

St Columba's Parish, Ballarat North

Parish Centre: 306 Gregory St, Nth. Ballarat

Ph: 5331 7131

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

Web: ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Office Hours: Wednesday & Thursday 8.30am - 4.00pm

*We are Eucharistic People, who Love, Pray, Serve,
Hope and follow Jesus*

28th February, 2016



Supervising Priest: Fr Peter Sherman

Pastoral Leader: Judith O'Sullivan

Priest in Residence: Fr. Barry Ryan

Parish Secretary: Genevieve Willmott

School Principal: Kim Butler

Mass Times:

Saturday Vigil: 6pm

Sunday: 10am

Wednesday: 9.30am

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



DEATHS: Mark Sculley, Mary Jane Calvert, Alby White

PROJECT COMPASSION

Generational poverty has led to many challenges in Dominic's community, including gender inequality, alcohol abuse and violence. Since receiving training in the Caritas Australia supported Community Conversations program, Dominic has learnt communication and problem solving skills to lead his community towards a more peaceful, prosperous future.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2016 and help empower communities in Papua New Guinea to lead their own development and create more harmonious futures.



There are envelopes and money boxes available in the church foyer if you are able to support this worthy cause.

SUNDAY SACRISTAN

We are looking for someone to join the Sacristan Team on a monthly basis for Sunday morning mass. Please call Trish on 0418 593939 or Josie on 0439 481493 for more information. You would be responsible for setting the altar and cleaning up after mass.

OVERHEAD PROJECTOR TRAINING IN THE CHURCH

Kathleen Keogh has generously offered to train any interested persons in operating the overhead projector in the church. Please contact Judith in the Parish Office if you would like to be involved.

CARING CIRCLE

If you know anyone in the Parish who would like a visit from the Caring Circle please contact Bernadette Clark ph: 5331 4631.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Praying the Stations of the Cross during Lent is a great exercise to align our hearts of the Passion of Christ. Join us in the church on Friday, 26th February at 7pm and Friday, 4th and 18th March at 7pm.

Stations will be followed by a time of quiet prayer in the church.



EASTER ROSTERS

If you are rostered on any ministry for Palm Sunday or over the Easter weekend and you will be away, please either let the office know ASAP or cross your name off the roster in the foyer.

BEING LOST.....BEING FOUND GOSPEL REFLECTIONS FOR LENT BOOKLETS

Please feel free to take a copy for your own reflection during Lent. Prayer cards are also available for each of the weeks during Lent.

CUPPA AFTER MASS

We are looking to start a cuppa tea after Mass on a regular basis. If you are available to help with this please speak with Judith or Colleen. The next morning tea will be after the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday Masses.

PARISH RECONCILIATION

Wednesday, 16th March at 7pm – in preparation for Easter

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

To be held in the church at 9.30am until 11am on Friday, 4th March - "Morning Prayer of the Church and a time of Adoration".

Morning Prayer of the Church (Liturgy of the Hours) will continue each Monday and Friday at 9.30am until further notice. For more information contact Judith ph: 53317131.

WEARING OF NAME TAGS – Mass Times

As means of enhancing community spirit in St Columba's Parish **Name Tag Holders** are now available in the Church Foyer for parishioners to wear when attending Mass. Parishioners are encouraged to collect a holder and insert your name in it. Marker pens and paper are also provided to print your name. You may retain your tag for ongoing use.



MASS OF THE OILS Monday, 21st March

The Mass of the Oils will be celebrated in St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat at 6.30pm on Monday, March 21, 2016. This Mass is a celebration of the whole Church of the Diocese of Ballarat. We celebrate the unity and ministry of the ordained priests in the midst of the entire priestly people of God of the Diocese. This Mass also has special significance for those who will use the blessed oils in 2016 – the sick, those to be baptised and confirmed. All members of the Diocese are invited to participate in this celebration which truly expresses the unity of the Diocesan Church. Ministries required for the Mass of the Oils include Ushers, Readers, Oils Bearers, Presentation of the gifts, Collection of Oils, Musicians and Singers. For further information contact the Pastoral Ministry Office, ph. 5337 7159 or pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au

WEDNESDAY MASS CANCELLED – Next week RETREAT AT HALLS GAP

The clergy of the Diocese will be attending a retreat next week. The director will be Bishop David Walker of Sydney. **The mass scheduled in St. Columba's church foyer at 9.30am next Wednesday has been cancelled.**

ADULT EDUCATION

The program in theology with special reference to Pope Francis' Encyclical on the Environment to be led by Fr. Barry Ryan and Sr. Veronica Lawson will begin next Thursday. 64 participants have signed up for a 12 hour course, with reading, to be conducted through six months. This is a very special project which will give hope for a future where human beings and all creation can live in harmony and peace. Please pray for all involved.

PARISH CALENDAR

Stations of the Cross	Friday 4 th March 7.00pm
Liturgy Team Meeting	Tuesday 8 th March 7.30pm
Sew & So	Thursday 10 th March 1pm
Family Group Leaders Meeting	Thursday 10 th March 7.30pm
Holy Hour & Adoration	Friday 11 th March 7-8pm
Reconciliation Preparation	Saturday 12 th March 6pm
School celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation	Tuesday 15 th March 6pm
Liturgy Team Meeting	Tuesday 15 th March 7.30pm
Parish Reconciliation	Wednesday 16 th March 7pm
Stations of the Cross	Friday 18 th March 7pm
Leadership Team Meeting	Wednesday 23 rd March 7.30pm
Holy Thursday Mass	Thursday 24 th March 7pm
Good Friday – Way of the Cross	Friday 25 th March 10am
Good Friday – The Passion of Jesus Christ	Friday 25 th March 3pm
Easter Vigil Mass	Saturday 26 th March 6pm
Easter Mass	Sunday 27 th March 10am

