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Ballarat Clergy Support Fund - Collection for Retired Priests The Ballarat Clergy Support Fund relies on your generosity to enable it to continue supporting our sick and retired priests. 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. You are still able to contribute, by using the special envelope provided, or in an envelope marked "Ballarat Clergy Support Fund". Contributions over \$2.00 are tax-deductible.

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

Staffing

Administrator:
Fr Edward Moloney

Assistant Priests:
Fr Francis Kureeckal MST
Fr Abraham Thomas MST
Fr James McKay

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
Wednesday 10.00 am
[Reconciliation 10.30am]

Beaufort
2nd & 4th Sunday 8.30 am

Readings for Next Weekend
Numbers 11:25-29
Ps 18:8, 10, 12-14 R. v. 9
James 5: 1-6
Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48



22nd September 2024 ~ 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Focus on the Scriptures

Welcoming the Defenceless is Welcoming the Christ Most of us have to admit to being like the disciples whom Jesus was trying to bring from blindness and ignorance to insight and understanding. Like them, we are often afraid to ask for explanations when we fear that we may not be able to deal with the responses we receive. We so often choose to live in denial. No matter how strongly Jesus insists that the way of the gospel will lead to his violent death, his closest followers persist in their refusal to accept the inevitability of suffering in the life of one who so openly challenges abuses of power.

More focussed on personal recognition and status, the "twelve" engage in a childish argument about who is the greatest among them. They are inside "the house" in Capernaum, the home of Jesus. They are understandably silent when Jesus questions them about the discussion they had "on the way". They have much to learn and he needs their attention if they are to understand who he is and what it means to be his disciple. They need to learn that being first has nothing to do with seeking the limelight, that it has nothing to do with hierarchy or status, with power or adulation. It has everything to do with engaging in ministry without distinction or discrimination, with being "servant of all". Like us, they have much to learn from "the way" itself, the path they tread through the land.

An engaging scene follows this discussion. They are "inside the house", an open house where all are welcome. Jesus places a child in their midst. The child is unnamed. We might give this child a name so that she or he is a real person for us. Jesus seemingly gathers the twelve in a circle around him. Taking the child in his arms, he tries to show them that gospel leadership resides, not in privilege, but in the welcome offered to those whose voices are rarely heard and whose needs are frequently ignored.

Jesus, the suffering Messiah or Christ, actually identifies with a defenceless child, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me". His identification with the defenceless is as intimate as his identification with God, "the one who sent me". As a church, we might well hear today's gospel story as a call to respond with compassion and justice to those who have suffered the indignity and injustice of abuse in their childhood. We might also hear it as an invitation to listen to the cry of those who seek the dignity and justice that belong to all of God's people, including those who seek refuge from war and persecution. It is time for us to remember that whoever welcomes even one of these into our homeland in the name of the Christ is truly welcoming the suffering Christ. I am forever grateful that my Syrian and Irish ancestors received a welcome in this land.
~Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm: (R.) The Lord upholds my life.
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! God has called us with the gospel to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Patrick Roache

Anniversaries: We remember: Denis Farney, Jack Engwerda, Sue Briody, Margaret Walsh, Beni Duka, Sr Agnes Connellan, Kath Sullivan

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

Congratulations to all St Columba's Parish children who have received the Sacrament of First Eucharist this year. May God bless you all and keep you in His care!



St Columba's Sacramental Program First Holy Communion was celebrated these past few weeks. **Thank you** so much to all families who attended, to our group facilitators for sharing their time and talents, to school staff who supported and welcomed all the candidates over the month-long preparation journey and to our parishioners who continue to pray for the children and their families and have helped in today's celebration. There are 45 children who have received First Eucharist in 2024 here at our parish. Thank you, everyone, for making St Columba's a lovely community for us to share and live our faith!

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, October 3, 2024**. You may attend either the 10.00 am or the 5.30 pm session.

Tea and Coffee after Mass every first Sunday of the month at St. Columba's Our next tea and coffee is on the **6th of October**. Looking forward to catching up with you then! In the meantime, keep well and warm.

