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Given the complexity of the ecological crisis and its multiple causes, we need to realize that the solutions will not emerge from just one way of interpreting and transforming reality. Respect must also be shown for the various cultural riches of different peoples, their art and poetry, their interior life and spirituality. (Laudato Si' 63)

reduce reuse recycle rethink repurpose

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, September 5, 2024.** You may attend either the 10.00 am or the 5.30 pm session.

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
Thursday 10.00 am
[Solemnity of the Assumption of
Mary into Heaven]

Beaufort
2nd & 4th Sunday 8.30 am

Readings for Next Weekend

Proverbs 9: 1-6
Ps 33:2-3, 10-15 R. v.9
Ephesians 5:15-20
John 6:51-58



11th August 2024 ~ 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Focus on the Scriptures

Stop Grumbling and Listen Jesus was a Jew, as was John, the author of the gospel. It may seem strange, therefore, that John has the "Jews" complaining about Jesus. It is indeed strange and it has caused many a reader to wonder. John seems to use the designation "Jew" as a code word for the opponents of Jesus. These opponents are almost exclusively Jewish leaders rather than the ordinary people who followed Jesus. The designation does not include all the Jewish leaders of course: Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea stand out as leaders who came to believe in Jesus as the Christ or Messiah and to take risks on account of their faith.

The complaint of the "Jews" relates to Jesus' claim, "I am the bread that came down from heaven". Jesus shares the world view or cosmology of his contemporaries: God is in the heavens above, so that anything or anyone coming from God in that world view comes down from heaven. The problem for his adversaries is that Jesus is one of them: they know his father Joseph and his forebears, so how can he be making such a claim? They make the mistake of thinking that this is all there is to know about his origins. "Stop grumbling" is Jesus' response to them. He proceeds to tell them that there are dimensions of his being of which they know nothing. And yet, they need to know, as do we. It is God who draws us to the teaching and to the way of Jesus. Like the opponents of Jesus, we need to listen and to learn, to be taught by God. We need bread in order to live and we also need the bread of God's teaching.

Jesus makes a future promise: the bread he offers is different from the bread the Israelites ate in the desert, in that those who eat of it will live forever. Furthermore, the bread that he will give for the life of the world is his flesh. This leads to further misunderstanding and the opportunity for Jesus to teach at another level. The eucharistic overtones in today's reading are subtle but nonetheless present, as they were in the feeding story.

John is writing some seventy years after the death of Jesus for communities that gathered every week for the breaking of the bread-in remembrance of him and of all that he enacted. Like the early Christians, we reflect on the meaning of eucharist. We recognise and honour the materiality of the bread that Jesus shares with all living creatures. At the same time, we are invited to reflect on the symbolic or metaphorical resonances of both bread and flesh in the context of the claims of the Johannine Jesus. The question for us then becomes: "How do we live into this extraordinary mystery as we face the demands of our endangered planet and the challenge of dealing with the dislocating effects of war and global inequity?"

~Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm: (R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord; whoever eats this bread will live for ever. Alleluia!

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

Anniversaries: We remember: Jack Nuttall, John Brusaschi, Lesley Bigarelli, Mary Ursula Caine rsm, Judith Johnstone, Neil Woods, Patricia Cook

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

THE MERGING OF PARISHES INTO A MINISTRY DISTRICT

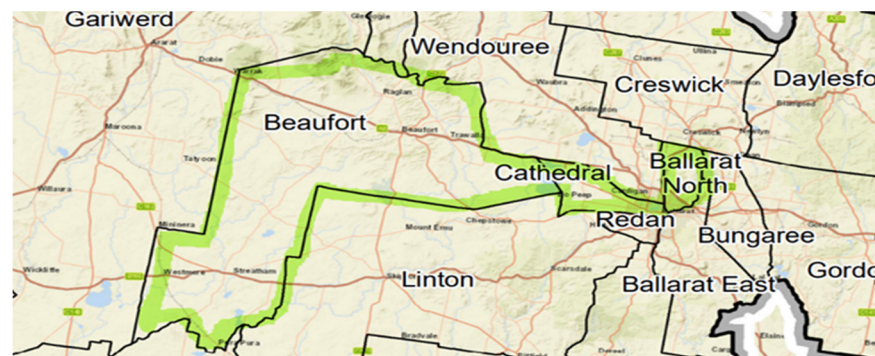
Parish District Map (See below)

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.

