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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
rethink repurpose

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

5th May 2024 ~ 6th Sunday of Easter Year B

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

Acts of the Apostles 1: 1-11
Ps 46: 2-3, 6-9, R. v.6
Ephesians 1:17-23
Mark 16:15-20



Focus on the Scriptures

Abide in My Love The constitutions of my religious institute remind me that “the tender mercy of our God has given us one another”. The implications of this profoundly beautiful truth are spelt out thus: “In our communities, we try to live in the friendship of Christ’s disciples [John 15:15]. To so live calls forth relationships of equality, a real acceptance of ourselves and others, a forgetfulness of anything that does not make love its message.” Living in the friendship of Christ’s disciples is at the heart of a gospel way of living. It is the commission at the heart of today’s reading and seems to be exactly what Pope Francis reminded all believers in his Apostolic Exhortation on the Call to Holiness in Today’s World, Gaudete et Exultate: “We are all called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do”.

As we listen to the proclamation of the gospel, we might attend to the repetition of “joy”, to the three-fold repetition of “friends” and to the nine-fold repetition of “love”. We might attend to the way in which the pronouns I/my/me and you/your function in the passage. We may also notice the reference to “commands” and “commandments”.

We tend not to associate “commands” with friendship and love because those we count as our friends are not usually in the habit of commanding or ordering us to do what they want. We derive little joy from being ordered to do something. And yet, there is no resiling from the juxtaposition of these terms. God, imaged in the gospel passage as “Father”, loves Jesus. Jesus remains or abides in God’s love so deeply that this love flows on to his friends. They are to love one another as Jesus has loved them. This is his commandment or commission to them and, by extension, to us. It directs them/us to live for each other and put their lives/our lives on the line for one another. Countless volunteers in the tragic war zones of our world are doing precisely that.

Remaining in the love of God or of Jesus and doing what God or Jesus commands seem to be one and the same thing. In other words, love is not just an emotion: it is always expressed in action that is in tune with and for the sake of the other. The disciples need no further explanation. Jesus’ whole life and his courage in the face of impending death have shown them what it means to love one another.

Living in the friendship of Christ’s disciples is not some abstract goal. Too often we affirm the goodness of our selfless companions on the journey only when we come to lay them to rest. As we approach the end of the Easter season, we might give thanks for the love of our friends, for their witness to holiness and for the joy that they bring to our lives.

~Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm: (R.) The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Fr Thomas (Tom) Brophy

Anniversaries: We remember: Martin Hayes, Sheila Anderson, Mario Perovic, Jenny Jackson, Alida Turkenburg, Annette Cunningham, Peter Thorpe, James McEldrew, Frank Sheehan, Frank Rienets, Gerard Sullivan, Doreen Davies

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 or ph. 5337 7121.

Appointments to Parishes The new appointments took effect on April 10 We welcome the priests who will look after our St Columba’s community:

Ballarat Cathedral Parish, **Ballarat North Parish** and Beaufort Parish

Administrator: Fr Edward Moloney
Assistant Priests: Fr Francis Kureeckal MST, Fr James McKay

A warm welcome to Fr. Francis, Fr. Ed and Fr. Jim!

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 1984 – 40 Year Reunion Celebration – Saturday, May 18
- Class of 1994 – 30 Year Reunion Celebration – Saturday, May 18
- Class of 2004 – 20 Year Reunion Celebration – Saturday, May 25
- Class of 2014 – 10 Year Reunion Celebration – Saturday, May 25

Please note: An all-years St Paul’s Reunion will be held in 2025. For further details and booking links for each class reunion, please visit <https://www.damascus.vic.edu.au/community/alumni/alumni-reunions-events>. Scroll down to 2024 'CLASS OF' Reunions and click the + to view details and book your ticket. For enquiries: connecting@damascus.vic.edu.au

St Columba’s May 12th	(next week) Sunday 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG	Tony Beggs
COMMENTATOR	Vicki Moroney
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Min Myers
COMMUNION MINISTER	Gina Hinchey
DIGITAL PROJECTOR	Fiona Newton
SACRISTAN	Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe

Collections last week Thank you for your contributions
Presbytery: \$ 438.45 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 761.75

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.

Tea and Coffee after Mass every first Sunday of the month at St. Columba’s Our next tea and coffee is today. Please come and join us after mass. It will be lovely to catch up!

Cathedral Branch CWL Ballarat The next meeting of the St Patrick’s Cathedral Branch of the Catholic Women’s League will be held on Monday May 6th at 1.30pm at Nazee Nook, Nazareth House. New members welcome.

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.

Fr Tom Brophy Funeral Mass Mass celebrating entry into eternal life For Fr Tom Brophy will be celebrated on Monday, May 6, 2024 at 10.00am at St Patrick’s Cathedral Ballarat. Burial will follow at the Ballarat New Cemetery. Rosary will be recited in evening on Sunday, May 5 at 6.30 pm at St Patrick’s Cathedral Ballarat. Livestream link for the Funeral Mass is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X1XY3pJf9zo>. Livestream link for the burial is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=17ebPR8oEK8>

Fr Paddy Mugavin Golden Jubilee of Ordination to the Priesthood Mass All are welcome to Mass to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood for Fr Paddy Mugavin on Sunday, May 19, 2024 at 10.30am at St Mary’s Church, Hamilton. Morning tea / light lunch provided.

Mass Counts begin this weekend 4-5 May The Annual Diocesan Mass Count will take place over 4 weekends in May. Counting is to begin this weekend (4-5 May) and continue each weekend until the end of May.

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

St Columba’s Sacramental Program continues with the Sacrament of Confirmation. Preparation sessions are ongoing at St Columba’s School. Let’s keep the children and their families in our prayers. May the Holy Spirit guide them on their faith journey.

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.*

Sew and So Thursday 9th May, 2024 at 1.30pm in St Columba’s Church Foyer. Come along and join us for a pleasant afternoon. The second Thursday is early again this month. Enquiries Margaret 53314032

St Columba’s May 19th	Sunday 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG	Terry Ranger
COMMENTATOR	Anthea Hinchey
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Tom Keogh
COMMUNION MINISTER	Bruce Chapman
DIGITAL PROJECTOR	Kathleen Keogh
SACRISTAN	Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe