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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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\*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 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**  
Genesis 2:18-24  
Ps 127. R. v. 5  
Hebrews 2:9-11  
Mark 10: 2-16



**29th September 2024 ~ 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

**God's Power Informs every Act of Compassion and Mercy** Sometimes we act and speak as though authorised leaders have the monopoly on access to the power of God although they have no such monopoly. In today's gospel Jesus seems to be telling his disciples that God works through people of good will, irrespective of whether they are on the edge ("not one of us") or at the centre of the kin-dom of God movement. The apostle John, who is one of the twelve, reports that he and other disciples of Jesus have tried to stop an exorcist working in Jesus' name "because he was not following us." Jesus rejects their attempt to claim an exclusive right to speak in his name. He offers reasons for permitting the exorcist to engage in such deeds "of power": one who acts thus will not be speaking against him but will rather be "for" him. Jesus affirms all expressions of hospitality to his followers as deserving of "their reward". In other words, the followers of Jesus cannot claim exclusive rights to the grace of God or to the embrace of God's kin-dom. God's power informs every act of compassion and mercy.

The first reading from the Book of Numbers offers a similar message. It tells the story of Joshua, assistant to Moses, trying to exclude two men from prophesying on somewhat tenuous grounds. Moses does not take Joshua's advice. On the contrary, he prays that the Spirit of God might "rest on" and, by implication, work through all of God's people. Both the gospel passage and the reading from Numbers seem to be warning against attempts to control or domesticate the Spirit of God.

The second part of the gospel reading (9:42-48) brings a dramatic change of mood as it takes up the issue of scandalising the "little ones". The reference to "little ones" marks a return to the scene in the latter part of last week's gospel reading where Jesus takes a little child in his arms and instructs his disciples. The horror of harming the little ones is dramatized in a series of sayings that challenge the most vivid imagination. These sayings are hardly intended to be taken literally. Cutting off offending limbs only deals with the symptoms. It may, however, offer some solace to those little ones who have suffered "scandal" or worse to know that there is no stronger condemnation in the gospels than that reserved for those who bring harm to children and to vulnerable others. We are impelled to do everything in our power to heal the hurts of the past and to create conditions that ensure the protection and safety of our children. For the past few weeks, we have been celebrating the Season of Creation. As we enter the final week of this celebration, we might attend to the inextricable connection between the cry of the earth and the cry of those rendered poor, all the "little ones" of the Earth community, human and other-than-human.

- Veronica Lawson RSM

**Responsorial Psalm: (R.)** The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.  
**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Your word, O Lord, is truth: make us holy in the truth. Alleluia!

**Recently Deceased: We commend to God:** all who have died recently  
**Anniversaries: We remember:** Doreen Donne, Marie Linane, Maurice Cowie, Jan Mullaly, Margaret Butler, Kevin Dower, Tim McKeegan, Carmel Mitchell.  
**We pray:** for all in areas of conflict, war, natural disasters, for those who are sick and all in need of our prayers.

**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/>

**Upcoming events at Catholic Theological College**

- Information Session for Educators
- Information Session for Prospective Students
- Engaging Your Faith Online Sessions

For more information go to <https://ctc.edu.au/news-and-events/> or <https://ctc.edu.au/contact/contact-the-registrar/>

**Praying with Pope Francis** The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) is an international movement that is more than 170 years old. Each month, the Pope puts forward a prayer intention and asks Catholics around the world to join him in prayer. These intentions cover all sorts of areas of life, encouraging faith, renewing hope and calling us to loving service. Praying each month 'The Pope Video' forms part of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network – view at [www.thepopevideo.org](http://www.thepopevideo.org).

St Columba's Oct 6	(next week) Sunday 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG	Terry Ranger
COMMENTATOR	Anthea Hinchey
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Tom Keogh
COMMUNION MINISTER	Judy Brown
DIGITAL PROJECTOR	Kathleen Keogh
SACRISTAN	Josie Crowe

Collections last week *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.*

**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>

**Today is World Day of Migrants & Refugees- 29th September 2024**

The Australian Catholic Migrant & Refugee Office have provided resources for the 110<sup>th</sup> 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.*