Catholic Theological College – Engaging your Faith Online Series Engaging Your Faith is a series of short, online presentations that invite participants to reflect on what it means to be people of faith in the contemporary world. Topics include the following: Scripture, Synodal Church, Lay and Ordained Ministry, Spirituality, Religion and Ethics, Science and faith issues. Cost is \$25.00 per session or \$40.00 if seeking teacher accreditation. For more information and to register go to <https://ctc.edu.au/news-and-events/engaging-your-faith/>

St Columba's Sep 29	(next week) Sunday 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG	Mark Lacey
COMMENTATOR	Vicki Moroney
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Min Myers
COMMUNION MINISTER	Gina Hinchey
DIGITAL PROJECTOR	Bruce Chapman
SACRISTAN	Josie Crowe

Collections last week Thank you for your contributions
 Presbytery: \$ 450.80 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 971.80

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.

Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Victoria – Coordinator Recruitment

The Aboriginal Catholic Ministry (ACM) Victoria is seeking a passionate and dedicated Coordinator to lead initiatives that support the spiritual needs of Indigenous Catholics across Victoria. This role honors and integrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage and culture with Catholic beliefs and traditions. It fosters shared understanding, promotes reconciliation and provides pastoral care to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics in living out their faith. The ACMV Coordinator, supported by two direct reports (the Office Administrator and Engagement Officer), will represent the challenges of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and act as an advocate on their behalf working in collaboration with the Victorian Catholic Bishops and the Office of the Archbishop, in communicating advocacy for Indigenous related policy and campaigns. This position is available as either a full-time role or part-time at 0.8 or 0.6 FTE (Full-Time Equivalent). This is an integral role to the future of ACMV and to ensuring the support of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Catholics. More information available at <https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies/aboriginal-catholic-ministry-of-victoria-acmv-coordinator-2>

World Day of Migrants & Refugees – Sunday, September 29, 2024

The Australian Catholic Migrant & Refugee Office have provided resources for the 110th World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2024. Resources are available from the diocesan website and includes prayer cards, music, a liturgy for primary & secondary schools, homily notes & prayers of the faithful <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/110th-world-day-of-migrants-refugees-sunday-september-29-2024/>

"Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion" – Fr Greg Boyle SJ

The October 2024 visit to Australia of Father Greg Boyle SJ, founder of Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles for "Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion" will be a wonderful opportunity for the Church and beyond the Church. HomeBoy Industries from Los Angeles is the largest gang intervention, rehabilitation and re-entry program in the world. The Melbourne program is:

October 8, 2024, Tuesday, "Boundless Compassion: A Mission to Serve" Secondary Students Leadership Festival;

October 9, Wednesday, "Courageous Encounter" School Executive Leadership Teams and

October 10, 2024, Thursday, "On the Margins" an evening with Fr Greg.

For more information and to register, go to <https://www.gpbs.com.au/workshops-courses-events/>

Laudato Si': Everything is connected In his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis reminds us that everything is connected. Our relationship with nature is not separate from our relationship with God and others. This concept of integral ecology encourages us to care for the Earth and each other. It calls us to action. **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 available at: <https://seasonofcreation.org/>

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.

Laudato Si': Water security - access to safe drinkable water is a basic and universal human right, since it is essential to human survival and, as such, is a condition for the exercise of other human rights. The quality of available safe water is constantly diminishing. In some places there is a growing tendency, despite its scarcity, to privatise this resource, turning it into a commodity subject to the laws of the market. (Laudato Si 30) Consider your water usage even though here in Australia we are lucky to have access to this precious resource.

2024 Season of Creation Prayer

Triune God, Creator of all, we praise you for your goodness, visible in all the diversity that you have created, making us a cosmic family living in a common home.

Through the Earth you created, we experience love and nourishment, home and protection.

We confess that we do not relate to the Earth as a Mothering gift from you, our Creator.

Our selfishness, greed, neglect, and abuse have caused the climate crisis, loss of biodiversity, human suffering as well as the suffering of all our fellow creatures.

We confess that we have failed to listen to the groans of the Earth, the groans of all creatures, and the groans of the Spirit of hope and justice that lives within us.

May your Creator Spirit help us in our weakness, so that we may know the redeeming power of Christ and the hope found in him.

May the groans of the Spirit birth in us a willingness to serve you faithfully, so that we may hear and heal Creation, to hope and act together with her, so that the first fruits of hope may blossom.

Loving and Creator God, we pray that you will make us sensitive to these groans and enable us to have the same compassion as that of Jesus, the redeeming Lord.

Grant us a fresh vision of our relationship with Earth, and with one another, as creatures that are made in your image.

In the name of the one who came to proclaim the good news to all Creation, Jesus Christ. Amen.

