

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Ballarat

www.stpatscathedral.weebly.com

3rd Sunday of Advent (A)

Sunday 11th December 2016



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

ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Bishop Paul Bird CSsR, Priests, Frs Justin Driscoll, James Kerr, Anthony Nagothu, Sajan Matthew

Parish Office Jacinta Westbrook, Finance Officer Jess Salazar

Family Ministry Anita Houlihan, Grounds Tony McVeigh

Cathedral Parish Pastoral Carer at Ballarat Health Services Tracy Sillekens

Principals of our three Parish Schools

[St Patrick's Primary](#) Mark Hogbin, [St Thomas More](#) Rosa Tocchet, [Siena](#) at Lucas Jo Brewer

The third Sunday of Advent used to be called Gaudete (be joyful) Sunday. It provided a mid-term break within a period of austerity or penance in preparation for Christmas. Advent is no longer celebrated as a penitential period, but rather as a reflective time of expectation and hope. The invitation to rejoice nonetheless remains part of the Advent liturgy: it is certainly present in the first reading: “the desert shall rejoice and bloom ...” (Isaiah 35:1-6, 10).

Third Sunday in Advent

Presider: Lord God, may we, your people, who look forward to the birthday of Christ experience the joy of salvation and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Lighting of the third candle, the Shepherds' candle recalls how the shepherds were told of Jesus' birth. At first they were filled with fear, but they went to Bethlehem to worship the baby Jesus, and they spread the good news of his coming.

Wait in joyful hope, a Saviour will come, Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

Wait in joyful hope, a Saviour will come. Welcome to the Word of God.

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Next week's readings: Sunday 18th December 2016 4th Sunday of Advent (A)

Isaiah 7:10-14

Ps 23:1-6. R. see vv 7. 10

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-24

Anniversaries: George & Betsie Clark, Ronald Leslie Edgar, Ronald Mark Edgar, Peg Giuliano, Kevin Lang, Frank McArdle, Jim Power, Ljubomir Saric, Christopher Smith.

Morning Tea following 10.30am Mass today in the hall. All welcome.

Making a Scene at Christmas

A display of Christmas Nativity scenes will be held in St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Ballarat from December 15th –18th. If you are able to volunteer an hour at any of the displays, please leave your name at the Cathedral Office, phone 5331 2933.

St Vincent de Paul Society Jesse Tree Christmas Appeal 2016

The Cathedral Parish Conference of the Society will again be distributing hampers this Christmas. Last Christmas over 100 families and individuals were supported as a result of the generosity of Cathedral parishioners. Jesse Tree symbols will be distributed after each Mass in Advent. Your support our Jesse Tree Appeal through the donation of non-perishable food items is again being asked for. *The Cathedral Parish thanks the Conference members for such great service*

Working Bee

To prepare the Cathedral for the Christmas celebrations a working bee will be held on Monday 19th December following 12.05 pm Mass. All assistance will be greatly appreciated. All welcome!

Carols in the Cathedral

The Service of Carols will take place in our Cathedral on Friday December 23rd from 7.30 pm. Music by: Regina Caeli Choristers, St Patrick's Cathedral Choir, Vox Vocal Ensemble, Victoria Welsh Male Choir, Creswick Brass Band, Guest organist – Mr Leigh Askew, Christ the King, Anglican Cathedral Choir Ballarat. Bishop Paul Bird will preside at the Service.

Practise Mass of Renewal – Gloria

Anyone interested in learning the Gloria for Christmas there will be a practice after 5.00pm Mass on Sunday 18th December.

OLHC Parish Wendouree Christmas Day Lunch

12.00 Midday -2.00pm (Meal at 12.30pm) OLHC Parish Hall 482 Gillies St. Wendouree
Book Early as Numbers are Limited Phone 0419 975 914

Celebrating Reconciliation in Advent 2nd Rite Thursday December 15th 7.00 pm

St Vincent de Paul Piety Shop Christmas Card packs & Columban Calendars are now available

From Bach to Bing Concert in the Cathedral

Concert featuring David Hobson & Georgia Wilkinson, St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat Wednesday 14th December at 7.00 pm. Tickets Adults \$55, concession/children \$45 available from Her Majesty's Ph: 5333 5888 or www.hermaj.com

BDSJC: Who is coming for Christmas Dinner?

