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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.

Pope's Prayer intention 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.

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 to 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.



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By opening an account with CDF Community Fund, you are saving for a reward greater than money alone. Help build classrooms for students, places of worship for communities, hospital wings for the sick, aged care homes for the elderly and social service facilities for the most vulnerable. It's a way to save while doing good.

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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 (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 7: 13-14
Ps 92: 1-2, 5 R. v. 1
Revelation 1: 5-8
John 18: 33-37



17th November 2024 ~ 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Focus on the Scriptures

Trust in God No Matter What In the opening lines of today's gospel reading, there are clear echoes of two passages from the prophecy of Isaiah. The first passage reads, "For the stars of the heavens and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be dark at its rising, and the moon will not shed its light" (Isaiah 13:10). These images from Isaiah 13 present an unravelling of God's work in creation. The second passage likewise predicts a scenario that seems to reverse the Genesis creation account: "All the host of heaven [the constellations] shall rot away, and the skies roll up like a scroll. All their host shall wither like a leaf withering on a vine, or fruit withering on a fig tree" (Isaiah 34:4). The prophet is using powerful poetic imagery to speak of God's judgment on the people of Israel who have strayed from their covenant relationship.

The parallel images in Mark 13 are referenced to the aftermath of the "time of distress" associated with the destruction of Jerusalem, a time of intense suffering for the community of believers. Jesus tells his disciples that, after all their suffering, strange cosmic phenomena will signal his return in glory and usher in a new age for God's people when the faithful will be gathered in. The message is intended to give comfort and hope to Mark's persecuted community of the late sixties or early seventies of the first century. Just as the new leaves on the fig tree signal the approach of summer, so too will the strange signs in the heavens signal Christ's coming and the onset of a new era, an end to the "time of distress". The message is thus one of encouragement for the community as they face an uncertain future rather than one of judgment.

The strange apocalyptic imagery and the ancient cosmology that has Jesus returning on the clouds need not distract the scientifically sophisticated modern reader from hearing the call to trust in God no matter what. This reading reminds us that the unravelling of God's work is more than a poetic image in our times. The experience of seemingly endless war, the freak storms, the cyclones and other signs of climate crisis we have seen might well serve as reminders to attend more carefully to the preservation of planet Earth. We may also hear a call to pay closer attention to what the "other-than-human" Earth elements can tell us about God and God's ways.

Images of war-ravaged countries offer us constant reminders of what we are doing to our planet and of how attentiveness to both human and other-than-human habitat is integral to being who we are called to be. We live in a time of deep distress. Many of Earth's inhabitants face an unknown future. Let us trust in God and pray for the grace to respond with urgency to the cries of the earth and of those rendered homeless or desperately poor.
-Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm: (R.) Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Be watchful, and pray constantly, that you may be worthy to stand before the Son of Man. Alleluia!

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

Anniversaries: We remember: Gerard Willis, Jean Dumaresq, Barry Richard Mitchell, Connor Prunty, Desmond Burke, Barry Mitchell, Pat Hogan, Barry James, Kevin Duggan, Bernard O'Callaghan, Mary Gercovich, Sr. Kate McGrath RSM, Sr. Connie Walsh RSM, Kevin Glenane

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

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

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!

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.

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>

Empowering marginalised youths with Christmas Cards The Muku-ru 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.

St Columba's Nov 24	(next week) Sunday 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG	Mark Lacey
COMMENTATOR	Tom Keogh
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Terry Ranger
COMMUNION MINISTER	Judy Brown
DIGITAL PROJECTOR	Kathleen Keogh
SACRISTAN	Barb Brown

Collections last week Thank you for your contributions
 Presbytery: \$ **365.25** Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ **602.00**

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.

