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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/>



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\*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](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:**  
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**

Joshua 24: 1-2, 15-18  
Ps 33:2-3, 16-23 R. v.9  
Ephesians 5: 21-32  
John 6:60-69



**18th August 2024 ~ 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

**The Banquet of Life** In this week's gospel passage, we continue our reflection on John 6. John's gospel was written towards the end of the first century. The Bread of Life discourse probably reflects the interpretation of the gospel writer rather than the actual words of Jesus. This is important for making sense of statements in the discourse that would seem to be out of place from the lips of Jesus during his lifetime. The hearers of these words have lived and worshipped as followers of Jesus for some decades. They have gathered each week for the breaking of the bread and reflected deeply on the mystery of the Word made flesh, the mystery of life in Christ.

If there were eucharistic overtones subtly present in last week's gospel passage (John 6:41-51), they become quite overt as the Johannine Jesus responds to yet another objection from his opponents in this week's gospel. Like the Israelites of old in the desert wanderings, these people are more than ready to grumble: "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" (6:52). Jesus does not really respond to the question "How...?" Rather, he goes on to tell those who want to hear that "life" for them depends on their eating his flesh and drinking his blood. The Johannine Jesus uses the present as well as the future tense. The life they experience in eating his flesh and drinking his blood is a present reality for them as well as a promise of on-going life. For the Israelites, life was in the blood: blood poured out of a person or of an animal meant life poured out. Clearly "life" is being used in John 6 for the quality of life the believers have come to experience through their incorporation into and participation in the community of the baptised, the sort of life that is not destroyed by death.

Life in the community unites the believers intimately with the risen Christ as well as with the God of Israel whom the Johannine Jesus generally consistently refers to as "Father". The first reading for today reminds us that other metaphors such as Wisdom were available to those of Jewish heritage for imaging the divine. Wisdom is a female way of imaging the divine. In John's discourse, Jesus becomes Wisdom extending an invitation to the banquet of life. We keep receiving and accepting that invitation. It is well to remember that one never enjoys a banquet alone. It is always shared with others who accept the same invitation. In the strength of the sustenance we receive in this banquet, we are also invited to bring a quality of life to all beings that struggle to exist, the human and the other-than-human. The potential for this is as boundless as the generosity of our God "enfleshed" in Jesus of Nazareth.

~Veronica Lawson RSM

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

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! All who eat my flesh and drink my blood live in me and I in them, says the Lord. Alleluia!

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

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Kevin Eddy, Zac Perovic, Mary Clark, Michael Kennedy, Frank Nicol, Bill Maguire, Tess Maguire, Noel McNulty, Terry Beggs, Gwen O'Connor, Peter McMahan

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

**St Columba's Sacramental Program** continues with the Sacrament of First Eucharist. Preparation sessions are ongoing. First Eucharist will be celebrated over two Sundays, **September 8 and 15**.

**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. 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 members of the diocese** 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/>.

**Catholic Earthcare to host Season of Creation workshop in September** Caritas Australia's Catholic Earthcare team is inviting the Catholic community, including schools, parishes, diocese, organisations and religious orders – to join its 2024 Season of Creation convocation. Taking place from Thursday, September 12 to Saturday, September 14, it will call participants to 'Wonder', 'Weave' and 'Heal' together. Attendees will enjoy keynote presentations, workshops, discussions and spiritual experiences, before gathering to transform learnings into action. Keynote speakers include Sr Anne-Maree O'Beirne RSM, Pedro Walpole and Sally Neaves. More information available <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/catholic-earthcare-to-host-season-of-creation-workshop-in-september/>

St Columba's	Aug 25	(next week)	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

**Collections last two weeks** Thank you for your contributions  
 Presbytery: \$ 587.35 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 2,889.00

**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.*

**St Columba's Parish Ballarat North**

30th June 2023 **Statement of Income and Expenditure** 30th June 2024

\$	INCOME	\$
58,181	Stewardship Program and Loose Plate	53,784
50,000	Rental Income 802 Armstrong St	50,000
—	Lydiard St Townhouses	49,527
24,169	Interest, Donations, Latin Mass	23,684
1,106	Advertising Subscriptions(notice sheet)	600
	<b>Special Collections:</b>	
1,115	Clergy Retirement	1,100
727	Bishop's Christmas Appeal	805
50	Special Appeals & Missions	20
3,650	Caritas Project Compassion	2,452
214	Annual Collection for the Pope	187
<b>139,212</b>	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>182,159</b>

\$	EXPENDITURE	\$
34,519	Salaries, Superannuation, Workcover, etc	36,546
22,213	Administration Expenses	16,890
16,677	Diocesan Levies	15,868
42,709	Operating Expenses	29,769
—	Rental Property Costs (agent fees, land tax, etc)	42,116
1,307	Clergy Assistance Fund Levies	1,121
3,636	Liturgical & Pastoral Expenses	4,979
—	General Maintenance & Capital Expenses	18,716
5,656	<b>Special Collections Disbursed</b>	4,864
<b>126,717</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>170,869</b>

**12,495 SURPLUS 11,290**

**Season of Creation 2024** The Season of Creation runs from September 1 – October 4, with the theme for 2024, "To hope and act with Creation". Resources are available from <https://seasonofcreation.org/>

**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.

**ACU Big Sing for a Big Cause - August 25, 2024** The Australian Catholic University, in partnership with St Patrick's Cathedral (Melbourne) and St Patrick's College (Ballarat) is hosting "Big Sing for a Big Cause", which will see singers, choirs and instrumentalists combine for a special performance, raising funds for those affected by homelessness. The concerts will be in Ballarat and Melbourne, performing Street Requiem, a piece co-composed by Dr Kathleen McGuire, a renowned composer and ACU senior lecturer in Music Education. Donations will be raised for Peplow House (a ministry of CatholicCare Victoria) and ACU's Urgent Financial Hardship Grant. For more information go to <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/acus-big-sing-for-a-big-cause/>

**Thank you to members of the current Parish Pastoral Councils and Finance Committees** who attended the Formation session at OLHC on **Tuesday August 13**. It was also a preliminary information meeting relevant to attendance and representation for the November Diocesan Assembly.

**THE MERGING OF PARISHES INTO A MINISTRY DISTRICT** 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.

**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.

**Position Vacant: Pastoral Care at Mercy Place Ballarat Aged Care**  
 A permanent part-time position is available at Ballarat Mercy Place Aged Care. Applications are available on the seek link: <https://www.seek.com.au/job/77920166?type=standout&ref=search-standalone&origin=jobCard#sol=bf828cb7ac33e2ee3foao309916d6ede9fc496a3>. For any further information or interest in formation regarding pastoral care, please contact Bernadette Wurlod, email: [BWurlod@mercy.com.au](mailto:BWurlod@mercy.com.au)

**Tea and Coffee after Mass every first Sunday of the month at St. Columba's** Looking forward to catching up on the **1st of September**.