

Please support our loyal advertisers



Prepaid Funerals
Eliminate family stress
Details: 5337 7111



Ed Browne
Busy Bookkeeping
Phone 5364 2922
ballarat@busybookkeeping.com.au



PPT
PROWSE PERRIN & TWOMEY
20 Lydiard Street Sth,
Ballarat
Ph: (03) 5331 3711
www.ppt.com.au



Pat Cashin Funerals
Ballarat
A.B.N. 28 007 228 757
Address: 1114 Doveton
Street North, Ballarat, 3350
Phone: (03) 5333 3911
All hours. Moderate cost



BALLARAT MEAT COMPANY
11 Neerim Crescent,
Wendouree Industrial Park
Ph: 5339 3122
Open Direct to the Public
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

Save energy at home: Much of our electricity and heat are powered by coal, oil and gas. Use less energy by reducing your heating and cooling use, switching to LED light bulbs and energy-efficient electric appliances, washing your laundry with cold water or hanging things to dry instead of...

Save energy at home

... using a dryer. Improving your home's energy efficiency, through better insulation for instance, or replacing your oil or gas furnace with an electric heat pump, can reduce your carbon footprint by up to 900 kilograms of CO₂e per year.

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.



Save with CDF Community Fund –

it's in everyone's best interest.



By opening an account with CDF Community Fund, you are saving for a reward greater than money alone. Help build classrooms for students, places of worship for communities, hospital wings for the sick, aged care homes for the elderly and social service facilities for the most vulnerable. It's a way to save while doing good.

With competitive interest rates available across a range of accounts, including **5.35% p.a.* on a 12-month Term Investment**, it's a way to save while doing good. To find out more, visit www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund/offer, or contact the CDF Team on csg@melbcdf.org.au or phone 1800 134 135.

*Interest rates subject to change. View current rates on the [CDF website](http://www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au).



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:
Anthea Hinchey

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
2 Kings 4:42-44
Ps 144:10-11, 15-18. R. v.16
Ephesians 4:1-6
John 6:1-15



21st July 2024 ~ 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Focus on the Scriptures

"Come Away to a Desert Place" In every life, there is need for a balanced rhythm of work and re-creation. With so much pain and suffering in our world, the demands of living a gospel way of life can overwhelm us and cause us to act as though everything depends on us. While we can never really escape the responsibility of being there for those in need, today's gospel reminds us that there is a time for being out on mission and a time for being with the one who calls and sends us.

The apostles have been busy—preaching, healing and driving out the “demons” as instructed. They now report back to Jesus with an account of their activities. Jesus listens and invites them to take time to rest and recuperate. The implication is that they have truly given themselves to the mission. “Come away to a desert place all by yourselves and rest a while” is the invitation that he extends to them. The reference to desert evokes the wilderness of Sinai through which the people of Israel are said to have travelled for forty years. For the contemporary reader, it evokes the diversity of life in the desert, on the one hand, and the desertification of so much of the earth's surface as a result of tree-clearing and mindless destruction of forests on the other.

The “rest” that Jesus proposes is short-lived: the crowds pursue him. His response to these crowds is a physical one: he is “moved with compassion”. The Greek verb for being moved with compassion suggests a “gut” reaction in Jesus: he is physically affected in the depths of his being by the plight of the people who are “like sheep without a shepherd”, and he is ready to do something about it. As the story continues, we find Jesus inviting his disciples to accept responsibility for relieving the hunger of the people in the desert. “You give them something to eat” is his instruction to those who would turn the people away.

Like the Israelites of old, the afflicted Earth community in any age needs good leaders or “shepherds” who will “practice justice and righteousness in the land”, as the first reading from the prophet Jeremiah reminds us. The Hebrew word for justice refers to justice in the law courts. The word for righteousness is about right relationship at every level. Jesus demonstrates for his disciples and for us what justice and righteousness entail.

As the gospel story unfolds, we find that Jesus' disciples are well-meaning, though slow to learn. They are a bit like us in that. The more we take time to reflect, however, the more likely we are to respond with the compassionate heart of the “shepherd”, and the more likely we are to achieve lasting justice and right relationship in a world of unconscionable disparities and unprecedented displacement of peoples and of other-than-human species.

~Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm: (R.) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me. Alleluia!

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

Anniversaries: We remember: Steve Mikus, Frank Clarke, Sheila Foley, Joan O'Connor, Marie McKenna, Frank O'Connor, Alan Rix, Nick Morcom, Bill & Mena Heagney

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

REPORT ON THE MEETING OF THE MERGING OF PARISHES INTO A MINISTRY DISTRICT

This gathering was to begin the process of listening to a way forward in working together to merge parishes into a Ministry District. The process of forming the districts has taken place in most areas of the Diocese in recent years. Ross Wheatland, the Diocesan Business Manager, chaired the meeting. Meeting began with Acknowledgement of Country and prayer to the Holy Spirit for guidance and wisdom.