World Day of the Poor – Sunday, November 17, 2024 Today marks the 8th celebration of World Day of the Poor. Pope Francis has chosen a particularly meaningful theme this year dedicated to prayer, as we approach the beginning of the Ordinary Jubilee of 2025, “The prayer of the poor rises up to God” (cf. Sir 21:5). The Dicastery for Evangelisation website has resources for this day which includes the Pope’s message and the Liturgical and Pastoral Handbook, “The Prayer of the Poor Rises Up”

<http://www.evangelizatio.va/content/pcpne/en/attivita/gmdp/2024.html>

Prayer inspired by Pope Francis' Message for the 8th World Day of the Poor

God of peace, our Father, you know the sufferings of your children, for you are attentive and caring toward all.

No one is excluded from your heart, since, before you, we are all in need. You call us to be your instruments for the liberation and betterment of the poor, so that they may be fully integrated into society.

O Lord Jesus, who first stood in solidarity with the lowliest, teach us to listen to the prayer of the poor.

Help us to place ourselves at their service, giving a voice to the response of your Father and ours, who never abandons those who turn to Him.

O Holy Spirit, giver of life, make us vigilant and persevering in prayer so that we may welcome and embrace the poor, recognising and serving Christ in them.

O Blessed Mary, Mother of God, Virgin of the Poor, since God has looked upon your humble poverty, accomplishing great things by your obedience, we entrust our prayer to you, convinced that it will rise to heaven and be heard.

O St Benedict Joseph Labre, “vagabond of God,” poor among the poor, who made of your existence an unceasing prayer ascending up to Him, pray for us, that we too may pray and love.

O St Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who drew strength and faith from prayer for your mission of service to the lowliest, pray for us,

that Jesus may pour His love into our hearts,

that we may give it to the poor we meet on our journey. Amen. Alleluia

World Children's Day – November 20 Every year World's Children Day is celebrated on November 20, marking the date that the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted. Child rights are human rights. They are non-negotiable and universal. But in too many places today children's rights are being misunderstood, disregarded or even denied and attacked. Upholding children's rights is the compass to a better world – today, tomorrow and into the future. By listening to children we can fulfil their right to self-expression, understand their ideas for a better world and include their priorities in our actions today. Discover what's happening and take part at <https://www.unicef.org/world-childrens-day>

Mission Leaders formation event CSSV is hosting “Checking for Understanding”, a Formation Day for Formators! This high quality facilitation and training program, led by Pip McIlroy, is designed to be inclusive, catering to formators from all adult learning contexts within the Catholic community as well as those that lead other training and facilitated learning experiences. If you want to improve your facilitation skills, this is for you. Friday, November 22, 2024 from 10.00am – 1.00pm at 383 Albert Street, East Melbourne. Cost is \$190.00 per person. For more information and to register, go to <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1298635>

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.

Choir for the Ordination to the Priesthood Mass for Deacon Cay Trinh

People of the Diocese of Ballarat are invited to form the choir for this Mass. The choir will be conducted by Roger Hillman and the Organist is Geoff Martin. Choir rehearsal times are Tuesday, November 19 and Thursday, November 21 from 7.00pm – 9.00pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat. Parishioners from all parishes in the diocese are encouraged to attend to celebrate this special occasion for Deacon Cay.

St Vincent de Paul Donor Impact Report - Spring 2024

St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria (Vinnies Victoria) have released their Spring 2024 Donor Impact Report. For more details please go to <https://css.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/vic-svpdv-spring2024.pdf>. The objective of the report is to express their gratitude and provide an update to donors on the positive impact of their efforts and contributions. The report showcases the real difference that is being made in the lives of those they serve.

Carias Australia- Free Advent 2024 resources for parishes and individuals

This free Advent resource invites parish prayer groups and individuals to journey through the four weeks of Advent, reflecting on the Gospel and sharing in the stories of our sisters and brothers around the world. Each week, one of the Advent themes of hope, peace, joy and love is explored. Resources available at <https://www.caritas.org.au/resources/parish-materials/advent-parish/>

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 home-bound, nursing homes, hospitals, etc., to spread the good news of the diocese.