Cathedral Church of Christ the King

The Anglican Church of Australia

Diocese of Ballarat



49 Lydiard St South Ballarat, Victoria

Acting Dean

The Right Rev'd Garry Weatherill Bishop of Ballarat

Contact Information

PO Box 89 Ballarat Vic 3350

Office Ph 03 5331 1183

Email thecathedral@ ballaratanglican.org.au

Web www.ballaratanglican.org.au

Welcome to the Cathedral.

Please take this booklet
with you.

If you are new or visiting and want more information, please complete our Welcome Card

Patronal Celebration Feast of Christ the King



Celebrant & Preacher

The Rt. Revd. Garry Weatherill Bishop of Ballarat and Acting Dean

Sunday 22nd November 2020 10am

We welcome you to the Cathedral today

A special welcome to visitors and those attending for the first time.

We are **strictly adhering to the COVID19 requirements and restrictions**. As a result, please note the following:

- 1. Kindly sanitise your hands BEFORE entering and BEFORE leaving the Cathedral.
- 2. You must register preferably before attending any our services by giving your name and contact details.
- 3. You are encouraged to switch on their COVID-19 app on their mobile phones.
- 4. Kindly keep to the 1.5m distance between people from different households at all times. This means no physical contact during the greeting of peace or greeting one another before and after the service by those of different households.
- 5. Communion will be in one kind only.
- 6. There will be no offertory procession. The collection bowl will be placed at the entrance of the Cathedral, next to an usher who will greet you at the door. Please consider making your offering by direct debit.
- 7. Crosses on the floor and on the pews are there to help you keep the distance required.
- 8. The order of service will be printed. Please take it with you when you go and recycle it at home.
- 9. Unfortunately, no refreshments or food will be served after the services.

The words in the bold print are said by all.

Should you wish to support our ministry electronically instead of using cash, please make a direct transfer to the "Christ Church Cathedral" account at:

Commonwealth Bank BSB: 063502 A/C number: 10516638

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Eucharistic Setting:

Cover Page Credit: https://www.ebay.com/itm/Medium-14-Christ-the-King-Crucifix-/202761995450

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This Cathedral acknowledges the Wadawurrung people who are the traditional custodians of this land and pays respect to the elders past and present of the Great Kulin nation who may be present and extends that respect to other Aboriginal people present.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Please stand when the bell is rung.

GREETING & WELCOME

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

SENTENCE FOR THE DAY

O shout to the Lord in triumph all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness and come before his face with songs of joy.

Psalm 100.1

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

KYRIE ELEISON (Lord have mercy)

Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.** Christ have mercy. **Christ have mercy.** Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy**.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The Spirit of truth comes to convict of sin, of righteousness, and of judgement.

Silence may be kept.

Let us then open our hearts and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Merciful God, our maker and our judge, we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, and in what we have failed to do: we have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves; we repent, and are sorry for all our sins. Father, forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith, pardon you and set you free from all your sins, strengthen you to do his will, and keep you in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, Almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen

COLLECT

Let us pray.

God of power and love, who raised your Son Jesus from death to life, resplendent in glory to rule over all creation: free the world to rejoice in his peace, to glory in his justice, and to live in his love. Unite the human race in Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Ezekiel 34. 11-16, 20-24 Please sit

A reading from Ezekiel chapter 34 beginning at verse 11.

For thus says the Lord GoD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak

animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 100



- Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.
 Serve the Lord with gladness.
 Come before God singing for joy.
- Know that the Lord is God who made us to whom we belong, We are God's people, the sheep of the flock.
- 3. Go in the temple gates giving thanks. Enter the courts with songs of praise. Give thanks to God and bless the Lord's name.
- 4. See then how good is the Lord, whose love is eternally strong. God is faithful from age to age.

Music by Christopher Willcock b. 1947.

