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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.

Presentation of candidates at Masses will begin this weekend, the **1st of March/2nd of March; 15th of March/16th of March** and **22nd March/23rd March**. Presentations will take place at St Patrick's Cathedral Saturday & Sunday masses and at **St Columba's Church 10:00 am Sunday masses**.

A warm welcome to all the children, along with their families, as they prepare for the Sacraments.
The St Columba's Sacramental Program begins this year with the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
Please keep the children and their families in your prayers. God bless!

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, **6th of April**. Keep well!



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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

Safeguarding Officer:

Anthea Hinchey

MASS TIMES (This week)

St Columba's

Sunday 10.00 am

Wednesday 10.00 am [Ash Wed]

[Reconciliation 10.30am]

7.00 pm [Ash Wed]

Beaufort

2nd & 4th Sunday 8.30 am

Readings for Next Weekend

Deuteronomy 26: 4-10

Ps 90: 1-2, 10-15, R. v. 15

Romans 10: 8-13

Luke 4: 1-13



2nd March 2025 ~ Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

Focus on the Scriptures

On Being Like the Teacher "Everyone who is fully qualified will be like the teacher," says the Lukan Jesus. What might it mean to become "fully qualified" for discipleship? For Jesus, being fully qualified in the ways of discipleship is not so much a matter of acquiring book knowledge as it is a question of being like the teacher. This is not to discount the importance of acquiring a deep knowledge of the tradition. Jesus certainly knew his own tradition well. Luke presents him as literate, as capable of reading from the sacred scriptures in the Nazareth synagogue and of interpreting the prophetic texts for the assembled congregation. In today's gospel selection, Luke also presents Jesus as familiar with the secular wisdom of his age. The sayings about the blind leading the blind and the log and speck have clear parallels in ancient literature. Jesus' closest followers were educated business people with an appreciation of and commitment to their traditions. They were fully qualified in the sense that they had the personal resources to make a difference in the lives of those on the edge.

The primary qualification for the disciple is, however, to be "like the teacher". Jesus wants his followers to live out in their lives the pattern of his life of attentiveness to the pain of the world, his life of compassion and justice and mercy. Seeing with clarity (without a log in one's eye) is at the heart of the gospel way of life that he proclaims. This theme of "seeing" permeates Luke's writings. Seeing and understanding one's own self is part of that, as is the capacity to see and to understand the rhythm of the forms of life that constitute one's habitat. The recurrence of agricultural images in Jesus' sayings is quite remarkable. Jesus grew up in Nazareth, a Jewish village in Lower Galilee, home to vines and olive trees, to goats and sheep and some four hundred human inhabitants. From early childhood, Jesus saw the processes involved in ensuring that the vines produced grapes. He knew the importance of the water from the spring for nurturing the grain crops in the valley close to his home. He knew that brambles and thorns did not yield any edible fruit. It would seem that being "like the teacher" includes the virtue of "attunement" to the natural world, a concept I am learning about from friend and moral theologian Richard Wade.

Finally, to be a disciple is to be a "good person", one who produces "good treasure" out of the abundance of one's heart. In the Jewish tradition, the heart was the seat of wisdom and knowledge as well as the seat of emotions. In 1 Kings 12:3, for instance, God is said to give Solomon a wise and discerning heart/mind. The Hebrew word for heart (lev) is often translated into English as "mind". Heart and mind are as one-so must it be for us as we strive to be good disciples.

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm: (R.) Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Shine on the world like bright stars; you are offering it the word of life. Alleluia!

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

Anniversaries: We remember: Teresa Fitzgerald, Mary Kelly, Paul Rhodes, Simon Scarff, James Petrie, Stephanie Carswell, Michael Mahar, Carmel Molloy

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

Project Compassion 2025: Unite against poverty this Lent Project Compassion Launch 2025 will be at the 5.00pm Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral on March 2, 2025. All are welcome. Bishop Paul will commission Ambassadors for Caritas at this Mass.

Ash Wednesday Masses: March 5, 2025

10:00 am St Columba's Church
7:00 pm St Columba's Church

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.

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! For more information, please email djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7121.

Caritas Australia Prayer for International Women's Day - March 8

God, whose love and goodness gathers us in:
 we pray for women all over the world,
 especially those challenged by poverty and other injustice.
 Stir us to know women's dignity.
 Quieten us to listen to women's voices.
 Awaken us to see women's realities.
 Strengthen us to stand for women's rights.
 Fill us with hope to make a better future together. Amen.

<https://www.caritas.org.au/resources/parish-materials/international-womens-day-reflection/>

St Columba's Mar 9	(next week)	Sunday 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG		Terry Ranger
COMMENTATOR		Judy Brown
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Fiona Newton
COMMUNION MINISTER		Bruce Chapman
DIGITAL PROJECTOR		Vicki Moroney
SACRISTAN		Norah Moloney

Collections last week Thank you for your contributions
 Presbytery: \$ 294.35 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 490.10

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.

Plenary Indulgence for the Jubilee Year 2025 During this Jubilee Year, which represents a time of grace and spiritual renewal for the entire Church, is the gift of the plenary indulgence. Among the conditions required to receive a plenary indulgence is prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father, a gesture of deep communion with the Successor of Peter and with the universal mission of the Church.

To foster and encourage this dimension of prayer, **pilgrims are invited to join the Holy Father in prayer through, "Click To Pray"**, the Vatican's official prayer app. This digital platform is a true spiritual tool that accompanies the faithful with moments of prayer and reflection throughout the day. Furthermore, the app includes the official profile of the Holy Father, where all his prayer intentions are published, allowing the faithful to concretely unite with the intentions the Pope entrusts to the universal Church. Go to www.clicktopray.org to join in prayer with the universal Church.



An invitation to Artists The National Liturgical Architecture and Art Council has released a statement, in relation to the Jubilee of Artists (acknowledged February 15-18, 2025), to encourage parishes and other Catholic entities to collaborate with artists in projects large and small. Click or scan the QR code for more information.

Pope's Prayer for March - for families in crisis Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences. Lord, hear us.

Stewardship Program Dear parishioners, some of you may receive a letter from Jackie Wrigglesworth, our Finance Officer, confirming a few details about our Planned Giving Program. Thank you very much for your continued generosity. Wishing you God's blessings!

St Patrick's Cathedral Choral Scholarships St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat provides Choral Scholarships for Years 3-6 students with musical interest and aptitude. The Scholarships provide \$1,000 per annum towards students' education and/or musical tuition. Choral Scholars sing and rehearse regularly at St Patrick's Cathedral and occasionally at community events. The Choral Scholarships are modelled on the Melbourne, Sydney and Perth Cathedrals, with children being taught an exciting range of repertoire, including traditional styles of sacred music and contemporary church hymns. There are opportunities for musical, vocal and personal development in a safe, fun environment. Children audition for a place in the choir. If they are successful, they join the Cathedral's Cantate Domino Choir, which is currently made up of 25 adults and children. Auditions are held by arrangement with applicants. For more information and to request an application form, please contact the Choir Director, Mr Vincent Sully: cantatedomino@ballarat.catholic.org.au or on 0407 310 115.

Running to God: A Collection of Prayers for Sport The National Centre for Evangelisation has produced this free book, "Running to God: A Collection of Prayers for Sport", designed to help incorporate faith and prayer into the practice of sport at all levels. It features prayers written for and by athletes, officials, coaches, parents and spectators - as well as short testimonies of faith from Australian athletes. Access the book and a range of resources at <https://nce.catholic.org.au/culture/sports/prayer>

Laudato Si': Everything is connected In his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis reminds us that everything is connected. Our relationship with nature is not separate from our relationship with God and others. This concept of integral ecology encourages us to care for the Earth and each other. It calls us to action. This year is a moment of profound significance, as we celebrate two extraordinary milestones: the 10th anniversary of Pope Francis's encyclical *Laudato Si'*, and 800 years since Saint Francis of Assisi composed "The Canticle of the Creatures," his timeless hymn of praise for creation. As we step into this hopeful new chapter, let us reflect with joy on seven reasons to be hopeful, each rooted in the transformative spirit of the *Laudato Si'* Goals (taken from <https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/welcoming-2025-with-joy-and-hope/>.)



CWL Cathedral Branch Meeting The Catholic Women's League Cathedral Branch will meet for the first time this year at Nazareth House (Nazee Nook) on Monday, March 3, 2025 at 1.30pm. New members and friends are welcome. Inquiries, ph. 0401175045