

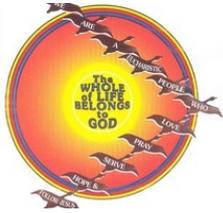
# St Columba's Parish - Ballarat North

306 Gregory St, Ballarat North Phone: 5331 7131

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Parish Web: [ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

School Web: [scballarat.catholic.edu.au](http://scballarat.catholic.edu.au)



**Weekend of**  
**18-19th**  
**February, 2017**

## Mass times:

Saturday vigil: 6pm  
Sunday: 10am  
Wednesday: No Mass this week

Parish Priest: Fr Marcello Colasante  
(from 25/2/2017)

Pastoral Associate: Judith O'Sullivan

Parish Secretary: Ruth Marquand

Leadership Chair: Bruce Chapman

School Principal: Kim Butler

Visiting Priests: Fr Barry Ryan  
Fr Dan Arundell

## Readings for next weekend:

Isaiah 49: 14-15  
Psalm 61: 2-3, 6-9  
1 Corinthians 4: 1-5  
Matthew 6: 24-34



## 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.

Contact Sr. Veronica by email ([veronica.lawson@mercy.org.au](mailto:veronica.lawson@mercy.org.au)) or by phone (0408392297) before February 20. 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.

## Reflection on the Gospel-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A (Matthew 5:38-48) -Veronica Lawson RSM

Today's gospel is a continuation of Jesus' teaching on the sort of righteousness, the right relationship and justice, to which his followers are called in their living of the Law. The law of Moses (Exod 21:24, Lev 24:20 and Deut 19:21) included a law of retaliation designed to make punishment for wrongdoing to persons or property proportionate to the offence. It was quite enlightened legislation at the time. In a series of striking images, Jesus invites his followers to go far beyond the strict application of the law and to embrace a new way of thinking about and acting towards those who injure them/us. Relinquishing your right to compensation is one thing. Giving more of your property to one who has stolen from you is quite another. Do we take this teaching literally or do we simply embrace the spirit of non-retaliation that seems to be at the heart of this teaching? A too-easy amnesty does not always bring justice. Last week's gospel reminded us that there is to be no place for uncontrolled anger or murderous thoughts in our hearts. Both that teaching and this seem to be about taking responsibility for how we live. Harboursing anger can have disastrous consequences for oneself as well as for others. It tends to skew our capacity for right judgement. What happens to us may be beyond our control. What we do with what comes our way is for us to decide. Jesus makes it clear that we have choices in the face of life's struggles. The disciple is called to choose the way of assuming personal responsibility and refusing the way of retaliation.

The final example or antithesis in the list of six that Jesus offers in the Sermon on the Mount is the most confronting of all: there are to be no limitations on love. Loving one's enemies is quite a challenge, on a personal as well as a global level. We learn the hard way that we cannot change others. We can only change our attitudes and approaches to them. Venerable Catherine McAuley, founder of the Mercies, wrote that her sisters "never to let the sun go down on their anger". I used to wonder how they managed that. Over recent years I have found that praying quite deliberately for those who give us a hard time or cause us grief is by far the most effective way of retaining one's peace of mind and of expelling retaliatory thoughts. For me, it is a matter of gently bringing these people to mind, of breathing in the loving kindness or *chesed* of God that suffuses the universe and of breathing it out for them. That enables me to think of them in kindly ways and act towards them without rancour, even when the sentiments are not reciprocated.



**Deaths:** Fr Joe McMahon

**Anniversaries:** Rod Lacey, Peter Ryan

**We pray:** for the sick of our Parish and especially we pray for our RCIA & RCIC Candidates and Catechumen

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

## PARISH NEWS

**Fr Marcello Colasante** will celebrate his first mass at St Columba's Parish on Sunday 26th February at 10:00am. A morning tea following mass will be provided. Fr Marcello will be officially installed by the Bishop as the Parish Priest on Saturday 4th March at 6:00pm. Please bring a plate to share following Mass as we officially welcome Fr Marcello

**Sacrament of Senior Reconciliation (Grade 5)** Parents (*only*) are invited along to an information evening on Tuesday 21st February at 7:00pm in the Grade 5/6 Learning Community. A brief outline of the participation required for your child to prepare for this sacrament along with the celebration dates will be provided at the info evening.

**Ash Wednesday Mass** will be held in the Church on Wednesday 1st March at 9.30am.

**Lenten Stations of the Cross** will be held in the Church on Fridays evenings from 6.30pm. Contact Judith 5331 7131 if you would like further information. We will start on Friday 3rd March

**Lenten Prayer and Reflection** As lent approaches and you feel you would like to enter into the season more fully please consider joining myself and hopefully others on each Friday of Lent at 5pm in the church foyer for an hour of prayer and reflection. We will commence on Friday the 3rd March, 2017. It would be helpful if you could phone or text me beforehand on 0409 323 097, ring the office on 53 317131, or alternately just arrive. Di Cowie

**Mens' group** First gathering for 2017 will be held at Pipers by the Lake on Wendouree Parade at 2pm on Thursday 23rd February for a coffee and a catch up. If you require transport contact the office 5331 7131

**Social gathering** Our next Parish social gathering will be lunch on 17 March at the Ballarat Golf club starting at 12.30pm. More information to follow.

**Rosters** We will be preparing the next roster in the next few weeks. Apologies to anyone who was left off the last one. If there are any changes to be made or you would like to join another ministry please contact Ruth in the office. There will be a roster for Easter in the foyer from next weekend to be completed. If you be will around for Easter please fill in the sheet where you are able to assist.

