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**St Bernard's Church Bacchus Marsh**  
**150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** St Bernard's Church will mark the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the blessing and opening of the church with a special Mass on Sunday, June 23, 2024 at 11.00am. A 300 page history focusing on the priests and people who built the parish has been compiled. Details at <https://stbernardsbacchusmarsh.com.au/>

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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](http://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**

Job 38:1, 8-11  
Ps 106:23-26, 28-31 R. v. 1  
2 Corinthians 5: 14-17  
Mark 4:35-41



**16th June 2024 ~ 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

The first of the parables in today's gospel reading has no parallel in the other gospels. It compares God's reign to a trusting sower who scatters the seed by day, sleeps by night, and simply observes the "earth produce of itself" until it is time to harvest the grain. The sower's actions of scattering, sleeping, rising, and going in with the sickle are paralleled by "not-knowing how" the seed is transformed into grain. We may, in our times, have a more sophisticated, more scientific understanding of the process of growth. We have no less reason to stand in awe at the wonder of it all.

In an era of urbanization, of supermarket chains and online shopping even for groceries, we can easily lose sight of the source of food and the miracle of food production. This little parable might serve as a reminder of the goodness of the Earth and of the God who sustains our planetary home. It might inspire us to contemplate the myriad ways in which the Earth speaks to us of God and God's empire or kin-dom. At another level, we might ask about the identity of the sower. We might question how the sower's actions and attitudes provide an image of God's reign. Is it in the sower's trusting that all will be well while "not-knowing"? Is it in the observation that the grain is ripe for the harvest? Is it in the prompt action to bring in the harvest? The sower's "not-knowing" might resonate with us in our "not knowing" all we would like to know about dealing with the spread of the viruses that infecting our world. Parables are meant to tease their hearers/readers. They are open-ended and challenging.

The second parable appears in all three synoptic gospels. Matthew and Luke both parallel the mustard seed parable with a parable about a woman mixing yeast into flour. Mark, in contrast, juxtaposes his mustard seed parable with that of the trusting sower. Mustard seeds were tiny, although they were not the smallest of seeds and have never been known to become the largest of shrubs. The idea that God's reign provides shelter for the birds to make their nests is a challenging one at a time when so many species are becoming extinct precisely because their habitats are being destroyed by human activity.

Some scholars have pointed out that the mustard seed was a weed. To compare God's reign with a weed may have brought a smile or two. It would certainly have exercised the minds of Jesus' audience. Maybe Jesus' disciples needed encouragement even in the early stages of the Galilean ministry. Maybe the curious and hostile needed a reminder to take this movement seriously since extraordinary things can come from the most inauspicious beginnings. Opposition to Jesus had surfaced at the outset. Mark's community may also have been experiencing opposition and feeling the need for the wisdom that comes from a carefully crafted and perfectly timed story.

~Veronica Lawson RSM

**Responsorial Psalm:** (R.) Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live for ever. Alleluia!

**Recently Deceased: We commend to God:** all who have died recently

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Philomena Cobb, Fr. Kevin Condon OP, Sr Rosemary Kelly RSM, John Madigan, Geoff Nott, Dorothy Williams, Sal O'Donoghue, Dot Keys, William Constable, Kath Leonard, Theo Wilkes, John Rieniets, Bill McNamara, Frances (Theo) Harry, William Dower

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

**St Vincent Pallotti Scholarship Trust** The St Vincent Pallotti Scholarship Trust offers scholarships to enable lay people to further their understanding and skills in leadership/ministry or a specialised activity, such as promoting faith enhancement, social justice and pastoral care. Details and application forms at <http://pallottine.org.au/svpscholarship> Closing date is July 31, 2024.

**Jubilee Year 2025 “Pilgrims of Hope”** Pope Francis has announced that 2025 will be a Jubilee Year, with the theme “Pilgrims of Hope”. It will be a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic and the climate crisis. In the lead-up to the Jubilee Year, Pope Francis has asked that 2024 be marked as a Year of Prayer, to promote the centrality of individual and community prayer. The Dicastery for Evangelisation has made some useful resources available to help people to better understand and rediscover the value of prayer. In addition to the 38 catecheses on Prayer that Pope Francis himself presented, a series of booklets entitled, “Notes on Prayer” is being published by the Vatican publishing house. The eight titles are designed to put the need for a profound relationship with the Lord back at the centre of people’s lives, through the many forms of prayer to be found in the rich Catholic tradition of prayer. In addition, a pastoral aid is available online, in a digital version, to help parish communities, families, priests, cloistered nuns and young people to become more aware of the need for daily prayer. To access resources and find out more about the Jubilee Year, go to <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/liturgy-sacraments/jubilee-year-2025-pilgrims-of-hope/>

**Caritas Australia’s Papua New Guinea Landslide Disaster** Remote communities in Papua New Guinea have been devastated by a catastrophic landslide that struck at 3.00am on May 24. The timing of the landslide meant most people were sleeping at the time of the disaster, with little time to escape. Thousands are feared dead. As rescue efforts continue, those who have lost their homes urgently need our support now, and in the weeks and months ahead. To donate go to [Papua New Guinea Landslide Disaster | Caritas Australia](#)

St Columba’s June 23 (next week) Sunday 10.00 am	
LEADER OF SONG	Tony Beggs
COMMENTATOR	Fiona Newton
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Bruce Chapman
COMMUNION MINISTER	Gina Hinchey
DIGITAL PROJECTOR	Vicki Moroney
SACRISTAN	Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe

**Collections last week** Thank you for your contributions  
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## 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.*

**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, July 4, 2024**. You may attend either the 10.00 am or the 5.30 pm session.

**150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat – Formation** In preparation for the Diocesan Assembly in November 2024, there will be formation sessions held around the diocese with a focus on leadership and governance. In 2023, Bishop Paul asked parishes to focus on leadership in their local communities, either by forming or developing further a parish council or leadership team according to local circumstances. The Diocesan Assembly will bring together clergy, representatives of the leadership teams in parishes, schools and Catholic organisations to consider how we might develop leadership and governance in our communities in the future. The formation opportunity is for Clergy in parishes, Parish Leadership Team/Parish Councils, School Leadership Teams/School Advisory Councils, Catholic Organisations Leaders. An invitation is also extended to people who have leadership potential and who would like to participate. Leadership teams are invited to nominate others who might benefit from this experience. Fr Justin Driscoll will facilitate the formation sessions.

Dates are:

**Mildura-** June 12 – 6.30pm – 8.30pm – Sacred Heart Church, Mildura

**Robinvale-** June 13 – 10.00am – 3.00pm – St Mary’s Parish, Robinvale

**Horsham-** July 28 – 10.30am – 4.00pm – Ss Michael & Johns Church, Horsham

**Colac-** July 30 – 10.00am – 3.00pm – St Mary’s Parish, Colac

**Ballarat-** August 4 – 10.30am – 4.00pm

**Saints Peter and Paul Church, Buninyong**

**Ballarat-** August 13 – 5.00pm – 8.30pm

**Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Wendouree**

**Warrnambool-** August 25 – 10.30am – 4.00pm – St Joseph’s Church, Warrnambool.



**Pope’s intention for June - for those fleeing their own countries:**

Let us pray that migrants fleeing from war or hunger, forced to undertake journeys fraught with danger and violence, may find welcome and new living opportunities in their host countries. Lord, hear us.

### Prayer to end domestic violence

Loving God, we pray for an end to domestic and family violence against women in our community. We ask for your wisdom and guidance. We pray for constancy in seeking a society where all people are safe in their home, families and close relationships, and where all relationships respect the equality and dignity of each person. We pray for all those affected by violence, that they may find safety and healing. We pray that all women and children will find a place and life free from violence and children will be cared for in nurturing, protective and supportive ways. We pray for young men that they may find models of respectful relationships and reject the violent and demeaning images of manhood current in our society. We ask for the courage to confront the causes of family violence, including the prevalence of violence in society, abuse of power and the unequal position of women in the community. We pray for right and just relations between all people, so that together we may transform and overcome violence in all its forms. We long for the time you have promised, when violence is banished, women and men are open to love and be loved, children are protected and the work and wealth of our world is justly shared. Through Christ our Lord. Amen. *Source: Catholic Social Services Victoria*

### 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. Cycle 5 begins July 15. There are 41 subjects to choose from, find one that interests you! Registrations are open. For more info email [djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:djurджа.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or ph. 5337 7121. ph. 5337 7121.

St Columba’s June 30 Sunday 10.00 am	
LEADER OF SONG	Terry Ranger
COMMENTATOR	Colleen Wakefield
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Vicki Moroney
COMMUNION MINISTER	Tim O’Farrell
DIGITAL PROJECTOR	Kathleen Keogh
SACRISTAN	Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe