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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, June 6, 2024.** You may attend either the 10.00 am or the 5.30 pm session.



Climate change is a global problem with grave implications: environmental, social, economic, political and for the distribution of goods. It represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day. (Laudato Si' 25).

reduce reuse recycle
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Child Safe Church The Parishes of St Columba's, St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat and St John the Baptist Beaufort 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 Diocesan or Parish website or on the foyer notice board. If you have any concerns whatsoever—please contact the Parish Offices, one of our priests or Safe Guarding Officers at <https://www.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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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 Coordinator:
Lia Andanar Yu
Wed-Friday 10:00am – 2:00pm
Safeguarding Officer:
Peter Marquand

MASS TIMES (This week)

St Columba's
Sunday 10.00 am
Wednesday 10.00 am

Beaufort
2nd & 4th Sunday 8.30 am

Readings for Next Weekend
Deuteronomy 4: 32-34, 39-40
Ps 32:4-6, 9, 18-20, 22 R. v. 12
Romans 8: 14-17
Matthew 28:16-20



19th May 2024 ~ Pentecost Sunday Year B

Focus on the Scriptures

A Message of Peace Pentecost Sunday is often called the birthday of the Church. For the ancient Israelites, Pentecost (meaning "fiftieth") was a harvest festival celebrated 50 days after the beginning of the harvest. When the Jerusalem Temple was built, this harvest festival was transformed into a pilgrimage feast to celebrate the covenant that God had made with Israel on Mt Sinai. In the decades following the death of Jesus, the early Christians reflected on their origins and chose this feast to mark the birth of God's new covenant with God's people.

In today's first reading, Luke tells the new Pentecost story in symbolic language that evokes the story of Moses and the people of Israel receiving God's Law on Mt Sinai. Just as God's presence to Israel was marked by earthquake and thunder and fire, so God's Spirit enveloping the people of the new covenant appears in a mighty rush of wind and tongues of fire. Luke's account also evokes early rabbinic teaching that the voice of God on Sinai divided into seventy tongues and all the nations received the Law in their own tongue.

For the teaching at the heart of the new covenant, we turn to the gospel reading from John. The risen Christ appears to the disciples who are huddled behind locked doors. He offers the simple greeting: "Peace be with you," the greeting we offer each other at every Eucharistic celebration. He sends them on a mission of peace in continuity with his own God-inspired mission. He breathes on them the gift of the Holy Spirit and tells them that God will forgive those whom they forgive, and will "retain" or "seize hold of" the transgressions of those whose sins or transgressions they "retain".

To seize hold of wrong-doing is to expose it and deal with it. Sometimes it is best to forgive and simply allow everyone to move on. In other situations, an easy amnesty only exacerbates the problem. Much of the enduring conflict in our world derives from the inability of ordinary people and of leaders to know how to deal with transgression. The Holy Spirit is the unique source of our power to forgive, of our capacity to deal with the perpetrators of violence and of the strength we need to refrain from vengeance. Sadly, the desire for vengeance often inhibits healing in those who have suffered violence or abuse, and even in those who endeavour to support them, so that the cycle of transgression continues. With much of our world in the grip of mindless conflict and our entire planet threatened by the climate crisis, we must work ceaselessly as a global community to address the causes of violence and destruction and search together for lasting solutions. As we celebrate Pentecost Sunday, let us gather into our hearts all the distressed members of our Earth community and pray with greater urgency than ever before: "Come Holy Spirit, renew the face of the Earth."

~Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm: (R.) Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Marie Anderson

Anniversaries: We remember: Ugo Lo Iaconio, Les Egan, Thomas Gurrie, Patricia Gerrett, Peter Cook Joyce Keynton, Claire Carroll, Anton Kors, Nancy Colasante, Jack Lynch, Sidney Morgan, John Francis Deady

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

Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program – Online Study The Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) is a growing initiative to offer adult religious education and faith formation anytime and anywhere, online. This low-cost (\$50usd) online study and formation for employed or volunteer lay workers in parishes is available through our partner, Dayton University. The Cycle 4 begins May 27. There are 30 subjects to choose from – find one that interests you! Registrations are ongoing. For more information email [djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:djurджа.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or ph. 5337 7121.

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 2004 – 20 Year Reunion Celebration – Saturday, May 25
 Class of 2014 – 10 Year Reunion Celebration – Saturday, May 25

Details at <https://www.damascus.vic.edu.au/community/alumni/alumni-reunions-events>. Enquiries: connecting@damascus.vic.edu.au

Ballarat Diocesan Committee Catholic Women’s League An invitation is extended to all to the Diocesan Conference/Reflection Day on Thursday May 23rd in the Mary Glowrey Room at the Cathedral.