### DATE: FEBRUARY 18 & 19

WELCOMER	Anne Caine	Adele Carter
COMMENTATOR	Maree Phelan	Terry Grano
PROCLAIMER 1	Trish Simmons	Irene Monigatti
PROCLAIMER 2	Diane Cowie	Geraldine Mugavin
GIFTS	Madigan Fmily	Mandy Carroll
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	R Marquand, T Keogh Jnr, A Lacey	M Kennedy, C Wakefield, I Monigatti
OVERHEADS	Volunteer please	Sharon de Beer
SACRISTAN	Sullivan Sisters	Megan Bourke

### DATE: FEBRUARY 25 & 26

WELCOMER	Marg Schreenan	Rebecca Eales
COMMENTATOR	Ruth Marquand	Anne Rossiter
PROCLAIMER 1	Maureen Mooney	Richard Francis
PROCLAIMER 2	Eileen van de Laar	Kierce O'Loughlin
GIFTS	Jan Mullaly	Sharon de Beer
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	T Simmons, J Waight, M Eddy	K O'Loughlin, K Bennetts, J Brown
OVERHEADS	Volunteer please	Sharon de Beer
SACRISTAN	Maree Phelan	Maureen

<b>WHAT'S ON <i>next week:</i></b>	
Tuesday 21st February	7.30pm Liturgy meeting Venue TBA
Thursday 23rd February	7pm Parish Leadership Team Board room

	<b>Thank you for your generous support</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> Collection	For the support of the Clergy of the Ballarat Diocese	\$
2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection (Envelopes)	-Last week's giving for the upkeep of the parish -Average given weekly for this financial year (week 3)	\$ \$

**OTHER NEWS**

**Call for Nominations – Diocesan Pastoral Council** The Diocese of Ballarat is calling for nominations for the 2017 Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC). The DPC is a consultative and advisory body to the Bishop. Click onto the Diocesan Website for more information or check with your parish priest/parish leader, or phone Amanda in the Diocese office, ph. 5337 7125.

**Resources from the Diocese for Parishes** The Diocesan Resource Centre has a wide range of resources that can be borrowed free by groups or individuals in parishes. There are books, music and dvds on many topics including sacraments, Lent, the Gospel of Matthew, Pope Francis, social justice and resources for children. Attached is a poster for display in your parish. More about the Resource Centre on the Diocesan website: [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) or contact 5337 7149.

**Mission Conference 2017 “One Heart Many Voices” May 15-17, 2017** Mission 2017: *One heart many voices* is for those who are inspired to strive creatively for justice, peace, reconciliation and God’s mission of mercy. It is a unique opportunity to listen, converse and experience the many and diverse voices that are an expression of the one heart of mission. The conference will explore the complexity and issues surrounding leadership, formation, theology and the practice of mission. For more information go to [www.mohmv.com.au](http://www.mohmv.com.au)

**Caritas Australia’s Project Compassion 2017 Lenten Speaker** An invitation is extended to parishioners and friends to attend a shared meal with Fr. Robert Timoner (known as Fr. Tonette) to hear about his work for Caritas Australia in the Philippines. Fr Tonette is Director of the Socio-Pastoral Action Centre Foundation, Inc, a Filipino organisation that supports the development and empowerment of Indigenous communities. Please bring a plate of food to share for a buffet. Tea/Coffee provided. Friday 3rd March, 6pm for 6.30pm start. Our Lady Help of Christians Parish meeting room.

**World Day of Prayer** Celebrating 90 Years of World Day of Prayer in Australia—A Service will be held at St John’s Anglican Church, 606 Armstrong Street Ballarat North on Friday 3rd March at 2:00pm. The speaker will be Fr David Oulton, Rector of St John’s.

**Lay Pastoral Ministry Program - you can start in March or May** The Lay Pastoral Ministry Program offers low-cost opportunities for online study and formation for lay workers in the diocese, both employees and volunteers. Registration for the March study cycle closes on February 27, 2017 **so contact us now** - or you can start in May or later in the year. If you are interested, first check out the details on the diocesan website (link to Lay Pastoral Ministry Program in lower part of front page), then contact Amanda, ph: 5337 7125 or email [amanda.smith@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:amanda.smith@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

**Passionist Family Group Movement Victoria/Tasmania** *The PFGM State Team members invite you to a Farewell function for Maree and Bernard Metcalfe to mark their retirement as Directors, to be held on Saturday, April 1, 2017 with Mass at 11am in St Francis Xavier Parish Church, 86 Mayona Road, MONTMORENCY, 3094 (Melway Map 21, E5) followed by a light lunch in the SFX Parish hall - BYO drinks. RSVP by March 17, 2017 to: Judy & Rob Lewis, 4 Alvina Street, FERNTREE GULLY 3156 OR Email: [pfgm.victas@gmail.com](mailto:pfgm.victas@gmail.com)*



**Caritas Australia - Up to Us Campaign** The Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission invites you to circulate this campaign to all staff, parents, students in secondary schools, and all parishioners. Caritas Australia and a coalition of Australia’s Aid & Development agencies urge you to take action. The Australian Government has opened submissions to a long-term plan for Australia’s foreign policy. The need to work together to address shared global challenges has never been more urgent - the world is facing multiple challenges of poverty, conflict, forced migration and climate change. If we want a better vision, it’s up to us. Take action at <http://uptous.org.au/?org=caritas> (open till Feb 27). It takes 60 seconds to make a submission. Go through a few questions, and your editable statement appears at the end.

**St. Patrick’s Day Coffee Party** will be held on Friday 17th March 1.30pm Nazareth House Hall \$5 entry—see notice board

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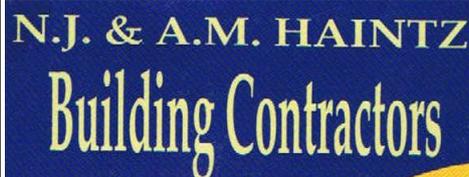
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