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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/>

Timeline of Parish Merge and St Columba's Sacramental Program As you may know and has been discussed since last year, Parish activity will remain operating independently for now. In time the parishes of St Columba's, St Patrick's Cathedral and Beaufort 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.

As we continue to move onwards and forwards as one ministry district, St Columba's Parish will prepare for and celebrate Sacraments alongside the Cathedral's timeline of celebrations. This term, the St Columba's Sacramental Program starts with the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** Program. Please click on the QR Code and register your child's interest:

Reconciliation 2025

Enrolment QR/Link



<https://forms.gle/CLneZGrt1C6EaGY58>

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, **2nd of March**. God bless!



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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

1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

Ps 102: 1-4, 8, 10, 12-13 R. v.8

1 Corinthians 15: 45-49

Luke 6: 27-38



16th February 2025 ~ Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

Focus on the Scriptures

"Say You are Blessed!" "Don't say you are lucky. Say you are blessed", says theologian Thomas Groome as he invites his hearers to acknowledge the source of their blessings. We are unlikely to consider ourselves blessed or happy when we cannot pay our bills or put food on the table. We are likewise slow to count our blessings, much less dance for joy, when we find ourselves in tears or when we are excluded, rejected, and treated with contempt. We are more likely to consider ourselves blessed when we do not have to be constantly worried about money or food and when others treat us with respect. So why does Luke's Jesus declare those who are poor to be happy or blessed? And why does he seem to be so hard on those who enjoy economic security and the respect of others? What does the gospel say to those of us who are somewhere in between the destitute who are declared blessed and the wealthy who are told to watch out? What does this gospel offer to those who attract neither praise nor blame? There are no easy answers to any of this, beyond the clear evidence that Luke's Sermon on the Plain engages the theme of reversal that permeates this gospel.

Those rendered "poor" are told that the reign of God is theirs. In other words, it is a present rather than a future reality. The "poor" can at least know that they are acceptable to God in ways that may be incomprehensible to the wealthy who, in their turn, are challenged to share their wealth. It is not much consolation for the hungry or those who weep to know that their "reward will be great in heaven" if heaven is a place enjoyed only in the afterlife. "Heaven" is better understood as a way of talking about God's empire of justice and compassion both present and to come. Reversal is expected in this life rather than the next. Weeping is usually connected in the prophetic literature with the disasters that flow from "ungodly" decisions. In our times, there are many weeping over "ungodly" decisions in relation to war and species loss. Laughter seems a remote possibility for many displaced people of our world. We are reminded today of the gospel imperative to work and pray that war-torn and climate affected countries might once again resonate with the sound of happy laughter.

Finally, our experience makes us wary of those who flatter or put us on pedestals. It is generally only a matter of time before those on pedestals fall from favour and find themselves on the receiving end of criticism or even attack. It is ultimately better to be misunderstood and to be at peace with one's conscience in the pursuit of compassion and justice than to be the object of adulation and praise. It is only in handling life's challenges with dignity, grace, and single-minded focus on the gospel that we find blessing or happiness.

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm: (R.) Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Rejoice and be glad; your reward is great in heaven. Alleluia!

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

Anniversaries: We remember: Marion Voss, Patrick Duffy, Margaret Pearson, Patrick Duggan

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

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.

Rite of Election 2025 The Rite of Election is an important part of the process of a person’s journey to full membership in the Catholic Church community and one which is greatly appreciated by all who participate. This applies to adults who have undertaken formation. The Rite of Election for catechumens and candidates will take place on **SATURDAY, 1st of MARCH 2025, at 12.30pm at St Patrick’s Cathedral, Ballarat.** The presider will be Bishop Paul Bird CSsR. At the conclusion of the ceremony all are invited to join the Bishop in the Cathedral Hall for a light lunch. **Photo permission:** We seek permission from those participating in the Rite of Election to publish photos in the diocesan communications. Please advise the Pastoral Ministry Office if this is not suitable. If you have any queries, please contact Julie Boyd(ph. 5337 7159) or julie.boyd@ballarat.catholic.org.au for the *Diocesan Liturgical Commission*

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

Position Vacant: CDF Relationship Manager Full time, permanent position based in Ballarat, leading customer support across Ballarat and Melbourne’s West. See online link for more details: [Relationship Manager Job in Ballarat, Ballarat & Central Highlands VIC - SEEK](#)

Family Life International Information regarding the Spiritual Adoption project is available at : <https://www.lifeandfamily.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/spiritual-adoption-2012-a4-draft-2.pdf>

St Columba’s Feb 23	(next week)	Sunday 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG		Terry Ranger
COMMENTATOR		Anthea Hinchey
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Jo-anne van der Voort
COMMUNION MINISTER		Gina Hinchey
DIGITAL PROJECTOR		Bruce Chapman
SACRISTAN		Barb Brown

Collections last week *Thank you for your contributions*
 Presbytery: \$ 424.05 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 825.20

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.

The National Centre for Evangelisation have prepared resources for parishes and individuals for the 36 events that will be acknowledged throughout the 2025 Jubilee Year, highlighting special aspects of Church life. These resources can be accessed from the diocesan website.

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*



Ash Wednesday Masses: March 5, 2025

10:00 am St Columba’s Church

7:00 pm St Columba’s Church

Pope’s Prayer for February - for vocations to the priesthood and religious life: Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ’s mission in the priesthood and religious life.

Hymn for the Jubilee Year An official hymn has been written for the Jubilee Year and can be accessed from the diocesan website: <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/liturgy-sacraments/jubilee-year-2025-pilgrims-of-hope/> or the Jubilee Year website <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html>

Jubilee of Artists: February 15-18, 2025 The Jubilee of Artists rejoices with gratitude at the creative insights artists bring to human life. The service of beauty is a pathway into the divine and helps us dream of new horizons for the common good. The Jubilee invites artists to contribute to the work of the Church in bringing about a New Creation where people can live in peace and justice. Further resources for the Jubilee of Artists available at <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/liturgy-sacraments/jubilee-year-2025-pilgrims-of-hope/>

Prayer for the Jubilee of Artists

*Oh Lord, my God, when I, in awesome wonder,
 consider all the works thy hands have made
 I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder:
 thy power throughout the universe displayed.
 Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:
 how great thou art, how great thou art!
 We praise you, Creator God, and thank you for the marvels
 of the universe which stir us to wonder.
 Bless artists by whose gifts we see the beauty which is truth,
 the key to the mystery and the call to transcendence.
 May the work of their hands lead Christian communities to that infinite
 Ocean of beauty where wonder becomes awe, exhilaration, unspeakable joy.
 We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program Online Study The Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) is a growing initiative to offer adult religious education and faith formation anytime and anywhere, online. This low-cost (\$50usd) online study and formation for employed or volunteer lay workers in parishes is available through our partner, Dayton University. The next Cycle begins March 10. There are 37 subjects to choose from, find one that interests you! Registrations are open. For more information, email djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7121.