Registration 9.15am

Conference 10am - 3pm. Including Mass 12.05 in the Cathedral with the crowning of Our Lady Help of Christians.

Entry \$20. Morning Tea. Lunch and Afternoon Tea. Guest speakers. Stalls and Competition - Cash only. RSVP (20th May) to Margaret Rowe Phone 0419 114 435. Please email margrowe@bigpond.com OR to Carmel Kavanagh - E. annekav1234@gmail.com.

St Columba’s May 26th	(next week) Sunday 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG	Tony Beggs
COMMENTATOR	Min Myers
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Tim O’Farrell
COMMUNION MINISTER	Judy Brown
DIGITAL PROJECTOR	Bruce Chapman
SACRISTAN	Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe

Collections last week Thank you for your contributions
 Presbytery: \$ 319.90 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 2524.00

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.

Congratulations Confirmation Candidates! St Columba’s Sacramental Program continues with the Sacrament of Confirmation. Preparation sessions were completed over the past 3 weeks at St Columba’s School. There are 51 children in our parish who will receive Confirmation this year. Celebrations will take place within Sunday mass today, the **19th of May, Pentecost Sunday, and the 26th of May**. Thank you to all families, school staff, St Columba’s parishioners and volunteers for making this possible. Let’s keep the children and their families in our prayers. May the Holy Spirit guide them on their faith journey and may God bless us all!

Mass Counts all weekends in May The Annual Diocesan Mass Count continues each weekend until the end of May.

Prevention of domestic violence and violence against women The following resources are available from various catholic agencies for an end to domestic violence and violence against women:

- A prayer service, “Prayer for the Elimination of Violence Against Women” from the National Centre for Evangelisation <https://shorturl.at/pqzBS>
- Social Justice Statement 2022-23, “Respect: Confronting violence and abuse”, developed by the Australian Catholic Bishop’s Conference’s Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace <https://www.catholic.au/s/article/violence-against-women>
- Catholic Social Services Victoria “Prevention of Domestic Violence Kit” <https://css.org.au/advocacy-policy/prevention-of-family-violence/>
- “A Catholic Response to Domestic Violence” from the Diocese of Broken Bay <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/safeguarding/a-catholic-response-to-domestic-violence>

National Volunteer Week: May 20-26, 2024 From May 20-26, 2024 we have the opportunity to celebrate and recognise the vital work of volunteers and to say thank you and this includes people in our parishes and agencies.

A big and heartfelt thank you to all our talented, kind and generous volunteers here at St Columba’s Parish! We appreciate your sharing of your time and talents. New volunteers are most welcome. Many hands make light work. God bless!

Laudato Si’ Week 2024: May 19-26 Caritas Australia have provided the following resources for Laudato Si’ week, available on the diocesan: <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/catholic-earthcare-ballarat-diocese/laudato-si-2024/>

Prayer for Vocations

O Holy Spirit of wisdom and divine love, awaken in the hearts of the young, Your knowledge, understanding, and counsel. May they discover the vocation wherein they can best serve God to be of service to their sisters and brothers.

Inflame all young hearts with courage and grant them your peace. Mary, Mother of our Saviour, and our Mother, pray for us.

Are you interested in becoming a Mercy Associate? This group seeks to “Preserve, Nurture and Reimagine the Mercy charism”, established by Catherine McAuley and the Sisters of Mercy. Members are offered a number of social and spiritual activities throughout the year. If you are interested, both women and men are welcome, please email mercyassociates@ismapng.org.au

Praying with Pope Francis The Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) is an international movement that is more than 170 years old. Each month, the Pope puts forward a prayer intention and asks Catholics around the world to join him in prayer. These intentions cover all sorts of areas of life, encouraging faith, renewing hope and calling us to loving service. Praying each month ‘The Pope Video’ forms part of the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network – view at www.thepopevideo.org.

Pope’s intention for May – for the formation of men and women religious and seminarians: Let us pray that men and women religious, and seminarians, grow in their vocational journey through human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, that leads them to be credible witnesses of the Gospel. Lord, hear us.

Tea and Coffee after Mass every first Sunday of the month at St. Columba’s Looking forward to having a cuppa and catch up with you on June 2, 2024. Keep well and warm, everyone!

St Columba’s June 2nd	Sunday 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG	Terry Ranger
COMMENTATOR	Tom Keogh
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Bruce Chapman
COMMUNION MINISTER	Colleen Wakefield
DIGITAL PROJECTOR	Vicki Moroney
SACRISTAN	Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe