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Next Centralised Baptism Preparation Session
Parents planning to have their child baptised are required to attend a Baptism Preparation Session. Next sessions are at the MacKillop and Glowrey Rooms, St. Patrick's Cathedral Hall, 3 Lyons St South, Ballarat, **Thursday, May 2, 2024.** You may attend either the 10.00 am or the 5.30 pm session.

"Walk, cycle or use public transport" Did you know? Choosing active transport like walking and cycling can not only dramatically reduce your carbon footprint, but you could end up saving money and staying fit at the same time! When walking or cycling is not an option, swapping the car for a bus or train can also make a significant dent in emissions.

Child Safe Church The Parishes of St Columba's & Our Lady Help of Christians (including Lexton, Miners Rest and Waubra) follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards as directed by the Ballarat Diocesan Office. You can download our Code of Conduct and Child Safety Policy from the Parish website or on the foyer notice board. If you have any concerns whatsoever—please contact the Parish Office, Fr. Marcello or one of the Safe Guarding Officers at wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Pope Francis' Prayer for Peace in Ukraine: I ask you to pray the Our Father for peace in Ukraine, now and throughout this day. **Our Father...**

Let us ask the Lord to grant that the country may grow in the spirit of brotherhood, and that all hurts, fears and divisions will be overcome. We have spoken about the Holocaust. But let us think too that [in Ukraine] millions of people were killed [1932-1933]. They are a people who have suffered; they have suffered from hunger, suffered from much brutality and they deserve peace.

May the prayers and supplications that today rise up to heaven touch the minds and hearts of world leaders, so that dialogue may prevail and the common good be placed ahead of partisan interests. Please, no more war.



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*Interest rates subject to change. View current rates on the [CDF website](http://www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au).



Parishes of St Columba's and St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat

Communities of Ballarat North, Ballarat Cathedral, Beaufort

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au (select Parish)

Office: 306 Gregory St, Ballarat Nth **Phone:** 5331 1012
Email: ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Office: 3 Lyons St South, Ballarat **Phone:** 5331 2933
Email: ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au

School Co-Principals: Shaun Mohr & Bambi Afford
School Phone: 5332 4894

Staffing

Administrator:
Fr Edward Moloney
Assistant Priests:
Fr Francis Kureeckal MST
Fr James McKay
Finance Officer:
Bernadette Prestwood

St Columba's
Parish Co-Ordinator:
Lia Andanar Yu
Wed-Friday 10:00am – 2:00pm
Safeguarding Officer:
Peter Marquand
MASS TIMES (This week)

St Columba's
Sunday 10.00 am
Monday 10.00 am
Tuesday 7.00 am & 12.05 pm
Wednesday 7.00 am & 12.05 pm
10.30 am (Funeral)
Thursday 7.00 am & 12.05 pm
Friday 12.05 pm

Beaufort
2nd & 4th Sunday 8.30 am
Readings for Next Weekend
Acts of the Apostles 4: 8-12
Ps 117:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28-29 R. v.22
1 John 3:1-2
John 10:11-18



14th April 2024 ~ 3rd Sunday of Easter Year B

Focus on the Scriptures
Being Witnesses to the Ends of the Earth Extraordinary things can happen if we open ourselves to the presence of a stranger on the road of life. That is one of the elements in today's gospel that forms the conclusion to the Emmaus story. When I was a student in Dublin researching Luke's depiction of women in the Acts of the Apostles, I would often take a detour on my way home to visit the National Gallery of Ireland. Velázquez' remarkable oil painting, Kitchen Maid with the Supper at Emmaus captured and held my attention. In this work, the viewer is confronted with a painting within a painting. The kitchen maid pauses from her tasks to listen, through the space between kitchen and dining area, to the conversation between Jesus and his table companions. Jesus' hosts have not yet recognised the companion they had encountered on the road from Jerusalem. Velázquez seems to be suggesting that the young servant woman in the foreground, a woman from another place and another time, has sensed what they have yet to discover. Like Velázquez' servant woman, we might attend to this graced encounter, its prelude and its aftermath.

Imagine two dejected disciples (Cleopas and possibly his wife) on the road from Jerusalem to their home in Emmaus. On their journey, they encounter Jesus who has been raised. At first, they fail to recognise him. Their sadness at his death has blinded them to what is happening before their very eyes. He engages them in conversation and holds up a metaphorical mirror to their experience of loss and grief. Their hearts "burn" within them as he opens to them the meaning of their sacred scriptures. They invite him to share a meal with them and their eyes are opened: they recognise him in the breaking of the bread. Jesus then disappears from their midst. They cannot contain the joy they have experienced in realising that he is alive.

Cleopas and partner return immediately to Jerusalem to share the good news with the other disciples. All the assembled disciples experience powerfully the presence of Jesus in their midst. They share a meal with him. He opens their minds to understand the scriptures. Everything falls into place. They not only understand Jesus' death and resurrection in the light of the scriptures. They now know that they will be "clothed with power from on high" to exercise their role as witnesses to this great mystery, and to preach forgiveness to all peoples "beginning from Jerusalem".

Luke will open his second volume, the Acts of the Apostles, with the story of the risen One sending the disciples to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth. If we who remember these events in every Eucharistic celebration allow our hearts to "burn" within us, we too may recognise the Risen One "on the road" and become his witnesses to the ends of the earth, engaging and even hosting the "strangers" we meet along the way.

~Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm: (R.) Lord, let your face shine on us.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us: make our hearts burn with love when you speak. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Charlie Franc

Anniversaries: We remember: Inez Sullivan, Ika Perovic, Therese Head, Stephen Head, Helen McMahon-Martino

We pray: for all in areas of conflict, war and natural disasters, for those who are sick in our parish and all in need of our prayers.

Appointments to Parishes The new appointments took effect on April 10. We welcome the priests who will look after our St Columba's community:

Ballarat Cathedral Parish, Ballarat North Parish and Beaufort Parish

Administrator: Fr Edward Moloney
Assistant Priests: Fr Francis Kureeckal MST, Fr James McKay

A warm welcome to Fr. Ed, Fr Francis and Fr. Jim!

Tea and Coffee after Mass every first Sunday of the month at St. Columba's Our next tea and coffee is on Sunday, the 5th of May. Many thanks to all who helped out and joined us last Sunday to thank Fr Marcello and wish him well on his new Ministry district. Thank you and all the best, Fr Marcello!

Pope's intention for April – for the role of women: Let us pray that the dignity and worth of women be recognised in every culture and for an end to the discrimination they face in various parts of the world. Lord, hear us.

Damascus College Ballarat Reunions Damascus College warmly welcomes past students and staff of Sacred Heart College, St Martin's in the Pines and Damascus College to our 2024 Class Reunions. This year, we are thrilled to host "class of" reunions for:

- Class of 1974 – 50 Year Reunion Celebration – Saturday, April 20
- Class of 1984 – 40 Year Reunion Celebration – Saturday, May 18
- Class of 1994 – 30 Year Reunion Celebration – Saturday, May 18
- Class of 2004 – 20 Year Reunion Celebration – Saturday, May 25
- Class of 2014 – 10 Year Reunion Celebration – Saturday, May 25

Please note: An all-years St Paul's Reunion will be held in 2025. For further details and booking links for each class reunion, please visit <https://www.damascus.vic.edu.au/community/alumni/alumni-reunions-events>. Scroll down to 2024 'CLASS OF' Reunions and click the + to view details and book your ticket. For enquiries: connecting@damascus.vic.edu.au

St Columba's April 21st (next week) Sunday 10.00 am	
LEADER OF SONG	Terry Ranger
COMMENTATOR	Colleen Wakefield
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Vicki Moroney
COMMUNION MINISTER	Tim O'Farrell
DIGITAL PROJECTOR	Kathleen Keogh
SACRISTAN	Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe

Collections Last Weekend St Columba's Thank you for your contributions.
Presbytery: \$ 435.30 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 803.95

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Parish of St. Columba's Ballarat North recognises the traditional owners of parish lands. We acknowledge their ancestors with respect and we are committed to working for justice and reconciliation.



Baptism This weekend we welcome to our Parish through the sacrament of Baptism:

Lily Grace White daughter of William and Melissa.

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

May Lily Grace grow in faith with the support of her family and our Catholic Community.

Catholic Diocese of Ballarat

Community
Remember Revitalise
Hope

150 years

*Be joyful in hope,
patient in affliction,
faithful in prayer*
Romans 12:12

Planning by 150th Anniversary Committee

Ash Wednesday
'Repent and believe the good news'
February 14, 2024

Anniversary Liturgy in Cathedral
Mass of the Oils
March 25, 2024

Anniversary Liturgies in Parishes
Fifth Sunday of Easter
April 28, 2024

Pentecost Sunday
Commissioning for ministry in parishes
May 19, 2024

Diocesan Assembly
November 15 - 16, 2024

2023

2023

Feb 2024

Feb - Mar 2024

Mar 2024

Mar 2024

April 2024

Apr - May 2024

May 2024

Mid 2024

Nov 2024

Parishes develop Parish Leadership Teams

Lent
'Repent and believe the good news'
February 14 - March 24, 2024

150th Anniversary Holy Saturday
March 30, 2024

Anniversary Week Catholic Education Week
April 29 - May 3, 2024

Formation in Parishes from Mid 2024

Thank you for your continued support through Project Compassion. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow, for all future generations. Please remember to return your Project Compassion Boxes and envelopes to your Parish Office or donate online by visiting www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413 or through the QR code. If you donate online or through the QR code, remember to fill in your details and postcode so the Diocese of Ballarat giving total can be recognised.



Notes about Holy Communion Bishop Paul has issued the following information for people of the diocese:

Now that the Covid pandemic is less in the news, a number of people have asked about arrangements for the reception of Holy Communion. Some have proposed reintroducing options that were permitted before the pandemic, particularly receiving the host on the tongue and sharing the chalice.

Over the past few weeks, I have consulted various people about this, including the members of our Diocesan Liturgical Commission. I have also received advice from a medical point of view. This has included advice from the Chief Executive Officer of the Southern Grampians Health Service and the Head of the Infectious Diseases Department at the Alfred Hospital. These consultations have highlighted the fact that Covid infections are still a serious concern and that we can reduce the risk of infections by continuing the present provisions regarding Holy Communion.

I have concluded that it is not yet time to reintroduce the sharing of the chalice. While reception of Holy Communion under both species of bread and wine is a fuller sign of our sharing in the banquet of Christ, we can find reassurance in the teaching of the Council of Trent that the whole Christ, body and blood, soul and divinity, is contained under each species. So, even when we simply receive the host, we are receiving the whole Christ.

In regard to the way of receiving the host, recognising the continuing risks of the pandemic, and out of consideration for the health of all parishioners, I recommend reverent reception of the host in the hand rather than reception on the tongue.

May our Communion draw us ever closer to Christ and strengthen our love and care for one another. God bless you all. –Bishop Paul Bird CSsR

St Columba's Apr 28th Sunday 10.00 am	
LEADER OF SONG	Tony Beggs
COMMENTATOR	Fiona Newton
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Terry Ranger
COMMUNION MINISTER	Judy Brown
DIGITAL PROJECTOR	Bruce Chapman
SACRISTAN	Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe