

St Columba's Parish - Ballarat North

306 Gregory St, Ballarat North Phone: 5331 7131 or after hours emergency: 0417 168716

Office Hours: Wednesday/Thursday 8.30am - 4.00pm

Email: office@stcolumbasparish.org or pastoral@stcolumbasparish.org

Parish Web: ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au School Web: scballarat.catholic.edu.au



Mass Times: Saturday Vigil: 6pm
Sunday: 10am
Wednesday: 9.30am

Supervising Priest: Fr Peter Sherman

Priest in Residence: Fr. Barry Ryan

Pastoral Leader: Judith O'Sullivan

Parish Secretary: Genevieve Willmott

Leadership Chair: Colleen Wakefield

School Principal: Kim Butler

Sixth Sunday of Easter 1st May, 2016

Deaths: Raffale Daniele, Lorna Nihill, Garry Madigan, Fr Cyril Blake, John King, David Leahy and Troy Connelly

Anniversaries: Mark Ryan, Michael Ryan, Mary-Elizabeth Fitzpatrick, Barry McNamara, Veronica McNamara, Kevin Keys, Rosemary O'Loughlin

MINISTRY ROSTERS

If you are currently on the Ministry Roster and wish to be removed, it is important you let the Parish Office know otherwise you will continue to be rostered on.

If you are currently not named on any rosters but would like to be, please contact the Parish Office or add your name to the clipboard in the church foyer.

COMMUNION

If you are unable to process up to communion but would like to receive communion, please raise your hand towards the end of communion and a special minister will come to you.

CARING

A group of twelve volunteers met once again last week. Our aim is to provide support to any of our parishioners who may need some extra help, or just a visit. Our only means of communication is by word of mouth, so we ask if you know of someone, or if you yourself requires help, please contact Judith at the Parish Office on ph: 5331 7131. If anyone is interested in visiting (as required) we would love to hear from you also. Thank you.



Baptisms

Congratulations to **Reese Mae O'Brien**, daughter of Deidre and Daniel and **James Thomas Norman**, son of Kylie and Gavin. Our newest members to join St. Columba's Parish Community will be baptised this Sunday morning. We congratulate Reese and James on becoming members of God's family.

ANNUAL MASS COUNT

Our Annual Mass Count will commence this weekend and take place for the next four weeks.

PROJECT COMPASSION

Could you please return your Project Compassion Box/Envelopes urgently. A box has been provided in the foyer near the collection boxes or you can add your envelope/box to the second collection. Thank you for your generous contribution.



LOST & FOUND

A piece of jewelry has been handed in to the Parish Office which was found in the church last weekend. If it belongs to you, please contact the Parish Office to organise collection.

We are Eucharistic people, who love, pray, serve, hope and follow Jesus

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The St. Vincent de Paul Society are seeking new members who would like to help with the "bread run" once a fortnight on Sunday evenings from 7pm until 8.30pm. If you can help, please contact Max Hughes ph: 5338 8382.

SCHOOL MOTHER'S DAY / SPECIAL FRIEND LITURGY

On Friday, 6th May we are recognizing and celebrating mothers by having a Mother's Day Liturgy. This is taking place in the church at 9.30am followed by the Biggest Morning Tea. The morning tea will be held in the church foyer. All are welcome to come along.



MEMORIAL MASS

Bishop Paul Bird invites parishioners to join him at the Cathedral on Monday, 16th May at 12.05pm to celebrate a Memorial Mass for the late Bishop Ronald Mulkearns.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION AT ST. COLUMBA'S PARISH (GRADE THREE LEVEL OR ABOVE)

The Parent Information Meeting for the Sacrament of Confirmation will be held on Tuesday May 10th at 7pm in the Grade Five/Six Learning community at St. Columba's School. Forms for enrolling in this sacramental preparation will be available at this meeting.

It is important to be able to attend this meeting to gather relevant information and also choose a date for the celebration of the sacrament, which is most suitable. The cost of this sacramental preparation is \$25. **For any enquiries please call Judith on the parish office on 53 317131**



Words of Wisdom

*Why not go out on a limb?
That's where the fruit is.*

..... Mark Twain

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 June 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 June 7, 2016

OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY

The first edition of Our Diocesan Community is available for collection in the church foyer. Please take a copy.

PARISH CALENDAR

Morning Prayer	Monday 2 May 9.30am
Mass	Wednesday 3 May 9.30am
Morning Prayer	Friday 6 May 9.30am (in the Parish Office)
Mother's Day School Liturgy	Friday 6 May 9.30am
Morning Prayer	Monday 9 May 9.30am
Mass	Wednesday 3 May 9.30am
Sew and So....	Thursday 12 May 1pm
Morning Prayer	Friday 13 May 9.30am
Holy Hour & Adoration	Friday 13 May 7-8pm
Morning Prayer	Monday 16 May 9.30am
Liturgy Team Meeting	Tuesday 17 May 7.30pm
Mass	Wednesday 3 May 9.30am
Morning Prayer	Friday 20 May 9.30
Morning Prayer	Monday 23 May 9.30am
Leadership Team Meeting	Thursday 26 May 7pm
Mass	Wednesday 3 May 9.30am
Morning Prayer	Friday 27 May 9.30
Morning Prayer	Monday 30 May 9.30am

Thank you for your generous support

1 st Collection	For the support of the Clergy of the Ballarat Diocese	\$933.50
2 nd Collection (Envelopes)	-Last week's giving for the upkeep of the parish -Average given weekly for this financial year (week 42)	\$1187.50 \$2310.50
Sundry Change		\$128.05
Special Collections	Project Compassion	\$3262.30

**Reflection on the Gospel-Easter 6C
(John 14:23-29)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Keeping one's word is a mark of honour in any society. To be asked to keep someone else's word, as in today's gospel reading, calls for a shift in our usual patterns of thinking and acting. In the prologue to the gospel, John has presented Jesus as the Word, the *Logos* who has been with God from the beginning. Jesus is the word of God in human form, the embodiment of God's communication with the world. Jesus also speaks God's word. The disciples are to demonstrate their love for Jesus by keeping the word that he both embodies and articulates. In other words, they are to live as Jesus has lived and be faithful to what he has taught in God's name. Each will thus become a dwelling place for the divine. The implications of this teaching are overwhelming. It seems to me that if we truly believed and "kept" the words of the Johannine Jesus, we might understand that God dwells with us, and so consistently treat each other with the utmost reverence and respect.

Jesus refers once more to his imminent departure. When he is no longer physically present, God's Advocate, the Holy Spirit, will be with them. The Greek word translated as "advocate" carries a range of meanings. It literally means "one called alongside to help" whenever necessary. In other words, the disciples need not be troubled or afraid because they are never alone. The Holy Spirit, the Advocate, is always with them to defend them, to intercede for them, to comfort them, as well as to keep them focussed on all that Jesus has said to them. Earlier in this chapter of John's gospel, the Advocate is called the Spirit of Truth who remains with them and is actually in them. Only through the power of the Spirit will the disciples be empowered to "keep the word" of Jesus.

Once again, Jesus gifts his friends, this time with the gift of peace, a peace "that the world cannot give." In John's gospel, the "world" is first and foremost the tenting place of God's Word: it is God's creation. Occasionally, as in this passage, it refers to whatever is opposed to Jesus as God's Word. The gift of peace that Jesus brings is a peace that casts out fear. It carries all the weight of the Hebrew *shalom*: it brings total well-being and peace of mind. True peace comes from being centred in the Triune God. As Jesus leaves them, the proper stance for the disciples is joy in the knowledge that, although he is going away, he is also "coming to them" since the "Father" will send the Spirit to be with them. The gospel reading thus leaves us to reflect on the unfathomable mystery of God.

