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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/>

Prayer for children in our parishes That we may all work collaboratively to ensure the happiness and confidence of every child and foster an environment of safety and protection where children flourish. Let us pray to the Lord.



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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

Finance Officer:
Jackie Wrigglesworth

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
Daniel 12: 1-3
Ps 15: 5, 8-11. R. v. 1
Hebrews 10: 11-14, 18
Mark 13: 24-32



10th November 2024 ~ 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Focus on the Scriptures

A Woman Who Gives Without Counting the Cost Whether the longer or shorter gospel reading is selected for today's liturgy, the literary context deserves attention. Jesus is teaching the crowds in the Jerusalem Temple. He knows the vulnerability of many of the people around him and issues a warning about the grandiose behaviour of the Jerusalem scribes. The scribes were generally learned men on whom the people relied for rulings in matters of sacred law as well as for drawing up contracts and other important documents. They commanded the respect of many of the people. Jesus is not impressed by the behaviour of some of the scribes. He sees their pomposity as a mask for dishonesty and exploitation: they will receive the "greater condemnation". They "devour the houses of widows" and hide behind the pretext of long prayers.

Widows included women who had lost their husbands through death or divorce as well as single unmarried women. They were women alone without male protection in a patriarchal society and without the benefit of a social security system. They were dependent for survival upon the care of family and community. Jesus' words of condemnation are strong words that will understandably provoke a reaction. It is no surprise that the Jerusalem scribes are among those who later conspire to kill Jesus (Mark 14:1).

It is easy enough to be taken in by the posturing of those who present as superior and who look for status recognition. It is also easy to miss the generosity of those on the edge even if it is happening before our very eyes. The gospel context presents Jesus as attuned to the plight of the widows. He now notices and draws the attention of his disciples to the action of one particular "destitute" widow. Her tiny contribution to the treasury of two copper coins for the upkeep of the Temple is far more significant than the big sums contributed by the wealthy, ostentatiously and out of their excess.

Is this woman being presented as the victim of an unjust system that extracts from her what she cannot afford, as some commentators insist? Is the Markan Jesus presenting her as a model of discipleship who, like Jesus of Nazareth, gives her all, despite the exploitation she has known? Is she refusing to be a victim by making her own choice to contribute all that she has? We may not need to choose just one interpretation from among the many. Every powerful story allows for multiple interpretations. It is clear that this woman's action provides a striking contrast to that of the scribes, like the action of another woman who, a little later in the story, breaks a precious jar and pours an abundance of healing ointment over the head of Jesus as he faces the prospect of death. As the gospel draws to a close, then, we find two stories of extravagantly generous unnamed women, stories told in memory of their gospel foolishness. **-Veronica Lawson RSM**

Responsorial Psalm: (R.) Praise the Lord, my soul!

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs. Alleluia!

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

Anniversaries: We remember: Michael Sullivan, John Maher, Raymond Lewis, Mark Wise, Lina Muller

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

Baptism This weekend we welcome to our Parish through the sacrament of Baptism: **Olivia Rose Wallis**, daughter of Simon and Anthea.



“The Church gives the faith to your children through Baptism and you have the task to make it grow....”

- Pope Francis

May Olivia grow in faith with the support of her family and our Catholic Community.

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

Sew and So on Thursday 14th November 2024 at 1.30pm in the foyer of St Columba’s Church. Come and join us for a friendly afternoon. Enquiries Margaret 53314032

Our Diocesan Community – Issue 3 The final edition of ODC 2024 is available at our church foyer. Please feel free to take copies to the homebound, nursing homes, hospitals, etc., to spread the good news of the diocese.

Diocesan e-News The latest edition of e-News has been published and is available at <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/news-events/e-news/> or you can subscribe on this page to receive future editions straight to your email address.

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 December**. Until then enjoy the sunshine and God bless!

St Columba’s Nov 17	(next week) Sunday 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG	Terry Ranger
COMMENTATOR	Colleen Wakefield
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Vicki Moroney
COMMUNION MINISTER	Gina Hinchey
DIGITAL PROJECTOR	Bruce Chapman
SACRISTAN	Fiona Newton

Collections last week *Thank you for your contributions*
 Presbytery: \$ **708.00** Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ **311.05**

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.