CHURCH BOOKINGS

Week of: 29th February – 6th March

MONDAY	Morning Prayer of the Church 9.30am
TUESDAY	---
WEDNESDAY	--- <i>Mass cancelled</i>
THURSDAY	---
FRIDAY	*Morning Prayer of the Church 9.30am *Stations of the Cross 7pm
SATURDAY	School Mass 6pm & Reconciliation Preparation
SUNDAY	Mass 10am

Thank you for your generous support

1 st Collection	For the support of the Clergy of the Ballarat Diocese	\$798.05
2 nd Collection (Envelopes)	-Last week's giving for the upkeep of the parish -Average given weekly for this financial year (week 33)	\$953.50 \$2320.53
Sundry Change		\$130.50
Special Collection	Project Compassion	\$430.00

PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Colleen Wakefield, Alison Thorpe, Trish Simmons, Maureen Eddy, Kim Butler, Troy Severino, Jennifer Adams, Bruce Chapman, Judith O'Sullivan

**Reflection on the Gospel-3rd Sunday of Lent Year C
(Luke 13:1-9)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Today's gospel begins with two warnings about the need for repentance. It ends with a parable about a non-productive fig tree and a faithful "gardener God". The warnings include two examples of untimely deaths, one reported to Jesus and then used by him to illustrate the urgent need for repentance, the other reported by Jesus as a further illustration of his point. With respect to the first example, Jewish history recounts instances of Pilate's cruelty, but makes no mention of his execution of Galileans and the mingling of their blood with their sacrifices. Neither is there any other record of the collapse of the Siloam tower and the resultant death of eighteen people. Jesus insists that those killed are no more sinful and no more deserving of death than any of their fellow Galileans or Jerusalemites. They are certainly not being punished for their sins and those who make such a link between suffering and sin have got it all wrong.

So why does Jesus twice assert, "If you do not repent you will all perish in the same way" or "as they did"? The answer seems to lie in the constant need for self-reflection and the missed opportunity for conversion or reconciliation in the case of sudden and unexpected death. In other words, Jesus is telling his listeners, "Don't be caught unawares; turn your life around in the direction of the gospel while you are alive and well". The Greek verb "to repent" literally means to think again. It can have the sense of expanding one's vision or one's horizons, to think beyond the narrow confines of one's own interests and one's own little world. In the context of Jesus' teaching, it is a call to take seriously the message of God's empire or reign which embraces the whole Earth community.

The parable of the non-productive fig tree in the vineyard approaches the same topic from another angle. The owner of the vineyard wants to get rid of a fig tree that fails to bear fruit after three years. From an economic perspective, his position is perfectly reasonable: why should a non-fruiting fig tree continue to sap the goodness of the soil? Why not go for more vines, more grapes, more wine, and forget about the fig tree? The faithful or constant gardener, on the other hand, is like the womb-compassionate God of Israel who cares about the soil itself and wants to give the fig tree another chance, to turn it around and assist it to bear fruit, if the owner will relent. At this mid-point in our Lenten journey in the Jubilee Year of Mercy, we might get in closer touch with our compassionate "gardener" God and open ourselves to a more expansive understanding of the pain of the planet.

DATE: FEBRUARY 27 & 28

DUTY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
WELCOMER	Greta Kelly	Adele Carter
COMMENTATOR	John van de Laar	Pat Kenna
PROCLAIMER 1	Jim Waight	Derek Streulens
PROCLAIMER 2	Frank Sheehan	Brian Kennedy
GIFTS	Edgar Family	Lorna Batty & Carmel King
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	P Marquand, R Marquand, A Marquand	C Fuller, E Kennedy, M Martino
LITURGY PREPARATION		Pat & Bernie Kenna
ALTAR SERVERS	Volunteer please	Gabrielle Arrieta
OVERHEADS	Volunteer please	Volunteer please
CHILDREN'S LITURGY		Alison Thorpe
SACRISTAN	Maree Phelan	Maureen van der Ploeg
ALTAR & FLOWERS	Margaret Ranger	Margaret Ranger

DATE: MARCH 5 & 6

DUTY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
WELCOMER	School	Rebecca Eales
COMMENTATOR	School	Irene Monigatti
PROCLAIMER 1	John McGlashan	Carmel King
PROCLAIMER 2	Tony Beggs	Mandy Carroll
GIFTS	School	Maureen & Hans van de Ploeg
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	T Keogh Jnr, T Waight, M Eddy	C Wakefield, B Ryan, K Merbach
LITURGY PREPARATION		School
ALTAR SERVERS	Volunteer please	Gabrielle Arrieta
OVERHEADS	Volunteer please	Volunteer please
CHILDREN'S LITURGY		Rebecca Earles
SACRISTAN	Trish Simmons	Josie Crowe
ALTAR & FLOWERS	Margaret Ranger	Margaret Ranger

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

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Natasha McLachlan
603a Landsborough St, Ballarat Nth
No appointments required



Address: 139 Bogong Ave,
Invermay Park, 3350
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Mobile: 0418 501 606



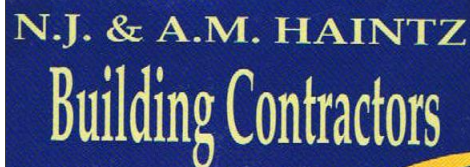
Address: Shop 2, 1103 Howitt Street,
Wendouree, 3355
Phone: (03) 5339 1166
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Address: 1251 Doveton Street North,
Ballarat, 3350
Phone: (03) 5333 3101
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Address: Level 1, 35-37 Sturt Street,
Ballarat, 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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BALLARAT 3350

Ph: (03) 5331 2200



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