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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/>

Pope's Prayer for January – For the right to an education: Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected. Lord, hear us.

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



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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
Malachi 3: 1-4
Ps 23: 7-10, R. v.10
Hebrews 2: 14-18
Luke 2: 22-40



26th January 2025 ~ Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

Focus on the Scriptures

Release for the Shattered as a Gospel Imperative The liturgy for today juxtaposes the introductory verses of Luke's gospel and a passage from the beginning of Jesus' Galilean ministry that encapsulates and sets the tone for the whole gospel. If we had no other part of Luke's gospel than these twelve verses, we would know a great deal about the gospel and the program it proposes.

From the first four verses, we know that Luke is not an eyewitness to the life and ministry of Jesus but is endeavouring to provide an orderly account on the basis of reliable eyewitness accounts handed down to the community by "servants" or ministers of the word. We learn that Luke's is one of many gospels. We also learn that this gospel is carefully researched and addressed to a person of influence called Theophilus, a name that means "lover of God" or "beloved of God". We might guess that Theophilus is Luke's patron, someone who provides the necessary funds to produce this work. He is possibly the early equivalent of an RCIA candidate, one seeking to become a full member of the worshipping community. We know from the grammatical construction that the author is male. And most importantly, we know that Luke sets out to place on a firm foundation the teaching that Theophilus has received about Jesus. The word translated as "truth" (asphaleia) in our lectionary can also mean "certainty" or "assurance". Our English word "asphalt" is derived from the Greek asphaleia. Luke wants the gospel message to be well grounded.

When we turn to Luke 4:14-21, we find a dramatic scene set in the Nazareth synagogue. This programmatic scene sets the tone for the whole gospel. Luke's gospel story is about the release that comes from the gracious and expansive love of God mediated through God's anointed and Spirit-filled prophet. Every significant event in Luke is powered by the Spirit of God. This event is no exception. The Spirit-filled Jesus searches out and proclaims a passage from the prophet Isaiah, a combination of Isaiah 61:1-2 and 58:9. He then points to his own mission as a fulfilment of the Isaian prophecy. Jesus thus presents himself as the Spirit-filled anointed one of God who brings good news to the destitute or homeless poor, release to captives, sight to the blind, and freedom for the oppressed. The Greek word translated as "oppressed" literally means "shattered". It evokes images of asylum seekers in the limbo of uncertainty and the hundreds of thousands displaced by war or persecution. It evokes the pain of the Earth itself and the more-than-human inhabitants of our planet suffering the effects of the climate crisis and ecological destruction. If the gospel message is to be well-grounded in our times, the "destitute" and "shattered" of our Earth community, the destitute of the human community and the endangered plant and animal species of the planet, must find the "release" of which the gospel speaks.

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm: (R.) Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners. Alleluia!

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

Anniversaries: We remember: Des Lloyd, Josephine Wilkinson, Peter Baker, Pasquale Milazzo, Elizabeth Carey, Sr Janet Meade, Wayne Blake

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

Parish Office hours over the Christmas period Fr. Francis will be taking leave during the month of January and Lia will be away. Whilst the parish office will not be staffed during this time, please make contact via email or in an emergency please call St Patrick's Cathedral 5331 2933.

Wishing you a Blessed and Happy Jubilee Year of Hope!

Diocesan Office Closures Diocesan office dates in December/January are available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/diocesan-offices-dates-for-christmas-new-year-2/>

Advance Notice of dates 2025:

*Rite of Election – Saturday, March 1, 2025 at 12.30pm, St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat;

*Mass of the Oils – Monday, April 14, 2025 at 1.00pm, St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat. Afternoon tea will follow in the Hall.

Time line of Future Parish Merge Parish activity will remain operating independently for the immediate future, but in time the parishes will come together as one, with a projected date of merger 1st July 2025. Through a position of collaboration, the parishes will work towards a harmonious grouping. There are many gifts and talents in the communities and many experts in various fields. The Priests want to use the expertise of the Laity as we explore the merging of the parishes.

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, Feb 6, 2024**. You may attend either the 10.00 am or the 5.30 pm session.

St Columba's Feb 2		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		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.

Jubilee Year 2025- Pilgrims of Hope Pope Francis has declared a Jubilee Year of Hope in 2025, centred on the theme, "Pilgrims of Hope." A Jubilee is a special year of grace and conversion, involving prayer, pilgrimage and sacramental repentance, held every 25 years, or during other years as called for by the Pope. Through a series of concrete rituals, acts and commitments, the goal of a Jubilee year is to inspire and encourage holiness of life among the faithful and therefore to strengthen the Church's witness to God's loving mercy in and for the world. Pope Francis opened the Holy Door of the Basilica of St Peter in the Vatican on December 24, 2024 to begin the year. On the following Sunday, December 29, the Holy Door of the Pope's Cathedral, St John Lateran, was opened. Then on January 1, 2025, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, the Holy Door of the Papal Basilica of St Mary Major was opened. Finally, Sunday, January 5, marked the opening of the Holy Door of the Papal Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls. Pope Francis decreed that on Sunday, December 29, 2024, in every cathedral and co-cathedral, diocesan bishops were to celebrate Holy Mass as the solemn opening of the Jubilee Year, using the ritual indications that were provided for that occasion. Bishop Paul celebrated Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat. The Holy Year will conclude in the particular Churches on Sunday, December 28, 2025. The doors of St John Lateran, the Basilica of St Mary Major and the Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls will also close on this date.

St Columba's Feb 9	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	Norah Moloney

Baptisms This weekend we welcome to our Parish through the sacrament of Baptism:

Eleanor Turner and **Aubrey Turner** children of Coen and Darcy.

"The Church gives the faith to your children through Baptism and you have the task to make it grow...." - Pope Francis

May Eleanor and Aubrey grow in faith with the support of their family and our Catholic Community.



World Day of Peace – January 1, 2025 Hope has been a constant theme in all of Pope Francis' World Day of Peace messages. This is all the more true in his message for the 58th World Day of Peace, which was marked on January 1, 2025, as the Church begins the Jubilee of Hope amid an unprecedented combination of challenges facing the world today. Read the Pope's message for World Day of Peace at <https://shorturl.at/6DZCp>.

The Jubilee Prayer

*Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us
 in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
 and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
 reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.
 May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators
 of the seeds of the Gospel.
 May those seeds transform from within both
 humanity and the whole cosmos
 in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth,
 when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.
 May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
 a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
 May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer
 throughout the earth.
 To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen.
 — Pope Francis*

Vatican International Photography Contest - Sport in Motion In the context of the Jubilee of Sport for the Year 2025, the Dicastery for Culture and Education (Vatican) is promoting an international photography contest, under the title 'Sport in Motion'. The contest is aimed at young photographers, professional or amateur, under the age of 25. The contest includes 5 categories of photography: Sport and hope (sport as a message of hope to society); Sport and family (sport as a moment of family life); Sport and disability (sport as a platform for inclusion); Sport and politics (sport as a resource accessible to all); Sport and ecology (the relationship of sport with the elements of nature). The deadline for participation ends on April 30, 2025 and the winners will be announced at the Jubilee of Sport (June 14-15, 2025). The winners will be awarded a meeting with the Holy Father, a visit to the Vatican Museums, a workshop in the *Osservatore Romano* newspaper and the international dissemination of the photos in the Holy See's media. Entries can be made by email to sportinmotion@dce.va and further information (entry form/rules/jury) can be found on the Dicastery's website <https://www.dce.va/it/news/2024/concorso-di-fotografia.html>

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.