Parish District Map (See below, middle section)

Represents the three current parishes merging into one parish.

Beaufort— Larger geographically but fewer people.

Ballarat North— More people in small area.

Cathedral—Largest group of people in reasonably small area.

Time line: of Future Parish Merge

Parish activity will remain operating independently for the immediate future, but in time the parishes will come together as one, with a projected date of merger 1st July 2025. Through a position of collaboration, the parishes will work towards a harmonious grouping. There are many gifts and talents in the communities and many experts in various fields. The Priests want to use the expertise of the Laity as we explore the merging of the parishes.

Parish Council and Finance Committee

There are two crucial areas of consideration: Pastoral and Financial. There has already been some communication between the priests, parish council members and finance committee members of each parish.

Finance Committees of all three parishes will formally come together by September 2024 and begin the discernment of a combined finance council. Independent finance council operations will continue at the same time.

St Columba's July 28	(next week) 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

Collections last weekend Thank you for your contributions
 Presbytery: \$ To be confirmed Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ TBC

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

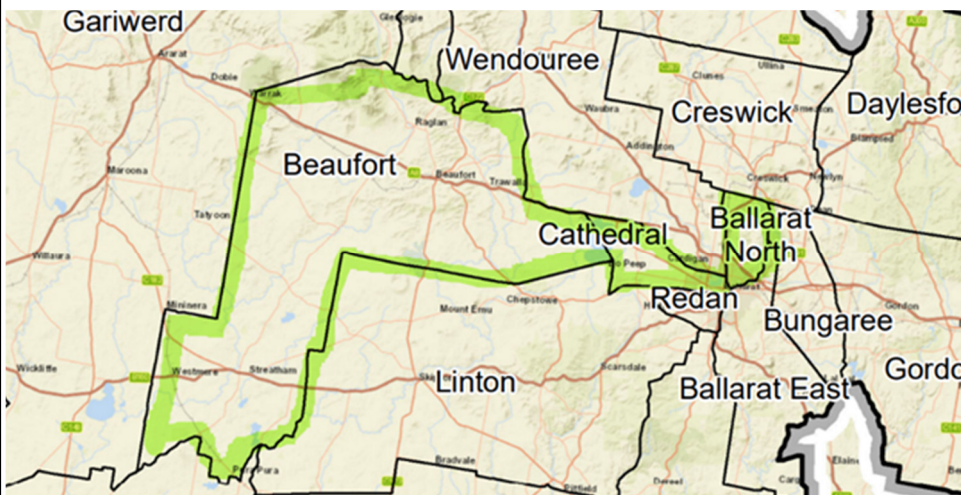
The Parish of St. Columba's Ballarat North recognises the traditional owners of parish lands. We acknowledge their ancestors with respect and we are committed to working for justice and reconciliation.


A meeting, no later than September 2024, will be held with 2 nominated representatives of each parish council and one representative from a parish school to reflect on the make-up of a future Combined Parish Council.

Naming of New Parish There needs to be a naming of the New Ministry District— a working party will be formed to receive suggestions before any decision is discerned. Nominations for two representatives for each parish will be sought for the naming working party. With the first meeting of the working party to be conducted by September 2024. Each community will retain the name of the parish Church/Cathedral, e.g. St John the Baptist, St Columba's and St Patrick's.

150th 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.

Parish District Map



St Vincent de Paul Society Winter Appeal The theme of the appeal this year is the “Working Homeless”, focusing on the emerging trend of people who are experiencing housing hardship and disadvantage despite being in employment. Between May 2023 to May 2024, St Vincent de Paul provided material household assistance to the value of \$730,000 across greater Ballarat. Envelopes are available here at the church for donations today, **July 21**, and can be placed on the collection plate. Please write your name and address if you require a receipt. All donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible. To donate online, go to www.vinnies.org.au or call 131812. 

Planned Giving Envelopes are ready for you to collect at the church foyer. Many thanks for your continued generosity to our parish community.

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, August 1, 2024**. You may attend either the 10.00 am or the 5.30 pm session.

Petition to Retain the Lord's Prayer in Parliament You are invited to sign a petition to retain the saying of the Lord's Prayer at the start of sittings of the Victorian Parliament <https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/get-involved/petitions/retain-the-lords-prayer-in-legislative-council-proceedings/>

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.

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 after mass on August 4. Until then, keep warm and God bless!

St Columba's Aug 4	Sunday 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG	Mark Lacey
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