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.

St Columba's Aug 18	(next week) Sunday 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG	Tony Beggs
COMMENTATOR	Faustin Epeabaka
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Fiona Newton
COMMUNION MINISTER	Gina Hinchey
DIGITAL PROJECTOR	Bruce Chapman
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.

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.

Ballarat- August 13 – 5.00pm – 8.30pm

Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Wendouree

Fr Ed would like to encourage all members of the current Parish Pastoral Councils and Finance Committees to attend the Formation session at OLHC on **Tuesday August 13** at 5:00pm. This is a preliminary information meeting relevant to attendance and representation for the November Diocesan Assembly.

Praying with Pope Francis: Pope's intention for August – For political leaders: Let us pray that political leaders be at the service of their own people, working for integral human development and the common good, taking care of those who have lost their jobs and giving priority to the poor. 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 next month, **1st of September.**

St Vincent de Paul Society Winter Appeal The theme of the appeal this year is the "Working Homeless", focussing on the emerging trend of people who are experiencing housing hardship and disadvantage despite being in employment. For the period between May 2023 – May 2024, St Vincent de Paul provided material household assistance to the value of \$730,000 across greater Ballarat. Envelopes are available in churches for donations 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.

Liturgy Formation at East Wimmera Parish – Sunday, August 18, 2024 The Diocesan Liturgical Commission is hosting a Liturgy Formation Session at St Mary's Church, Donald on Sunday, August 18, 2024. Bishop Paul will celebrate Mass at 10.30am with the formation program beginning at 12.30pm on the topics of Formation for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Formation for Lectors. All are welcome to attend. Registrations are now open. Please go to the diocesan website to register <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/pnews/liturgy-formation-at-donald-sunday-august-18-2024/>

St Columba's Sacramental Program continues with the Sacrament of First Eucharist this Term 3. Preparation sessions will take place in the coming weeks. Let's keep the children and their families in our prayers. May the Holy Spirit guide them on their faith journey.

Launch of the ACBC Social Justice Statement 2024-2025 The 2024-2025 Social Justice Statement, "Truth and Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World" will be launched by Bishop Vincent Lond OFM CONV and Associate Professor Joel Hodge on Tuesday, August 20, 2024 at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish 198 Old Prospect Rd, Greystanes, St Paul's Catholic College Sports Hall from 10.00 – 12.00noon. To attend the launch please RSVP at <https://rb.gy/ewt929>. Recordings of the launch will be available following the event.

Diocesan Social Justice Commission Reflection Day – Saturday, September 7, 2024 The Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission invite all to a Reflection Day, in celebration of the launch of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement 2024-2025, "Truth and Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World" on Saturday, September 7, 2024 from 10.00am - 2.30pm at Ss Michael and John's Horsham Parish Centre. Facilitator for the day is writer and educator, Michael McGirr. Registrations are essential through **trybooking**. A flyer is available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/ballarat-diocesan-social-justice-commission-reflection-day-with-michael-mcgirr-saturday-september-7-2024/>. The prayer for Social Justice Sunday is also available from the diocesan website.

St Columba's Aug 25	Sunday 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG	Terry Ranger
COMMENTATOR	Bruce Chapman
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Geraldine Mugavin
COMMUNION MINISTER	Bruce Chapman/ Volunteer please
DIGITAL PROJECTOR	Fiona Newton
SACRISTAN	Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe