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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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*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
Isaiah 6: 1-8
Ps 137: 1-5, 7-8, R. v. 1
1 Corinthians 15: 1-11
Luke 5: 1-11



2nd February 2025 ~ The Presentation of the Lord

Focus on the Scriptures

Simeon and Anna as Prophets of God's Word This year the Feast of the Presentation falls on a Sunday and takes precedence over the celebration of the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time. This year in Australia, it coincides with Word of God Sunday. We might ask why the Feast of the Presentation is of such importance in the liturgical calendar. Between the story of Jesus' birth and the beginning of his ministry, Luke inserts three stories. The first tells of Jesus' circumcision on the eighth day after his birth. The third story has the twelve-year-old Jesus coming with his parents on their annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the great feast of Passover and sharing his wisdom with the Temple authorities. The second story, today's reading, has Mary and Joseph presenting their child in the Temple forty days after his birth, in observance of the Law of Moses (as prescribed in Leviticus 12:2-8). This Sunday marks the fortieth day since the celebration of Jesus' birth: it is not a moveable feast. All three stories locate Jesus and his parents firmly within the tradition as law-observant, faithful Jews.

Luke introduces into today's story two faith-filled wisdom figures, first a man, Simeon, and then a woman prophet, Anna. Both witness to the identity and future ministry of the child presented this day in the Temple. Both proclaim the Word of God. Their witness provides a microcosm of the gospel story. Simeon, guided by the Holy Spirit, comes into the Temple, takes the child in his arms and utters some of the most memorable words in the Christian scriptures. The child is to be God's saving presence in the world, a light to give revelation to the nations and glory to Israel. There are echoes in this proclamation of Isaiah 49:6 which speaks of God's servant bringing light to the nations and salvation to the ends of the earth. There is also an echo of Isaiah 46:13 where God is said to bring salvation to Jerusalem and glory to Israel. Simeon declares that this child is destined for the rising and the falling of many, that he will experience opposition and that his mother too will know deep sorrow.

Anna, like Simeon, raises her voice in the courts of the Jerusalem Temple, the heart of Israel's religious, political and economic power. While Simeon is given direct prophetic speech, Anna's prophesying is recounted indirectly. While Elizabeth and Mary proclaim prophetic words, Anna is the only woman in Luke's first volume to be named as "prophet". This woman prophet proclaims the good news of salvation in Jesus. The verbal form used indicates that Anna "keeps on speaking" about the child to "all who await the redemption of Jerusalem." The invitation here might be for us to emulate Anna's courage and persistence as we enter the halls of power and seek to move the hearts of religious and political leaders to compassion and justice for all those displaced within the Earth community

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm: (R.) Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! This is the light of revelation to the nations, and the glory of your people Israel. Alleluia!

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

Anniversaries: We remember: Miguel Fernandes, Joy Lange, Neil Woods, Johannes Kors, Peter Baker, Anoja Stanislaus, John Brusaschi, Sr. Ursula Caine RSM, Maureen Shannon

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

Sew and So... Yes we are back again on the second Thursday of each month. This month it is Thursday, 13th February 2025 at 1.30pm at the St Columba's Church foyer. Come along for a friendly catch up and fill us in on what you have been doing since we last met. Enquiries Margaret 53314032

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.

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.

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](#)

International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking: February 8 Pope Francis has designated February 8, the feast of St Josephine Bakhita, as the International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking. The theme for 2025 is "Ambassadors of Hope: Together Against Human Trafficking". ACRATH invites you to join the online "Marathon of Prayer" to help end human trafficking and slavery <https://acrath.org.au/take-action/world-day-of-prayer/>

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 9	(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		Norah Moloney

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. 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*



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>

Jubilee of the Armed Forces, Police and Security Personnel: February 8-9, 2025 The Church recognises that military personnel can contribute enormously to the stability of our world and to the establishment of peace. This Jubilee will celebrate the efforts all members of the armed forces and police, municipal police, security operators, veterans, military associations, military academies, chaplaincies and military ordinariates provide for peace. Further resources on the Jubilee of the Armed Forces, Police and Security Personnel is available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/liturgy-sacraments/jubilee-year-2025-pilgrims-of-hope/>

World Interfaith Harmony Week 2025 – Flag Raising Event The Ballarat Interfaith Network invites you to join their Flag Raising Event in celebration of United Nations World Interfaith Harmony Week on Monday, February 3, 2025 from 11.00am – 12.30pm at St Peter's Anglican Church, 1307 Sturt Street, Ballarat. The Welcome will be provided by Mayor Cr Tracey Hargreaves. After the raising of the unique Ballarat Interfaith Network flag, we will adjourn into the church for a keynote address from Dean Berger, Deer Park Stake President, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, short student speeches from senior leaders of Damascus, Loreto, Phoenix P-12, and St Patrick's Colleges, prayer for peace offered by representatives of many faiths, and a children's choir from Emmaus PS. Refreshments will be provided.

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.