SECOND READING Ephesians 1. 15-23

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians, chapter 1 beginning at verse 15.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING Matthew 25. 31-46 Please stand

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew, chapter 25 beginning at verse 31.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and vou did not welcome me, naked and vou did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we

saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

SERMON Please sit.

Please refer to Bishop's Sermon via Facebook or Youtube if you are participating with us remotely.

PROFESSION OF FAITH Please stand

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church:

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with

the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us with confidence present our prayers and supplications to the throne of grace.

The intercessions will be led by one of our congregation members. The response to the petitions

We pray for all those in positions of power, that they may govern with wisdom and integrity, serving the needs of their people. May your reign come;

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for the Church, the sign of your reign, that it may extend your welcome to people of every race and background. Help us to be your beacon of faith. May your kingdom come;

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for this congregation, as we remember your promise that when two or three are gathered in your name you are there in the midst of us and we may come to understand the royal priesthood you bestowed on us in baptism.

May your dominion come;

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for those whose commitment to truth brings them into conflict with earthly powers, that they may have the courage to endure. May your rule come; Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for this community of faith, that attentive to your word we may always worship in spirit and in truth. May your reign come; Lord, hear our prayer.

Loving God, you have taught us that the power of the heart is greater than the power of wealth and might. Hear us as we pray for the fulfilment of your reign. We ask this through Jesus Christ our King; to him be glory and power for ever.

Amen.

if you are participating with us remotely Please spend some time in silence and intercession prayers. Please <u>refer to page 17</u> for prayer points and this simple prayer during this time of COVID-19

Gracious and Loving God, bless the people of the Diocese of Ballarat and the communities of western Victoria. Guard all our people. Guide our leaders. Teach us to exercise our freedoms with responsibility for all our neighbours. Bless us with hope and peace, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

The priest will conclude the intercessions by saying

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers. Grant that what we have asked in faith we may by your grace receive, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GREETING OF PEACE Please stand

We are the body of Christ.

His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Due to the current restrictions, you may be "creative" in exchanging a sign of peace while maintaining social distancing restrictions.

Please sit while the altar is prepared for the Eucharist

HYMN - NEH 140 Holy Spirit, come confirm us (ALL FOR JESUS)

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Holy God, pour upon the poverty of our offerings the riches of your grace, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, make yourself known to us in broken bread and wine that is shared.

Blessed be God for ever.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

You are invited to stand throughout the Prayer of Great Thanksgiving, as members of God's family gathered around the Altar. Should you want to kneel, then please do so after the said Sanctus & Benedictus 'Holy, Holy, Holy Lord'

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right to praise you, faithful God, always and everywhere, for with your only begotten Son and life-giving Spirit, you are the one true God from everlasting to everlasting.

At the dawn of time you wrought from nothing a universe of beauty and splendour, bringing light from darkness and order from chaos. You formed us, male and female, in your image, and endowed us with creative power.

We turned away from you but you did not abandon us. You called us by name and searched us out, making a covenant of mercy, giving the law, and teaching justice by the prophets.

And so we praise you, joining with your faithful people of every time and place, singing the eternal song:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

When the fullness of time was come, you sent your Son to be born of Mary. Bright image of your glory, he learnt obedience to you in all things, even to death on a cross, breaking the power of evil, freeing us from sin, and putting death to flight. You raised him from death, exalting him to glory, and the new day dawned.

On the night he was betrayed your Son Jesus Christ shared food with his friends, his companions on the way. While at table he took bread, blessed, and broke it, and giving it to them, said: 'Take, eat; this is my body.' He took a cup of wine, and, giving thanks, he gave it to them, and said, 'This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Do this in remembrance of me.'

Therefore, living God, as we obey his command, we remember his life of obedience to you, his suffering and death, his resurrection and exaltation, and his promise to be with us for ever. With this bread and this cup we celebrate his saving death until he comes.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Accept, we pray, our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and our celebration that all who eat and drink at this table may be strengthened by Christ's body and blood to serve you in the world.

As one body and one holy people, may we proclaim the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, eternal God, now and for ever.

Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray;

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

Deliver us, Lord, from every evil, and grant us your peace in our day. In your mercy keep us free from sin and protect us from all anxiety as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ. We who are many are one body for we all share in the one bread.

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us your peace

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

Draw near with faith, to feed on Christ in your hearts with thanksgiving.

Please come forward to receive Holy Communion or a blessing. The Anglican Communion welcomes members of other Christian Churches to receive Holy Communion with us if they receive the Sacrament in their own church.

COMMUNION MUSIC King of Glory

by John Marsh b 1939

if you are participating with us remotely

Act of Spiritual Communion at home – St Alphonsus Ligouri

At this time, we cannot receive you Lord Jesus sacramentally in the Eucharist. Help us to welcome you spiritually as we wait for the day when your saving Sacrifice will be offered and the divine Banquet will be spread in our churches once more.

You are the Lamb of God who take away the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof. But only say the word and I shall be healed.

My Jesus, come to me. I long for you; let me always be at one with you.

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION Please stand

Gracious God, we thank you that in this sacrament you assure us of your goodness and love. Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving and help us to grow in love and obedience that we may serve you in the world and finally be brought to that table where all your saints feast with you for ever.

Father, we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.

Notices and announcements

THE BLESSING & DISMISSAL

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ, Amen.

POSTLUDE MUSIC

Crown Imperial

by William Walton 1902-1983

Please remain standing for the procession from the Church. You are welcome to **leave quietly during the postlude**.

If you are here for the first time and would like further contact from the Cathedral clergy, please complete the Welcome card available at the back of the Cathedral and hand it to one of the ushers or to the clergy.

For Your Prayers

The World: We pray for...

- Peace and calmness following various political turmoils especially in Thailand, Uganda, Peru and Middle East.
- World leaders to work together and support the various organisations who are in search for COVID19 vaccine.

The Church: We pray for...

- Pray for the Church of Bermuda (Extra-Provincial to the Archbishop of Canterbury)
 The Rt. Revd Nicholas Dill – Bishop of Bermuda.
- The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council.
- The Parish of Stawell and the Revd Heather Scott.
- Pre & Post Ordination Training: Fr Constantine Osuchukwu, Fr Peter Treloar & Bishop Garry Weatherill.
- Our Sister Diocese of Aipo Rongo, especially the people of Mt Hagen.
- The Koori communities within the Diocese.

The Community: We pray for...

• For teachers and students as they approach their end of year studies and examinations.

Those who have asked for our prayers: We pray for...

Gary, Pauline, Fr Peter, Anna, Tom, Roger, Sarah, Annette, Kevin, Mike, Ian, Andrew, Craig, Dianne, Winsome, Sarah, Luke, Caroline, Adrian, Josephine, John, Chris, Brenda, Ann, Lucas *and for all those known to us who are sick or suffering.*

Thanksgiving for those who have died recently:

Year's Mind: Rupert Pearson, Mary Gardner, Alice Valpied, & Susan Quennell *whose anniversaries occur at this time.*

Prayer for a new Dean

Bountiful God, give to this Cathedral a faithful pastor who will faithfully speak your word and minister your sacraments; an encourager who will equip your people for ministry and enable us to fulfil our calling. Give to those who will choose, wisdom, discernment and patience, and to us give warm and generous hearts, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

Notices & Announcements

Due to the current restrictions, the Cathedral is opened during these hours:

Mondays to Fridays
Holy Eucharist – 12.10pm
Mondays to Thursdays
Evening Prayer – 5pm
Sundays

Holy Eucharist (BCP) – 8am Holy Eucharist with music – 10am Holy Eucharist – 5pm (until further notice)

With great anticipation we are waiting for the next round of announcements from the Premier, Daniel Andrews on 22nd Nov 2020. Following his announcement and after obtaining further information from Bishop and the Registry, we will communicate the information during the week via email, Facebook and our Diocesan website. Meanwhile, please continue with "booking a pew" until further notice. To make a booking,

