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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:
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

Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15
Ps 77:3-4, 23-25, 54. R. v.24
Ephesians 4:17, 20-24
John 6:24-35



28th July 2024 ~ 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Focus on the Scriptures

On Being a Eucharistic People The gospel readings for the next two weeks are taken from John 6, a section of the gospel that focuses on food and related themes: on hungry people; on the need for food/bread; on food/bread as metaphors for life. To be without bread was to lack the very basics of existence, and that is how it still is for so many in our world. Even the impoverished in the so-called "first world" know what it is like to be without the means of subsistence in a world of plenty. The present cycle of readings confronts us with questions about our own lifestyle, our exploitation of earth's precious resources, and our capacity to make a positive change in the lives of those whose access to the fruits of our earth is severely limited.

In John's account of the feeding of the 5000, the crowds keep following Jesus because they see the "signs" he works among the sick. The Johannine Jesus consistently tries to lead the people beyond a form of discipleship that is simply based on seeing the signs that he works. The inadequacy of the crowd's response on this occasion becomes clear towards the end of the reading.

Both place and time function powerfully in the story. The "mountain" place evokes the giving of the Law to Moses on Mt Sinai. For the crowds, Jesus is the prophet like Moses who points to a way of satisfying hunger in the wilderness of life. The time is Passover, drawing into the narrative the passing over of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt to the freedom of the desert and ultimately of the land where they could worship their God. This story is about the liberation that God brings through the agency of Jesus.

Jesus demonstrates that the answer to the suffering of the people is to be found in their care for each other. If they take the time to sit down together, discover the riches in their midst, give thanks, and distribute what they have, they may find they have more than they need. They must gather up the fragments, the "more-than-enough", so that nothing is lost and others might benefit from their sharing. Again, we are reminded of those in our world who have access to health care and vaccines and those who do not, of those who have enough food at this time and those who do not.

Although the people partially understand Jesus' identity and teaching, their ultimate response is misdirected, even violent: they want to take him by force and make him king. He leaves them and returns to the mountain alone. We so often seek spectacular solutions to our problems. It may be that we too need to sit down together, on the grass or wherever, and discover the wealth we have at our disposal to satisfy the hunger in our world. That is what it means to be a Eucharistic people.

~Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm: (R.) The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people. Alleluia!

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

Anniversaries: We remember: Brian Foley, Margaret Irvin, Keith Ridsdale, Cornelius Britt, Peter Collins, Brian Charleson, Tom Bending, Jacqueline Curran, Jim Lamb, Bill Thompson, Tess Sheehan, Hilda Duggan, Florence Stott, Peter Curran, Jack Curran

We pray: for all in areas of conflict, 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 Aug 4	(next week) 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

Collections last two weekends *Thank you for your contributions*
 Presbytery: \$ 695.90 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,985.20

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. 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. Fr Justin Driscoll will facilitate the formation sessions. **Dates are:**

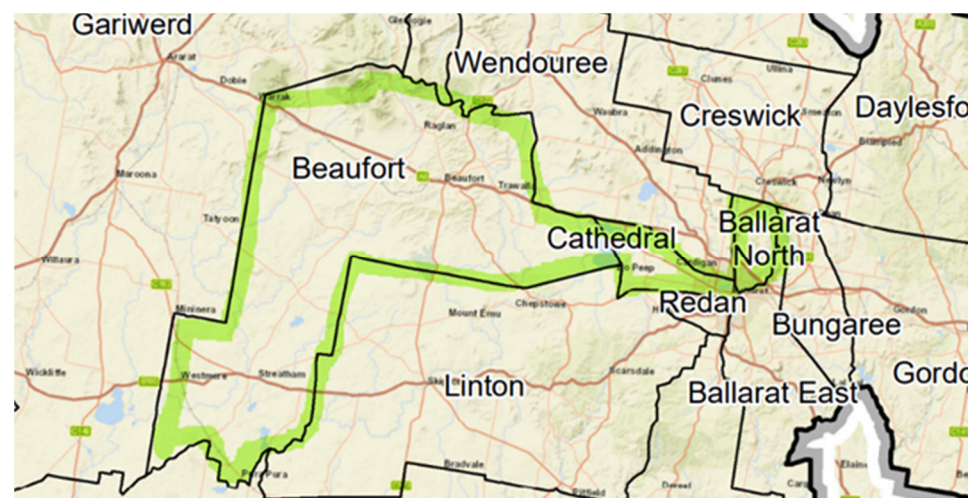
Ballarat- August 4 - 10.30am - 4.00pm

Saints Peter and Paul Church, Buninyong

Ballarat- August 13 - 5.00pm - 8.30pm

Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Wendouree

Parish District Map



Fourth World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly - Sunday, July 28, 2024 May we remember to visit, care and cherish our grandparents and elderly in our families and those in our communities.

Happy Grandparents and Elderly Day to all the grandparents and elderly in our St Columba's community!

Sacristan Formation The St Patrick's Cathedral Liturgy Committee will be running a formation afternoon for Sacristans on Sunday 4th August 2.00 - 4.30, in the MacKillop Room. We invite all current Sacristans from St Patrick's, St Columba's and St John the Baptist parishes and anyone who believes that this ministry is one that they can share with the Church Community to participate in this formation.

The Sacristan prepares for liturgies using the *Ordo* and in consultation with the Presiding Priest and Parish Liturgy Committee. His/her primary role is to care for the material things of the liturgy. They are stewards of all of the earthly things used in the liturgy - the Eucharistic vessels; the baptismal font; the holy oils; the altar cloths; the liturgical books; the vestments; the sound system and audio visuals; and the church.

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.

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 11	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