

St Columba's Parish - Ballarat North

306 Gregory St, Ballarat North Phone: 5331 7131

Office Hours: Wednesday 8.30am – 12.30pm, Thursday & Friday 9am – 2.30pm

Email: ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au 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: Ruth Marquand

Leadership Chair: Colleen Wakefield

School Principal: Kim Butler



2nd SUNDAY IN ADVENT – 3/4 December 2016

Deaths: Carmel Caligari, Ron Rosser, Noel Shannon, David Poynton

Anniversaries: Ron Morgan, Nancy Reidy

Sick: Please pray for all those who are sick in our parish.

A PRAYER FOR ADVENT

Jesus, you came among us with the irresistible power of a baby, requiring both our hands and captivating our whole hearts. Help us to cast aside the sin and brokenness that we cling to, so we might be ready to hold you when you come again. Amen.

RECONCILIATION SERVICE FOR ADVENT

Will be held on Wednesday 14th December at 7pm. A cuppa in the foyer to follow.

SEW and SO

Sew and So will be held in the Church Foyer on Thursday 8th December at 1:30pm. Please join us for an afternoon of Christmas music and friendship with afternoon tea. Enquiries Margaret Ranger: tel 5331 4032.

ADVENT REFLECTION BOOKLETS

This will be the last weekend for purchasing the Advent Reflection booklets from the Wollongong Diocese, \$3 each available in the foyer.

Baptisms



Congratulations to **Archie William Grinter, and Mae Elizabeth Grinter** son and daughter of Lauren & Thomas Grinter and to **Winter Frankie James**, son of Dannielle & Jason James who are to be baptised this Sunday morning. We congratulate them on becoming members of God's family and welcome them as our newest members to join St. Columba's Parish Community.

2017 ROSTER AVAILABILITY

The new roster for Christmas Masses and the first half of next year will be put together very soon. If you are unavailable any time during the first half of the year (2017) please let the office know so you are not rostered on.

THANK YOU FROM RUTH

Thank you to those parishioners who have wished me well in my new role as Parish Secretary. I still have the L plates on but am slowly learning what all the tasks involve. I am very grateful for the help of Helen McBrearty and Colleen Wakefield who have been a source of practical support and a sounding board for my many questions.

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

ST COLUMBA'S SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CAROLS & END OF SCHOOL YEAR MASS

Will be held on Thursday 8th December at 6:00pm in the School grounds. Parishioners who would like to come and join with the school on this occasion are most welcome. During the evening we will be having school and parish groups leading the singing of Christmas Carols. BYO chair or picnic rug. There will be a barbecue and coffee van available. Inclement weather will see the Carols held in the Church.

The End of the School Year Mass will be held on Wednesday 14th December at 12noon.

All parishioners are welcome to join the school children, families and teachers for these special events.

FROM BACH TO BING

Make this a Christmas to remember. Celebrate all your Christmas favourites with David Hobson and Georgia Wilkinson in a stunning new show. Performing at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat on Wednesday 14th December at 7pm. Bookings can be made by tel: 5333 5888 or <http://www.hermai> Ticket prices, Adults: \$55, Concession: \$45.

MERCY CONNECT BALLARAT – SUPPORTING REFUGEE & ASYLUM SEEKER STUDENTS IN LOCAL SCHOOLS

Volunteer mentors needed.

Mercy Works is currently recruiting volunteers to support refugee and asylum seeker 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 February 2017. *Contact Paulene Barton - Mercy Connect Project Coordinator on 0417 624 330 or email: mercyconnectb@gmail.com for information and application form. Applications close on February 2, 2017.*

ADVENT WITH MARY

A time of reflection, music and prayers in preparation for Christmas, followed by a time of Adoration, Friday 9th December 7-8pm at ST. Columba's in the Church. All welcome, For more information please contact Judith tel: 5331 7131.

MAKING A SCENE AT CHRISTMAS

A display of Christmas Nativity scenes will be held in St Patrick's Hall Ballarat from Wednesday evening 14th – Sunday 18th December. On display there will be in excess of 300 nativities from over 40 countries. Opening hours are Wednesday 6-8pm, Thursday and Friday 10-am-5pm, Saturday 10am – 8pm and Sunday 9am-7pm. St Columba's former Principal, Fiona Tonkin is involved with this display having collected many nativity scenes from her travels to many parts of the world.

GODLY PLAY

The Parish Links Committee has been seeking information on ways the Parish can support families with faith formation of their children. A significant message in the gathered feedback is many families see value in Children's Liturgy of the Word at Mass. How can we make this experience cater for children's spirituality? In the words of Rebecca Nye, one of the world leaders in children's spirituality, the task of nourishing spirituality is one of releasing, not constricting, children's understanding and imagination. The teacher/leader has four major responsibilities:

- Helping children to keep an open mind
- Exploring ways of seeing
- Encouraging personal awareness
- Helping children become personally aware of the social dimensions of spirituality and the Christian life.

How can we as a Parish create opportunities in Children's Liturgy of the Word that help with this? We have investigated Godly Play and are going to trial it during the Sundays of this Advent. If you are interested please take a flyer on the table at the back of the Church.

FUNDRAISER FOR TIMOR LESTE

Movie "Queen of Katwe" based on a true story, followed by High Afternoon Tea will be held at the Regent Theatre, Ballarat on Sunday, December 4, 2016 at 1.45 pm, \$25.00 per person. Funds raised will be used to purchase new books for libraries in Timor Leste village schools. *RSVP to Liz Hanrahan, Mobile: 0417 347 262.*

PALMS AUSTRALIA

Palms Australia thanks our parish for support in the recruitment of Australian Catholics for mission and development volunteering. Palms is making a *final call* for those willing to share their skills in overseas communities in 2017. Communities in East Timor, PNG and Kiribati are asking for educators, health professionals and trades people to mentor local workers in their fields of expertise. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Palms Australia on tel: 02 9560 5333.