Laudato Si’: Everything is connected Making a Difference: Personal Responsibility: One of the key themes in *Laudato Si’* is personal responsibility. Pope Francis emphasises that everyone has a role to play in combating environmental degradation. He calls for a change in lifestyles and consumption patterns, encouraging individuals to embrace simplicity and sustainability. Here are a few ways individuals can make a difference as inspired by *Laudato Si’*:

- **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle:** Simple actions like recycling, reducing waste, and reusing materials can significantly lessen our environmental footprint.
- **Conserve Energy:** Making conscious choices to conserve energy—such as using public transportation, carpooling, and investing in energy-efficient appliances—helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Mindful Consumption:** Supporting local and sustainable products, reducing meat consumption, and avoiding single-use plastics are ways to promote a more sustainable lifestyle.
- **Education and Advocacy:** Raising awareness about environmental issues and advocating for policies that protect the environment can amplify individual efforts and lead to systemic change.

Catholic Network Australia <https://www.cna.catholic.edu.au/post/laudato-si-making-a-difference>



Neglecting to monitor the harm done to nature and the environmental impact of our decisions is only the most striking sign of a disregard for the message contained in the structures of nature itself. When we fail to acknowledge as part of reality the worth of a poor person, a human embryo, a person with disabilities – to offer just a few examples – it becomes difficult to hear the cry of nature itself; everything is connected. (Laudato Si’ 117)

reduce reuse recycle rethink repurpose

Empowering marginalised youths with Christmas Cards The Mukuru Promotion Centre (MPC), a ministry of the Sisters of Mercy in Kenya, is organising a fundraiser to help the marginalised youth in the slums by selling Christmas Cards. The purchase of 10 cards and envelopes for \$15.00 makes a significant difference in the lives of marginalised youth in Nairobi slums, with all proceeds from the sales going towards the vocational training program. To order cards and for more information, contact Sr Kathy at kkettle@mercy.org.au or ph.0418 926 590.

Prayer for November: For those who have lost a child: Let us pray that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community and may receive peace of heart from the Spirit of Consolation. Lord, hear us.

Clergy Jubilarians Mass 2024 Choir Mass to celebrate the Clergy Jubilarians will be held on **Thursday, November 14, 2024 at St Patrick’s Cathedral Ballarat at 5.00pm**. The 2024 clergy Jubilarians are: 50 years– Frs Eric Bryant, Paddy Mugavin & Michael O’Toole, **25 years– Fr Ed Moloney**. All welcome to attend. Members of the Diocese of Ballarat are invited to join the choir for this Mass. Choir practice will be held on Sunday, November 10, 2024 at 6.15pm (following 5.00pm Mass) at the Cathedral.

Final Messages from Australian Participants & Facilitators - Synod 2024 Members of the Australian delegate to the recently concluded Synod Assembly in Rome share their thoughts and learning. Watch the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I-EAYDbg1DY>

Wisdom at the Cathedral All are welcome to hear Fiona Power, Curator of the Mary Glowrey Museum in Melbourne present *Mary Glowrey: God’s Gift to India* for the next Wisdom at the Cathedral event on Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 7.00pm. Fiona will share the inspiring life story and legacy of Servant of God Dr Sr Mary Glowrey JMJ, who was born and raised in the Diocese of Ballarat. The talk and discussion time will go for an hour in the Mackillop/Glowrey rooms and will be followed by a cup of tea. Entry by donation. For all enquiries, please contact Fiona Bradley at fionalouisebradley@gmail.com

Ordination to the Priesthood Mass & Thanksgiving Mass: Cay Trinh

- Deacon Cay Trinh will be ordained a priest for the Diocese of Ballarat on Saturday, November 23, 2024 at St Patrick’s Cathedral Ballarat at 10.30am. All welcome to attend. A light lunch will follow in the Hall. For those not able to attend, the Mass will be livestreamed. People of the Diocese of Ballarat are invited to form the choir for this mass
- Cay will celebrate his **Mass of Thanksgiving** on Sunday, November 24, 2024 at St Patrick’s Cathedral at 5.00pm. All welcome to attend. A light supper will follow in the Hall.

OLHC Parish Wendouree Christmas Day Lunch OLHC Parish Wendouree volunteers are hosting a free lunch on Christmas Day in the Parish Hall, 482A Gillies Street North, Wendouree from 12.00noon – 2.00pm. Bookings are essential as seating is limited, ph. 0491 029217.

Thank you to all the very wonderful volunteers for all their work in making the Christmas Day lunch at OLHC so special over all the years it has been held. We welcome all those who would like to be with us as a guest or a volunteer on the day, and we are especially looking for a few fit people who might commit to two hours of their time between 2.00pm – 4.00pm to clean up/pack up. To volunteer, please phone 0467 683504.