DATE: APRIL 30 & MAY 1		
DUTY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
WELCOMER	Kate Lawry	School
COMMENTATOR	Jan Mullaly	School
PROCLAIMER 1	Kathleen Keogh	Kim Butler
PROCLAIMER 2	Clare Keogh	Anthea Hinchey
GIFTS	Margaret Ranger & Anne Caine	School
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	K Lawry, H McBrearty, B Clark	B Ryan, K Butler, G Hinchey
LITURGY PREPARATION		School
ALTAR SERVERS	Volunteer please	Gabrielle Arrieta
OVERHEADS	Volunteer please	Volunteer please
CHILDREN'S LITURGY		Alison Thorpe
SACRISTAN	Norah Moloney	Josie Crowe
ALTAR & FLOWERS	Margaret Ranger	Margaret Ranger
DATE: MAY 7 & 8		
DUTY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
WELCOMER	Mary Dinning	Volunteer please
COMMENTATOR	Trish Simmons	Pat Kenna
PROCLAIMER 1	Carmel McCormick	Brian Kennedy
PROCLAIMER 2	Shirley Edgar	Carmel King
GIFTS	Jan Mullaly	Maureen & Hans van der Ploeg
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	K Keogh, J O'Sullivan, M Lacey	C Wakefield, D Streulens, B Chapman
LITURGY PREPARATION		K & T Keogh
ALTAR SERVERS	Volunteer please	Gabrielle Arrieta
OVERHEADS	Volunteer please	Volunteer please
CHILDREN'S LITURGY		Mary Kennedy
SACRISTAN	Trish Simmons	Anne Rossiter
ALTAR & FLOWERS	Margaret Ranger	Margaret Ranger

Please remember it is your responsibility to find a replacement if you are unable to fulfil your role

We are Eucharistic people, who love, pray, serve, hope and follow Jesus

JOHN THOMAS ELECTRICAL

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Address: 4 Dawson Street North,
Ballarat, 3350
Phone: (03) 5331 3099
Email:
bryan@johnthomaselectrical.com.au



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Carl Symons: 0408 663 831
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Ballarat



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Ballarat 3350
0459546980



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Phone: 5331 4510
Mobile: 0418 501 606



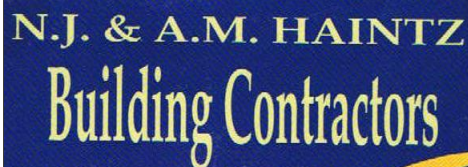
Address: Shop 2, 1103 Howitt Street,
Wendouree, 3355
Phone: (03) 5339 1166
Email: ballarattrophies@bigpond.com
www.ballarattrophies.com.au



Address: 1251 Doveton Street North,
Ballarat, 3350
Phone: (03) 5333 3101
www.petertobinfunerals.com.au



Address: Level 1, 35-37 Sturt Street,
Ballarat, 3350
Phone: (03) 5331 6111
Email: craig@ontrackfitness.com.au
www.ontrackfitness.com.au



Phone: (03) 5332 3069
Mobile: 0418 504 254



Address: 612 Sturt Street,
Ballarat, 3350
Phone: (03) 5333 2040
Email:
michael@professionalsballarat.com.au
www.professionalsballarat.com.au



801 HOWITT ST WENDOUREE PH: 5339 5033
127 GILLIES ST STH BALLARAT PH: 5334 2700

55 ALBERT ST
SEBASTOPOL
PH: 5335 9023



Phone: (03) 5332 3547
Mobile: 0418 503 694
Email: rjmayne@ncable.net.au



Address: 20 Lydiard Street South,
Ballarat
Phone: (03) 5331 3711
Mobile: 0408 159 311
Email: stephenl@ppt.com.au
www.ppt.com.au

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Address: 1114 Doveton Street North,
Ballarat, 3350
Phone: (03) 5333 3911