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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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*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
Jeremiah 33: 14-16
Ps 24: 4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 R. v. 1
1 Thessalonians 3:12- 4:2
Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36



24th November 2024 ~ Solemnity of Christ the King Year B

Focus on the Scriptures

To Rule as God Rules and not as Rome Ruled The liturgical year always ends with the celebration of Christ's reign. The gospel reading for this year is from John's gospel where the notion of God's kingdom or reign or empire is mentioned only twice in contrast with its frequent appearance in the other gospels, especially Matthew. For readers in countries where democratic rule is valued and promoted, the whole notion of kingship or monarchy poses some difficulty. It is important to put the exchange between Jesus and Pilate into the political context of Roman occupied Judaea of the first century.

Rome was the dominant global force at that time. It had the economic and military strength to maintain its power over the whole Mediterranean world. When Jesus tells Pilate that his kingdom is not of this world, he is not pitting planet Earth or the cosmos over against a purely spiritual world. He is referring rather to the world and values of the Roman Empire and the destructive values that are sometimes espoused by his followers. Jesus' way of being in the world stands in stark contrast with the expansionist and frequently destructive ways of Roman rule. The term "world" is used in two different senses in John's gospel. It is used both literally and metaphorically. On the one hand, it is the world that came into being through the Word (1:10), the beautiful cosmos or world that "God so loved" (3:16). On the other hand, it is a "world" that rejected the light (1:10-11), a sinful world in need of God's saving power (3:17).

Jesus does not claim the sort of over-bearing political, military or economic power that Pilate exercises on behalf of the Roman emperor. His authority has nothing to do with power over or domination of others. It is grounded in truth (1:17) or, in other words, in the revelation of God. Jesus is "the way, the truth and the life" (14:6) and his mission is to testify to the truth. The path to freedom and life lies in acceptance of the truth (8:32): "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." Truth is not a given: it must be sought in prayerful dialogue, in listening to earth's distress and in openness to the Spirit of God.

To celebrate this feast is to move in the direction of peaceful solutions to the conflicts in our world and away from the paths of violence, domination and imperial expansionism. It is to seek the truth in dialogue and to respond to the plight of those who suffer the pain of hunger, of persecution and of loss. It is to rule as God rules and not as Rome ruled. It is to look again at how we inhabit our world and to change our ways for the sake of truth and life, the present and future life of our beleaguered planet.

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm: (R.) The Lord is king; he is robed in majesty.
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed is he who inherits the kingdom of David our Father; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Alleluia!

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

Anniversaries: We remember: Keith Gillett, Agnes Hughes (nee Arundell), Mollie Bruty, Kevin Hanrahan, Bill Smith, Clare McGoldrick, Adele Carter, Kevin Glenane

We pray: for all in areas of conflict, 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: **Georgie Elizabeth Considine**, daughter of Nicole and Tom.

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

- Pope Francis



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

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 week, **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.

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.

Commemorative Mass for Michael Joseph Bourke & Family A Mass to commemorate Michael Joseph Bourke and family will be held on Sunday, November 30, 2024 at Infant Jesus Church, Koroit at 2.00pm. All welcome to attend.

St Columba's Dec 1	(next week) Sunday 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG	Terry Ranger
COMMENTATOR	Judy Brown
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Anthea Hinchey
COMMUNION MINISTER	Tim O'Farrell
DIGITAL PROJECTOR	Bruce Chapman
SACRISTAN	Josie Crowe

Collections last week Thank you for your contributions
 Presbytery: \$ 463.40 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,568.00

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.

Ordination to the Priesthood Thanksgiving Mass: Cay Trinh Cay will celebrate his **Mass of Thanksgiving** today, Sunday, November 24, 2024 at St Patrick's Cathedral at 5.00pm. All welcome to attend. A light supper will follow in the Hall.

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>

Our Diocesan Community – Issue 3 The final edition of ODC for the year 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.

Simbang Gabi Christmas Mass Times for 2024 Simbang Gabi is a Filipino Christmas tradition and it is also the spiritual preparation for Christmas and commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ. It is a series of nine Masses on the days leading up to Christmas, which will be held at **St James' Parish Church Sebastopol**. Mass times are: Sunday, December 15 at 7.00pm; Monday, December 16 at 7.00pm; Tuesday, December 17 at 7.00pm; Wednesday, December 18 at 7.00pm; Thursday, December 19 at 7.00pm; Friday, December 20 at 7.00pm; Saturday, December 21 at 7.00pm; Sunday, December 22 at 7.00pm; Monday, December 23 at 7.00pm & dinner. Please bring a plate to share. If you have any questions/need further information, please contact Fr Eladio, ph. 0450 017 007 or Dion, ph. 0427 876 553. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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/>

Ballarat Committee for the World Day of Prayer AGM World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement held annually on the first Friday in March. It is held to welcome people everywhere to gather together, joining in prayer, and seeking action for peace and justice. Through placing a spotlight on varying countries and cultures each year, our understanding increases, enriching our Christian faith as it grows deeper and broader in an international, ecumenical expression. This year, the Annual General Meeting of the Ballarat Committee for the World Day of Prayer is to be held **Tuesday, December 3 at 2.00pm** in the Vestry of the Skipton Street Uniting Church, 525 Skipton Street (Corner of Skipton and Darling Streets) Redan. An invitation is extended to representatives from your congregation and any other members of your church to this meeting. Anyone unable to attend who would like to receive communications regarding the World Day of Prayer Services may submit their apology via email to lozza63@hotmail.com. Each church is invited to contribute a \$20 annual subscription for 2025. These funds go towards the work of the World Day of Prayer. This may be paid at the meeting.

Ecumenical Service Remembering Victims and Survivors of Family Violence The Catholic Social Services Victoria ecumenical service, “Holding the Light” offers an opportunity to make time to remember and mourn those who have been killed as a result of domestic violence, to stand in solidarity with victim survivors and to reflect and commit ourselves to addressing the causes of violence in our communities. The service will be held on Thursday, November 28, 2024 at the Wesley Church Melbourne, 136 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne at 5.00pm. Please register to attend via trybooking: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1259106>. The service can also be viewed online at <https://css.org.au/events/holding-the-light-3/>

Making a Scene at Christmas Over 500 Christmas Nativities from more than 60 countries will be displayed at the Bridge Mall Ballarat from Wednesday, December 4 to Friday, December 20, 2024. You can see and smell real frankincense and myrrh; see coins minted around the time the census was called that brought Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem; see hand crafted cultural nativities from Australia, Africa, Asia, North & South America, & Europe (and one that went to Antarctica) and nativities that prize social justice and the environment. Entry is a gold coin donation. Everyone welcome!