**Reflection on the Gospel-Advent 2A
(Matthew 3:1-12)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

The wilderness or desert features powerfully in today's gospel reading. The desert is the biblical place of encounter with God, the place of beginnings and of testing. The voice of John the Baptizer is heard in the Judean desert. His food and clothing are desert-derived. John is identified as the one of whom Isaiah spoke, the voice crying out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way...." Ecologically, the Isaian image is quite confronting: preparing the way involves major earthworks that reconfigure the landscape, levelling the mountains and filling the valleys to create straight paths. Yet the way is never straight and the metaphor must not be literalised. John knows this. The preparation he calls for is ongoing *metanoia*: keep on turning your lives around, keep on expanding your horizons, for the kin-dom of the heavens is "close at hand". The kin-dom is both present and yet still approaching: the verb used, *ēngiken*, allows for this ambiguity.

The first reading provides content to the notion of kin-dom or *basileia*: John is announcing the advent of God's long awaited empire of justice and right relationship. He offers a baptism of repentance (*metanoia*). In other words, John's baptism presupposes a commitment to a renewed way of life. His ministry is hugely effective. It attracts "people of Jerusalem, all Judea and all the region along the Jordan River." The arrival of two groups of religious authorities prompts a fierce response: "you brood of vipers". John has no patience with those who use their privileged positions to seek their own advantage. He challenges them with the striking image of the "more powerful one who will baptise with the Holy Spirit and fire" and will sort out those who refuse to turn their lives around (the chaff) from those who listen to the call for *metanoia* (the wheat). The latter are "gathered in" while the former are burned "in a fire that never goes out".

Fire is a multi-faceted image in the biblical record. Here it is used metaphorically for the judgment on the wicked. Fire, as we well know in this dry land, is a challenging symbol: it is both friend and foe. In the first-century *Manual of Discipline* from the Qumran community by the Dead Sea, water, refining by fire, and "a holy Spirit" are listed together as the instruments of God's saving and purifying action. John, who may have been a member of the Qumran community, presents his own role as preparatory to that of Jesus, the Spirit-filled, powerful and enduring agent of God's refining and purifying work in the world. We recognise our own ongoing need for a "baptism" with the Holy Spirit and fire. We prepare the way by constantly expanding our vision and turning our lives around in the direction of God's reign.

DATE: 3 & 4 DECEMBER

DUTY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
WELCOMER	Anne Caine	Gerard Macklin
COMMENTATOR	Shirley Edgar	Brenda Ryan
PROCLAIMER 1	Rosemary Fithall	Anne Rossiter
PROCLAIMER 2	Kate Lawry	Bruce Chapman
GIFTS	Margaret Ranger & Anne Caine	Mandy Carroll
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Ann Lacey, Trish Simmons, Tori Waight	K O'Loughlin, J Brown, C Fuller
LITURGY PREPARATION		Kathleen & Tom Keogh
ALTAR SERVERS	Volunteer please	Gabrielle Arrieta
OVERHEADS	Volunteer please	Volunteer please
SACRISTAN	Trish Simmons	Josie Crowe
ALTAR & FLOWERS	K Merbach, G Skinner, J Crowe	K Merbach, G Skinner, J Crowe

DATE: 3 & 4 DECEMBER

DUTY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
WELCOMER	Margaret Schreenan	Helen Linane
COMMENTATOR	Rosemary Fithall	Judy Brown
PROCLAIMER 1	Frank Sheehan	Brian Kennedy
PROCLAIMER 2	John McGlashan	Derek Streulens
GIFTS	Tom & Greta Kelly	Sharon De Beer
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Maureen Eddy, Kathleen Keogh, Shirley Edgar	E Kennedy, M Martino, K Merbach
LITURGY PREPARATION		Margaret & Leo Schreenan
ALTAR SERVERS	Volunteer please	Gabrielle Arrieta
OVERHEADS	Volunteer please	Volunteer please
SACRISTAN	Norah Moloney	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
ELECTRICAL, SALES & SERVICE
A.B.N. 63 927 625 970

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



OPEN EVERY DAY
8.00AM TO 9.00PM

1010 STURT STREET BALLARAT Phone (03) 5331 1271

Prop: John P Pickersgill



1/520 Mair St
Ballarat 3350
0459546980



Address: 139 Bogong Ave,
Invermay Park, 3350
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



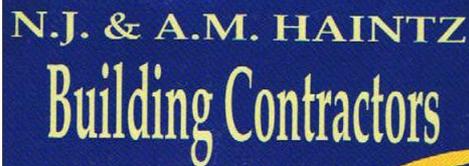
Address: 1251 Doveton Street North,
Ballarat, 3350
Phone: (03) 5333 3101
www.petertobinfunerals.com.au



Proudly supporting
St Columba's Parish

211 Gillies Street, Ballarat, VIC, 3350
Phone: (03) 5339 9333
Email: info@ballaratholden.com.au

www.ballaratholden.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 **127 GILLIES ST STH**
WENDOUREE **BALLARAT**
PH: 5339 5033 **PH: 5334 2700**

55 ALBERT ST
SEBASTOPOL



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

HORTICAREBALLARAT


JAMES FRANCIS
0416 896 113

Garden clean ups
Mowing
Maintenance
Tree/rose/hedge pruning
Irrigation repairs/install

SERVICE
CENTRE
CAR REPAIRS

SUN-BAR P/L
Sunset Strip Service Centre
1017 Lydiard St. Nth
BALLARAT 3350

Ph: (03) 5331 2200



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