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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/>

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.

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.



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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

1st September 2024 ~ 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

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
(closed on school holidays)

Safeguarding Officer:
Anthea Hinchey

MASS TIMES (This week)

St Columba's
Sunday 10.00 am
Tuesday(Sep 3) 12.05 pm
Wednesday 10.00 am
[Reconciliation 10.30am]

Beaufort
2nd & 4th Sunday 8.30 am

Readings for Next Weekend
Isaiah 35:4-7
Ps 145:7-10 R. v. 1
James 2: 1-5
Mark 7:31-37



Focus on the Scriptures

"To Hope and Act with Creation From September 1 to October 4, we join with Christians across the globe in celebrating the Season of Creation. The 2024 theme, "To hope and act with creation" invites us to maintain the struggle even as we witness the devastating effects of the climate crisis. Today's gospel recounts a legal dispute about ritual purity. Jesus demonstrates the futility of focussing attention on the things that do not matter while neglecting the weightier issues of life.

At issue for the scribes and Pharisees in the story is the failure of Jesus' disciples to respect their oral tradition, in this instance to perform ritual washings before eating. From their perspective, the disciples are not "walking" according to the tradition of the elders. For the Markan Jesus, "the command of God" is paramount, not some distorted interpretation of it. He offers a hard-hitting counter-critique of their attitude to law. He calls them "hypocrites" and informs them that the condemnation of the prophet Isaiah was intended for them. They have so distorted God's law, substituting their own observances for the "commandment of God" that their prayer amounts to nothing more than lip-service, their hearts are far from God, and their worship is worthless!

For Jesus, there are criteria other than such observances for determining who is clean or unclean. He has already declared a leper clean (Mk 1:41-45). For Jesus, the "heart" is the locus of purity and impurity. For him as for all his people, the heart was the seat of the intellect and of morality as well as the seat of the emotions. In the kingdom of God, therefore, one's thoughts, desires, and intentions render one clean or unclean, not one's attention to hygiene. The latter is important of course, but it is peripheral in the context being addressed in the gospel. It is worth applying the criteria provided at the end of the passage to discover whether or not our "hearts" are near or distant from our God. The real-life Pharisees of the first century were the respected teachers of God's law. It is imperative that stories such as we find in today's gospel are not used to denigrate the Jews or to pit Christianity over against Judaism. We have to keep reminding ourselves that time and again we are dealing with in-house debates between Jewish groups. This gospel passage invites us to look at how we deal with unfair critics who can hurt us only if we allow them to do so.

Finally, this episode, with its attention to ritual washing, raises the issue of the right use of water, that precious earth element without which there would be no life at all on our planet. We might, for instance, as part of our engagement with the Season of Creation, be more attentive to those who have no access to clean drinking water by raising our voices against projects that contaminate water supply to vulnerable communities. ~Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm: (R.) The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The Father gave us birth by his message of truth, that we might be as the first fruits of his creation. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Tess Dougherty

Anniversaries: We remember: Owen Rose, Anne Nuttall, Cathe McArdle, Neil Sheehan, Newell Barrett, Geneveva Jurisic, May O'Donnell, Paul Mahar, Noreen Earl

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

The 'Right of Christian Initiation for Children of Catechetical Age' (RCICCA) is a preparation process that is more than bringing your child for Baptism – you are bringing them to be fully initiated into the Catholic Church through Baptism, Confirmation and Communion. It is about your child forming a relationship with Jesus and with a community that welcomes them. Catechetical age of children is 7 – 13 years. If you wish to learn more about RCICCA, an information afternoon will be held in the MacKillop Room of St Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday 1st September at 2.00 pm. Further enquiries contact Susan at sm.crowe23@gmail.com

Sep 3, Tuesday, 12:05 pm Mass at St Columba's Lights at St Patrick's Cathedral will be replaced on Tuesday 3rd September. The Cathedral will be closed all day. The 12.05 pm Mass will be celebrated at St Columba's, Ballarat North.

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/>.

The St. Columba's Parish Council has returned with Father Ed's recommendation. The first meeting was held on the 20th August. Member's include Bruce Chapman, Rudi van der Voort, Anthea Hinchey, Judy Brown, Vicki Moroney, Georgina Hinchey and Diane Cowie. Father Ed was also in attendance while Fr Francis was an apology.

St Columba's Sep 8	(next week) Sunday 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG	-
COMMENTATOR	Colleen Wakefield
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Vicki Moroney
COMMUNION MINISTER	Bruce Chapman
DIGITAL PROJECTOR	Kathleen Keogh
SACRISTAN	Norah Moloney

Collections last week Thank you for your contributions
 Presbytery: \$ TBC 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.

Happy Father's Day to all the fathers and father figures in our parish community! May God bless you all and keep you in His care!

Tea and Coffee after Mass every first Sunday of the month at St. Columba's Our next tea and coffee is today. Please come and join us after mass. It will be lovely to catch up!

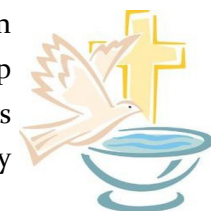
St Columba's Sacramental Program continues with the Sacrament of First Eucharist. Preparation sessions are ongoing. First Eucharist will be celebrated over two Sundays, **September 8 and 15**. There are around 31 candidates for First Eucharist next Sunday, the 8th of September, and 14 children and families on the 15th of September.

Wisdom at the Cathedral All are welcome to hear Fr Shawn Murphy ibp present *From Paris to Chartres to Eternity* at the next Wisdom at the Cathedral event on Thursday, September 19, 2024 at 7.00pm. Father Murphy, an experienced pilgrim of the famous Paris-Chartres pilgrimage, which attracts tens of thousands of people each year in Holy Week, will share his experiences and reflections on pilgrimage as an enriching journey not only for the body but for the mind and soul. The talk and discussion time will go for an hour and will be followed by a cup of tea. Entry by donation. For all enquiries, please contact Fiona Bradley at fionalouisebradley@gmail.com.

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=bf828cb7ac33e2ee3foao309916d6edegfc496a3>. For any further information or interest in formation regarding pastoral care, please contact Bernadette Wurlod, email: BWurlod@mercy.com.au

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.



Thank you! St Vincent de Paul, Ballarat North would like to thank St Columba's Parish for the on-going support of the annual St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal. This year, the weekend collections raised \$1,652.00. This generosity from our parishioners means that we have been able to help ease the burdens of winter for some of the most disadvantaged in our local community. The donations have been going towards providing blankets for warmth, assistance in paying utility bills and rent and the provision of food. We were taken aback by the generosity and thank St Columba's for it – this generosity will be appreciated by many.



Ballarat Clergy Support Fund Annual Appeal The BCSF Collection for Retired Priests will be taken up today. Creating a secure retirement future for the priests of the diocese is a duty and care in which we can all participate. Seventeen retired priests are currently supported by this Fund. Some live privately, some are retired in units in Ballarat or elsewhere, others live in supported accommodation. Special envelopes are available for this collection and contributions over \$2.00 are tax-deductible.

*Caring for those who cared for us -
the Church community's responsibility.*

Pope's intention for September - For the cry of the earth: Let us pray that each of us listen with our hearts to the cry of the Earth and of the victims of environmental disasters and the climate crisis, making a personal commitment to care for the world we inhabit. Lord, hear us.

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/>

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/>