

# St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Ballarat

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Year A – 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2022



## Cathedral Clergy:

Fr Ed Moloney  
Fr Abraham Thomas  
Fr Jim McKay

## Visiting Priests:

Fr Dan Arundell  
Fr Barry Ryan

## Parish Admin:

Tony Beggs

## Finance Officer:

Kerrie McTigue

## Sacraments:

Tony Beggs

## Safeguarding Officer:

Tony Beggs

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<https://www.facebook.com/patricks.cathedral.9/>

**Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday, 10.00am – 5.00pm**

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.

\* \* \*

*St Patrick's Cathedral Parish acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather, the Wadawurrung People of the Kulin nation. We recognise their heritages, their cultures and their continuing connection to land and community, and we pay respects to elders past, present and emerging.*

*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.*

## Readings this week: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Year A (18<sup>th</sup> December)

**First:** Isaiah 7:10-14

**Second:** Romans 1:1-7

**Gospel:** Matthew 1:18-24

## Readings next week: Christmas Day (Nativity of the Lord) (25<sup>th</sup> December)

**First:** Isaiah 52:7-10

**Second:** Hebrews 1:1-6

**Gospel:** John 1:1-18

## RECENT DEATHS:



Eileen Corrigan, Bernadette Glenane, Boris Skontra,  
Nora O'Keefe, Jeannie Sculley

## ANNIVERSARIES:

Ian Bartlett, William Bird, Terrance Bastian, Father James Caise, Maureen Carr,  
Frances Coughlan, Catherine Mary DeGraaff, Thomas Donohue,  
Christiaan Ducardus, James Goodwin, William Hardbottle, Thomas Heaney,  
Mary Hehir, John Higgins, Stanislaw Lewashkewicz, Michael Lourey, Shirley Madden,  
Francis McCarthy, Isobell McInerney, Valma Meagher, Stephen Mills,  
Kathleen Murphy, Lillian Murphy, Thomas Ratcliffe, Bridget Rousch,  
Angelina Seehusen, Isabelle Sherritt, Marie Thomson, Betty Turner,  
Franciscus Vanderkley

## BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND

We welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism:



**Charles Lawrence Parker** child of Luke and Rachael

**Maisie Louise Hart** child of Kane and Monyeon

**Lexi Carmel McNamara** child of Craig and Kristin

**Angus Sullivan** child of Kieran and Elise

**Emily Anne & James Fraser Burgett** children of Catherine and Greg

**Banksia Sullivan Lahey** child of Paul and Shauna

*"The Church gives the faith to your children through Baptism and you have the task to make it grow..." Pope Francis.*

### A Parish Thank You.

Grateful thanks is extended to all our Parishioners who gave of their time and talents in providing delicious cakes and wonderful sweets for our Parish luncheon following the Mass with Anointing last Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. To all who assisted with the preparations and presentation your generous support was a truly wonderful experience of Parish. Thank you also to Father Ed and Father Abraham for your Priestly Ministry on this occasion.

### Christmas Mass Times:

Christmas Masses will be celebrated in the Cathedral at the following times.

**December 24<sup>th</sup> 6.00 pm; 9.00 pm & Midnight.**

**December 25<sup>th</sup> 8.00 am & 10.30 am.**

The Liturgy Committee is seeking members of the Parish to provide ministry at each of these Christmas Liturgies.

### Sacrament of Reconciliation:

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) will be available after the 10am Masses this week on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> and Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Rite of Election 2023:** Saturday, February 25, 2023 at 12.30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat. Lunch will follow in the Hall.

**Mass of the Oils 2023:** Monday, April 3, 2023 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 6.30pm. Supper will follow in the Hall.

### Simbang Gabi

Simbang Gabi is a Filipino Christmas tradition and it is also the spiritual preparation for Christmas and commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ. It is a series of nine Masses on the days leading up to Christmas, which will be **continuing** at St Alipius Parish Church, Victoria Street, Ballarat East: Saturday, December 17 at 8.00pm (NB: change of time); Sunday, December 18 at 7.00pm; Monday, December 19 at 7.00pm; Tuesday, December 20 at 7.00pm; Wednesday, December 21 at 7.00pm; Thursday, December 22 at 7.00pm; Friday, December 23 at 7.00pm with a shared Christmas dinner in the hall to follow. If you have any questions/need further information, please contact Fr Eladio, ph. 0450 017 007 or Dion, ph. 0427 876 553. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### OLHC Parish Wendouree Christmas Day Lunch

OLHC Parish Wendouree volunteers are hosting lunch on Christmas Day in the Parish Hall, 482 Gillies Street, Wendouree from 12.00noon – 2.00pm. Bookings are essential as seating is limited, ph. 0419 975914. Transport to the Hall is available. If you are able to volunteer on this day, please phone the number listed to register your availability. Flyer in foyer.

## REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL - 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A

### (MATTHEW 1:18-24)

One of my friends asked me what I would like for Christmas. “Nothing” was my immediate response. “I just want to be with community and family and friends, especially those who would otherwise be alone”. Being with others in joy or sorrow or in the humdrum of life is probably the best gift we can offer and the best gift we can receive. It is not always possible to be present in person and we are well aware that “being-with” is not restricted to physical presence. There is a sense in which those we love are always with us and we are always with them, even when the demands of life and our work or ministry choices separate us geographically. Real friends are “with-us” even in our absence and “being-with” in spirit or in person is closely allied with “being-for”. Today's gospel affirms “being-with” as God's Christmas gift to us. It calls us to search out ways of being with and for those outside our immediate circle, particularly those affected by war or by climate distress.

The first chapter of Matthew's gospel tells us that the expected child Messiah or Christ-child is “God-with-us”, Emmanuel. The gospel will conclude with the assurance of the resurrected Christ, “And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matt 28:20). As we celebrate the successive liturgical seasons in the coming year, we shall have the opportunity to enter into the gospel story of God-with-us and with all of creation, and to live out the pattern of the Christ story more fully in our lives.

There is no angelic annunciation to Mary in Matthew's gospel, no embrace of an expectant mother. There is no inn or innkeeper, no shepherds or shepherds' fields. These are all features of Luke's tableau. Matthew brings different features and different characters to centre stage. Chief among Matthew's characters is Joseph who, like Joseph of old, receives God's revelation in a series of dreams. The angelic announcement in today's gospel is to Joseph: he is not to be afraid but is to accept the extraordinary ways of God which will bring salvation for God's people. Joseph trusts the word of God's messenger: he abandons his own plans and lives by faith in God.

If we try to harmonise the different gospel accounts of the events surrounding the birth of Jesus, we may lose some of the wondrous mystery of the feast we celebrate. If, on the other hand, we attend to the awesome truth that God is with us, then we might be more attentive to how we are with one another. We may also come to acknowledge our presence or “being-with” as a precious Christmas gift. Those who distance themselves from the community of life run the risk of succumbing to fear and of losing the joy in living. Acceptance of the truth that God is with us has the potential to drive out fear and to draw us into the deepest mysteries of life.

– Veronica Lawson RSM

### **Morning tea after 10.30am Mass this Sunday**

The monthly post-Mass morning tea will be held following the 10.30am Mass, Sunday 18 December. All welcome! Come along to the Glowrey & Mackillop rooms (behind the hall) for a cuppa and some home baking.

### **Praying with Pope Francis**

The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) is an international movement that is more than 170 years old. Each month, the Pope puts forward a prayer intention and asks Catholics around the world to join him in prayer. These intentions cover all sorts of areas of life, encouraging faith, renewing hope and calling us to loving service. Praying each month 'The Pope Video' forms part of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network – view at [www.thepopevideo.org](http://www.thepopevideo.org).

**Pope's intention for December:** For volunteer not-for-profit organisations: We pray that volunteer non-profit organisations committed to human development, find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

### **ST JOHN OF GOD HOSPITAL**

Masses at St John of God Hospital have recommenced. Mass is celebrated every Wednesday at 1.00pm. All are welcome.

### **PARISH CALENDAR THIS WEEK**

#### **Tuesday**

7.00pm – Life in the Spirit  
(MacKillop/Glowrey Room)

#### **Wednesday**

1.30pm Legion of Mary

### **PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS**

Thank you for contributing to the Cathedral collections this week:

**First Collection** - \$1,937.90  
(Presbytery - Priest support)

**Second Collection** - \$2,485.00

(Parish – buildings, office, admin, grounds and maintenance, including envelopes, credit cards and direct debits)

## **WEEKDAY MASSES**

**Monday** – 10.00am

**Tuesday** – 7.00am  
Requiem Mass - Boris Skontra 10.00am

**Wednesday** – 7.00am, 10.00am

**Thursday** – 7.00am, 10.00am

**Friday** – 12.05pm  
(Reconciliation at 11.00am until midday)

**Saturday** – 10.00am

## **WEEKEND MASSES**

**Saturday** 6.30pm Vigil  
**Sunday** 8.00am, 10.30am, 5.00pm

## **DEVOTIONS**

**Monday-Saturday** Morning Prayer 7.30am

**Monday-Friday** Evening Prayer 5.00pm

**Monday/Tuesday** after 10.00am Mass  
Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet

**Wednesday** after Mass Litany to St Joseph  
Holy Hour & Benediction 7.00pm – 8.00pm

**Thursday** after 10.00am Mass – Rosary &  
Divine Mercy Devotion

**Friday** after 12.05pm Mass  
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
Silent Prayer

\*changes may occur due to Funerals/Liturgical events.

A Reminder from Bishop Paul Bird CSsR:

**During this time of pandemic:**

**Communion should be received in the hand  
rather than on the tongue.  
No sharing of the chalice.**

### **Reverence for The Sacrament of the Eucharist**

All the faithful are required to have utmost respect and reverence for the Eucharist (Holy Communion) while receiving it. Recently, Consecrated Hosts were neglected and found at the back of the Cathedral under the seats. Communion needs to be consumed immediately after it is received. The Host cannot be carried away from the Altar.