In September the Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement was titled '**A Place at the Table**' *Social Justice in an Aging Society*. In responding to this statement the Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission is asking the families in our Ballarat Diocesan community to consider whether there might be an extra place at their Christmas dinner table for an elderly relative, friend or neighbour who may otherwise be spending Christmas Day alone.

Counters 11th December Team 4 Next week Team 5

Cathedral Parish Masses	December 17th/18th	Smythesdale	Skipton	Rokewood
6.30 pm Vigil, 8.00 am,	10.30 am, 5.00 pm	6.30 pm Vigil	9.00am	10.30 am

Masses during the coming week

Monday	12.05 pm Cathedral			
Tuesday	12.05 pm Cathedral	5.30 pm Loreto Sisters	6.00 pm St Thomas More	
Wednesday	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		
Saturday	10.00am Cathedral			

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Thursday 7.00pm (2nd Rite of the Sacrament)
Friday 11.00 am, Saturday 11.30 am

Morning Prayer of the Church

8.00 am Tuesday – Friday in the Cathedral

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Monday & Tuesday 10.00 am – 11.45 am, Friday 12.30pm

Christmas Masses

St Patrick's Cathedral

Christmas Eve	6.30 pm,	9.00 pm,	12.00 Midnight
Christmas Day	8.00 am,	10.30 am,	12.00 Midday (Syro-Malabar Rite, Indian Mass)

St Peter's Parish Linton & St John the Baptist Beaufort

Christmas Eve	Skipton	6.00 pm,	Smythesdale 7.30 pm,
	Beaufort	8.00 pm	
	Snake Valley	9.00pm,	Rokewood 9.00pm
Christmas Day	Linton	9.00 am	

This past week there has been much activity around the Cathedral Parish. The events held highlight much that happens all year including regular opportunities for worship and prayer. **Yes Youth** held their final gathering for the year in the hall on Sunday evening with 40 young people participating. On Tuesday the new Parish School in Lucas, **Siena Catholic Primary School**, held their orientation day in the Cathedral hall for the 70 children enrolled to commence in January 2017. The **Legion of Mary** held a lunch with speakers who offered their experience on the Proclaim Conference held in Sydney in September 2016 about evangelisation. On Tuesday evening **St Patrick's Primary School** held their end of year Mass in the Cathedral followed by a graduation ceremony and celebration in the Cathedral Hall. On Wednesday the members of the **Catholic Women's League** gathered for the 12.05 pm Mass followed by their end of year lunch together at the Golf House Hotel. On Wednesday evening, in glorious weather conditions, the members of the **St Vincent de Paul** Conference held their end of year bbq in the Cathedral grounds while the **RCIA** catechumens and candidates gathered in the smaller hall for their formation session on Prayer which Bishop Paul led. On Thursday morning the playgroup and **Godstart** (supporting families after baptism) came together in the Cathedral Hall for a special pre-Christmas get together and end of year celebration, while the entire staff of **Centacare** from across the Ballarat Diocese met in the smaller hall. The Advent **Anointing Mass** was held in the Cathedral Hall on Friday at the 12.05 pm Mass followed by a wonderful parish lunch. On Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings the St Vincent de Paul Relief centre was operating out of the Dawson St end of the smaller hall and Mass was celebrated in the Cathedral each day including Thursday's feast of the Immaculate Conception. The **counters** came during the week to count the collections and the **Church cleaners** were in throughout the week to clean the Cathedral while the environment team on kept the advent spirit alive in the Cathedral.

All of these events, gatherings, meetings and ministries highlight the importance of people in the Cathedral Parish who are seeking to do what Pope Francis says that a parish is called to do. In his Apostolic Exhortation *The Joy of the Gospel* he says "*The parish is the presence of the Church in a given territory, an environment for hearing God's word, for growth in the Christian life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration. In all its activities the parish encourages and trains its members to be evangelizers. It is a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a centre of constant missionary outreach.*"