

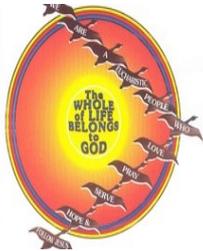
St Columba's Parish - Ballarat North

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School Web: scballarat.catholic.edu.au



Weekend of
28th-29th
January, 2017

Mass times:

Saturday vigil: 6:00pm
Sunday: 10:00am
Wednesday: 9:30am

Pastoral Associate: Judith O'Sullivan

Parish Secretary: Ruth Marquand

Leadership Chair: Bruce Chapman

School Principal: Kim Butler

Priest in Residence: Barry Ryan

What's happening this week:

Leadership team meeting:

The Parish Leadership Team will meet in the Church Foyer on Tuesday 31st January at 7:00pm.

Nazareth House Auxillary Meeting:

Wednesday 1st February 2017 at 1:30pm, Mill Street, Ballarat. All welcome.

Pastoral Associate

Fr Peter Sherman wished to advise parishioners that Judith O'Sullivan has accepted a six month extension to her contract as Pastoral Associate from the end of January 2017.

Church Sound System

Many thanks to John Kennedy for the four hours he spent last week with Craig Butterworth from Sound and Light concepts in Delacombe to look at the inconsistency in the sound system. The problem seemed to be a thermal one which has now been rectified. We keep our fingers crossed that long may this continue.

We will return to a full notice sheet next weekend.

Reflection on the Gospel-4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A (Matthew 5:1-12) -Veronica Lawson RSM

We have become so familiar with the beatitudes that there is a danger of our listening only to the mellifluous flow of language and of failing to attend to the extraordinary present and future reversal that they offer to all that suffer injustice, including the earth itself, and to those who choose non-violent ways of addressing the pain of the Earth community. With the escalation of violence across the globe and with powerful leaders opting for military rather than diplomatic solutions to global conflicts or threats, it is time to listen anew to these opening words of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.

The mountain setting establishes Jesus as wisdom teacher like Moses of old. God's favour rests on the poor, on the humble, on those who grieve for the pain of the world, on serious justice seekers, on those who know how to mercy, on the pure in heart or single-minded, on peacemakers, and on those who suffer in the cause of right. The repetition of "blessed are..." (a better translation of the Greek *makarioi* than "happy are...") provides multiple links with Israel's collection of sacred songs, the Psalms. For Israel's lyricists, God's favour or blessing is on those whose hope is in God, on those whose delight is in God's way, on those who take refuge in God, on the guileless in spirit, and on those whom God forgives. The content of the beatitudes echoes the voice of Israel's prophets, especially Isaiah 61. God's spirit is upon Jesus. He brings the good news of God's present and future favour or blessing to the destitute and to those who mourn. The distinguishing mark of God's favoured ones is right relationship.

God's favour or blessing comes in diverse forms: the *basileia* or empire of the heavens; comfort in the face of grief; the earth for a heritage; the joy of being mercied; face to face encounter with God; a great reward "in heaven". If heaven is only a place to be enjoyed in the afterlife, it is little consolation for the desperately poor or for those who are persecuted or misrepresented to know that "the empire of the heavens is theirs" or that their "reward is great in heaven". Heaven is better understood as a way of talking about God or God's empire of justice and compassion in contrast with the heartless empire of Rome and its modern equivalents. Maybe the most urgent invitation in our present context is to mourn strategically the displacement of so many of earth's inhabitants who long for the blessing of God's kin-dom in the form of comfort and mercy and the opportunity to share the fruits of the Earth.

Congratulations—60 Years Married

We extend our sincere congratulations to Dan and Mern Coutts who are soon to celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary. May you enjoy your celebrations with family and friends.

Recent Deaths: Max Fletcher, Dorothy Wise, Peter Bassett,

Anniversaries: Jim & Don Coghlan

We pray: for the sick of our Parish

DATE: JANUARY 28 & 29		
WELCOMER	Kate Lawry	Dan & Mern Coutts
COMMENTATOR	Leo Schreenan	Brenda Ryan
PROCLAIMER 1	Peter Dalton	Irene Monigatti
PROCLAIMER 2	Jim Waight	Bruce Chapman
GIFTS	Helen & Bill O'Loughlin	Lorna Batty & Carmel King
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	S Edgar, J Adams P Marquand	C Wakefield, K Butler, G Hinchey
LITURGY PREPARATION		Margaret & Leo Schreenan
ALTAR SERVERS	Volunteer please	Gabrielle Arrieta
OVERHEADS	Volunteer please	Sharon de Beer
SACRISTAN	Trish Simmons	Josie Crowe
ALTAR & FLOWERS	As arranged	As arranged

DATE: FEBRUARY 4 & 5		
WELCOMER	Mary Dinning	Gerard Macklin
COMMENTATOR	Jan Mullaly	Judy Brown
PROCLAIMER 1	Mary Dinning	Richard Francis
PROCLAIMER 2	Frank Sheehan	Sr Geraldine Mugavin
GIFTS	David & Catherine Fara	Maureen & Hans van de Ploeg
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	J O'Sullivan, P Marquand, R Fithall	D Streulens, B Chapman, A Thorpe
LITURGY PREPARATION		St Columba's School
ALTAR SERVERS	Volunteer please	Gabrielle Arrieta
OVERHEADS	Volunteer please	Harry Chapman
SACRISTAN	Maree Phelan	
ALTAR & FLOWERS	As arranged	As arranged

Please feel free to assist if you notice that people rostered on are away. Thank you.

	Thank you for your generous support	
1 st Collection	For the support of the Clergy of the Ballarat Diocese	\$759.35
2 nd Collection (Envelopes)	-Last week's giving for the upkeep of the parish -Average given weekly for this financial year (week 30)	\$993.00 \$1987.05

Faith Seeking Understanding in the Contemporary World.

Venue: Mercy Gathering Room, Gent Street, Ballarat East. Dates: March 16; April 27; May 18; June 22; July 20. Sr. Veronica Lawson and Fr. Barry Ryan invite parishioners to sign up for five two-hour sessions on the meaning of faith commitment in the contemporary world. Simply contact Sr. Veronica by email (veronica.lawson@mercy.org.au) or by phone (0408392297) before February 20. Kindly provide contact details and indicate whether you wish to enrol in the afternoon sessions (1-3pm) or the evening sessions (7-9pm). Donation to cover costs is \$20. Note that this is a new course, not a repeat of either the 2015 or the 2016 sessions.

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