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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.

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 Sunday, **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

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

Sirach 27: 4-7

Ps 91: 2-3, 13-16, R. See v.2

1 Corinthians 15: 54-58

Luke 6: 39-45



23rd February 2025 ~ Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

Focus on the Scriptures

The Way of Compassion and Love The classic message of today's gospel is addressed to "those who are listening", those who hear, those who are paying attention. To hear, to pay attention and respond to the heart of the message that follows, namely to love your enemies and to be compassionate as God is compassionate, calls for an extraordinary expansiveness of spirit only possible in those who are totally open to the power of God's Spirit working in their lives. It is not easy to love one's enemy particularly when the enemy, the one subtly undermining or manipulating you, comes in the guise of friend. Yet, even in the face of subtle enmity, the message is clear: do not respond in kind, respond instead with love, compassion and unreserved forgiveness. It is also important to rise above the pettiness of the other and refuse to be a victim. To the one who takes away your coat, you offer your shirt as well. In this way, the real power remains with the one who is too expansive to retaliate.

Luke's late first century communities were well acquainted with the Jewish traditions that informed their faith, even if many were not themselves Jewish. The Jewish Christians in the community as well as the "God-fearers" who accepted Jesus of Nazareth as Saviour and Christos or Messiah had been introduced to the God of steadfast love (hesed) and womb-compassion (rahāmim). They believed that God was concerned about justice in the legal system (mishpat) and right relationship (sedeqah) between people and nations, ever ready to forgive those who turn away from injustice and wrongdoing. The songs and prayers of the Jewish heritage reminded them constantly of the compassionate ways of God in their history and in their personal lives. When the Lukan Jesus tells these people to be merciful or compassionate as God is compassionate, they know what he means. They also know the cost of compassion in situations where retaliation is the more spontaneous instinct. God-like compassion remains the stance required of Christian disciples in the face of opposition and hatred, even the opposition that comes in the guise of friendship.

Compassion, forgiveness and love of enemies are rare commodities in international politics and in the resolution of global conflicts as well as in personal relationships. Sadly, the major trouble spots on our globe witness to constant retaliation and face-saving measures that harden positions and exacerbate division. There is ample evidence that hatred, fuelled by injustice, is begetting violence in many parts of our planetary home. And yet the only way to break the cycles of violence that perpetuate death and destruction is the way of compassion and love. God-like compassion requires that we, as nations and as individuals, let go of past hurts, examine our tenaciously held opinions, try to see the world from the perspective of those we mistrust and work for peace that is grounded in love. Countless troubled communities continue to yearn for such God-like compassion.

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm: (R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I give you a new commandment; love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia!

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

Anniversaries: We remember: Stan Birkett, Marianne Kenna, Sr Irene Monigatti RSM, Eileen Donovan, Ronald Tuppen, Carolyn Jordan

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

Notice of dates: **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 Mar 2	(next week)	Sunday 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG		Mark Lacey
COMMENTATOR		Min Myers
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Tim O’Farrell
COMMUNION MINISTER		Judy Brown
DIGITAL PROJECTOR		Fiona Newton
SACRISTAN		Josie Crowe

Collections last week Thank you for your contributions
 Presbytery: \$ 285.75 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 495.50

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.

Jubilee of Deacons: February 21-23, 2025 The Jubilee of Deacons has a theme: ‘Deacons: Joyful Witnesses of Hope’, reminding us that Deacons help bring the hope and love of Christ to a world which has lost hope. Further resources for the Jubilee of Deacons is available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/liturgysacraments/jubilee-year-2025-pilgrims-of-hope/>

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.

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.



Baptism This weekend we welcome to our Parish through the sacrament of Baptism: **Ottilie Alice Kerry**, daughter of Phoebe Kerry.

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

- Pope Francis

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

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.

Ash Wednesday Masses: March 5, 2025

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

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. Please advise if you would like to send a representative from your parish to be commissioned.

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.