall following the opening closing recital.

Stewardship Time and Talent

Following from the renewal of Stewardship in the Cathedral Parish, the time and talent sheets have now been returned to the Parish office. Thank you to all who have offered themselves through the time and talent. Over the coming weeks, the coordinators of parish groups and ministries will receive those belonging to their ministry so that they can follow up with all who have offered. Several new groups and initiatives have emerged as possibilities including Social Justice & Parish Communication as well as ideas for improving our pastoral care and support at various stages of life. If you haven't had the opportunity of completing a time and talent sheet, please contact the Parish Office where your interest will be warmly welcomed.

New Stewardship Envelopes are available for collection from the Parish Office.

Collections Envelopes \$5,433.00(includes direct debits)
Parish Loose \$373.60 Presbytery \$1,917.05

Counters 17th January Team 8 Next week team 1

Masses during the coming week

Monday	12.05 pm	Cathedral			
Tuesday	9.30am	Redan	12.05 pm	Cathedral	5.30 pm Loreto Sisters
Wednesday	9.30am	Sebastopol	12.05 pm	Cathedral	
Thursday	9.30am	Redan	11.30 am	St John of God	12.05 pm Cathedral
Friday	9.30am	Sebastopol	12.05 pm	Cathedral	1.30 pm Benediction
Saturday	10.00 am	Cathedral			

Sacrament of Reconciliation 11.00 am Friday 11.30 am Saturday

Cathedral Parish Masses	January 23 rd /24 th	Snake Valley	Beaufort	Skipton
6.30 pm Vigil, 8.00 am, 10.30 am,	5.00 pm	7.30 pm Vigil	8.30am	10.30 am

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