PLEASE CALL REGISTRY: 03 5331 1183 OR EMAIL: thecathedral@ballaratanglican.org.au

PLEASE HELP - ABM Mission

Following an extensive research, the Cathedral Council unanimously agreed to support the Anglican Board of Mission's 'Kenya - Disability Inclusion Project'. We aim to raise a contribution of \$2,000 to this fund by 22nd November 2020, the date of the Feast of Christ the King. May I encourage you to contribute as generously as you can towards this worthy project. Donations can be made either though the mission envelopes or by direct electronic transfer to the Cathedral identifying the payment as 'Eldoret'

Christmas Baking- Have you placed your orders for Christmas with Lois? So far, we have received over \$500 worth of orders mainly from people outside our Cathedral (thanks to the aggressive advertisement by Carolyn!)

It is still not too late to place an order with Lois. She can be contacted through phone – 03 5336 1094 or 0407 051 952. Please call or SMS to place orders.

- Fruit Cakes 3 sizes \$10, \$15, \$20
- Mini Fruit Cakes \$4
- Fruit Mince Pies (6 per pack) \$5
- Mini Plum Puddings \$6
- Shortbreads (6 per pack) \$5

Notices & Announcements

Zoom In-To Pray - TWO MORE TO GO!

We have been consistent with this new venture and on a weekly basis we have an average of 14 attendees who are continuously encouraged and spiritually nourished. If you have not joined us before, why not try us for the next 2 weeks?

Zoom In-To Pray: EVERY WED. @ 11AM

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81422920172?pwd=bmJocG5vak12NkpNa2V1MlpIcTdk0T09

Meeting ID: 814 2292 0172 Passcode: 6wQrrJ **Zoom In-To Pray: EVERY WED.** @ **7.30PM**

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86180534088?pwd=YnYyajZ5L1g1SWZucVJVUktrVXd2UT09

Meeting ID: 861 8053 4088 Passcode: 2VwCdF

Clergy Retreat

Bishop (retreat leader) and I attended our 1st Virtual Clergy Retreat last week. The Bishop used the story of Jacob, brought his own personal experiences during the six addresses and encouraged the clergy to further reflect on their journey as a clergy and Christian. It was very encouraging, enriching and stimulating. Not forgetting, we were also listened to Zach Williams and Dolly Parton's, There was Jesus. Country music may not be your cuppa but listen to the lyrics. Google it! - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VZXRIw5uBuY

This is a prayer that was shared by the Bishop and it was read more than 12 times during the retreat. Perhaps, you may want to read it meditatively! The Anima Christi is a beautiful and poetic Communion prayer dating to the 14th century. It is commonly prayed before or after receiving the Body and Blood of Iesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.

JESUS, may all that is you flow into me.

May your body and blood

be my food and drink.

May your passion and death

be my strength and life.

Jesus, with you at my side

enough has been given.

May the shelter I seek

be the shadow of your cross.

Let me not run from the love you offer, but hold me safe from the forces of evil.

On each of my dyings

shed your light and your love.

Keep calling to me until that day comes,

when with all your saints I may praise you forever. Amen

Cathedral Directory

Bishop of Ballarat

The Right Reverend Garry Weatherill

Acting Dean

The Bishop

Cathedral Office:

thecathedral@ballaratanglican.org.au

Assistant Curates

The Revd. Martin Nadarajan

0430 003 519

The Revd. Christine Angus

0409 217 321

Associate Clergy

The Revd. Wayne Dorning The Revd. Graham Reynolds

0407 107 165

The Revd. Roger Dyer Br Neal Salan OP

The Revd. David Bol Bichok

Cathedral Council

(Meet 3rd Tuesday of the Month)

Secretary: Euan Thompson Treasurer: Gillian Canavan

Serving Team Coordinator John Rowlands 0413 955 279

Sacristan

Carole Cracknell

Pew Sheet Editor

Mary Mitchell

Roster Clerk

TBA

Director of Music

Lyndell Allen

Organist

Leigh Askew

Organist Emeritus

Jeffrey Batch

Cathedral Shop

Lois Byrnes 5336 1094

Parish Recorder

Wayne Mitchell 5338 1742

Floral Coordinator

Carol Greenwood 0412 55 83 44

Praver Chain

Norma Coffield 0418 515 668

Web Page

www.ballaratanglican.org.au

Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/ballaratangl

<u>icancathedral</u>

Diocesan Office

9am-5pm Mon-Fri 5331 1183

Electronic Offertory contributes can be made online:

A/C: Christ Church Cathedral

BSB: 063502

A/C number: 10516638

Readings for 29.11.2020 -First Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Isaiah 64. 1-9

Psalm: Psalm 80. 1-7, 17-19

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1. 1-9 Gospel: Mark 13. 24-37

Your Cathedral

A cathedral is the seat of the bishop and a centre of worship and mission. The primary purpose of a cathedral is to be a place of Christian worship, reaching out as a significant centre for the heritage, culture, spiritual and community life of the city it serves. Cathedrals are the mother churches of their dioceses and act as focal points for services and celebrations for those worshipping in churches throughout the diocese.

In this Diocese, it is governed in accordance with The Diocesan Centre Act 1989 - 2002 which defines the Cathedral as "The Cathedral is the Mother Church of the Diocese: it is the symbol and centre of diocesan unity, from which the Bishop exercises his ministry as teacher, pastor and overseer." The English tradition has distinguished in the past two types of Cathedrals, Dean and Chapter Cathedrals and Parish Cathedrals. This is no longer the case in England, but in Australia, all Cathedrals are run as Parish Cathedrals, i.e. there is a Cathedral congregation that is recognised as a parish in its own right.

Besides the Bishop and Dean, our Cathedral also has Cathedral Canons, six lay and six clerical, plus a Canon Theologian. These also are appointed by the Bishop. They make up a body called The Chapter, run by the Dean, which also includes the Archdeacons of the Diocese and the Chancellor of the Diocese. The Chapter meets four times a year and exercises a "consultative role in relation to matters affecting Christ Church Cathedral and the role of the Cathedral within the Diocese."

Like a Parish Council, the Cathedral is managed by the Cathedral Council, consisting of: The Bishop (who is the Chair but can direct the Dean to be the Chair), the Dean, the Archdeacon of Ballarat, the Bishop's Registrar, three lay members of the congregation, two lay communicants appointed by the Dean, four lay communicants appointed by Bishop-in-Council, any clergyman on the staff. All appointed members hold office for span of each Session of Synod (usually three years).

Congregational giving mainly finances the Cathedral. There are some trusts and endowments that contribute, along with the Diocese which contributes to Diocesan events held at the Cathedral. The Cathedral also, like all parishes, has the use of the Diocesan Centre which is owned and run by the Diocese.

The name 'cathedral' is derived from the Latin word 'cathedra' which means 'chair'. A church which contains the official chair, seat or throne of a bishop is called a cathedral. When a new bishop takes up his duties, he is enthroned during a service in the cathedral church. The relationship between bishops and their cathedrals is a close one.

The cathedral, as the seat of the bishop, is the mother Church of a diocese, the area under the bishop's supervision. Many diocesan services and events, such as ordinations, confirmations and services to mark major festivals, are held at the cathedral and members of churches within the diocese come to the cathedral to attend such services and to gather together. Unlike a parish church, it is quite usual for the Cathedral to have members of other parishes attending the Cathedral regularly and helping out with its work. Like a parish church, it is also a centre of prayer and teaching, worship and spirituality, as well as a springboard for mission and outreach into the world.

Food for Thought

How can we support the work of the Cathedral further especially during these times?

What can we do differently and creatively to engage the city?

Have you invited someone to the Cathedral before?