

Please support our loyal advertisers



Prepaid Funerals
Eliminate family stress
Details: 5337 7111



Address: 1114 Doveton Street North, Ballarat, 3350
Phone: (03) 5333 3911
All hours. Moderate cost



20 Lydiard Street Sth,
Ballarat
Ph: (03) 5331 3711
www.ppt.com.au



11 Neerim Crescent,
Wendouree Industrial Park
Ph: 5339 3122
Open Direct to the Public
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

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>



Save with CDF Community Fund –
it's in everyone's best interest.



By opening an account with CDF Community Fund, you are saving for a reward greater than money alone. Help build classrooms for students, places of worship for communities, hospital wings for the sick, aged care homes for the elderly and social service facilities for the most vulnerable. It's a way to save while doing good.

With competitive interest rates available across a range of accounts, including on a 12-month Term Investment, it's a way to save while doing good. To find out more, visit www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund/offer, or contact the CDF Team on csg@melbcdf.org.au or phone 1800 134 135.

*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
Jeremiah 17: 5-8
Ps 1: 1-4, R. Ps 39:5
1 Corinthians 15: 12, 16-20
Luke 6: 17, 20-26



9th February 2025 ~ Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

Focus on the Scriptures

Bringing the Vulnerable Safely to Shore The gospel reading for this Sunday opens with Jesus by the lake shore looking for a little space from the people who are pressing around him to hear "the word of God". For the gospel writer, the word of Jesus is the word of God. The listener/reader has been gradually prepared, in the baptism scene and in the episode in the Nazareth synagogue, to receive this momentous truth. Jesus is the anointed of God who brings God's word to the destitute. The gospel narrative assumes that the crowd by the lake receives his teaching as God's word.

Jesus sees two empty boats and gets into the one that belongs to Simon Peter. The implication is that Jesus knows Peter: he feels free to get into Peter's boat and ask him to move the boat out from the shore. Having gained the distance he needs, Jesus sits down and teaches the crowd from the boat. God's word thus comes to the people from the potentially regenerative waters of the lake and from the boat that is made of precious earth resources. Simon no doubt has one ear on Jesus' teaching as he and his despondent business partners clean the nets and pack up ready to go home without any fish. They have fished all night without a single catch.

Evoking the creation story of Genesis where God's spirit moves over the face of the deep, Jesus invites Simon and his companions to put out into deep water and lower the nets for a catch, even though there is little likelihood of a catch. Simon Peter hesitates, noting that they have laboured without success all night. He nonetheless follows Jesus' instructions. The dramatic result of his attending to Jesus' word brings Simon to his knees: he acknowledges his limitations, his "sinfulness" in gospel terms. Jesus then commissions him to engage fearlessly in a new mission of reaching out beyond his present business enterprise in order to "catch people". This commission is not to be understood as a recruitment drive for the reign of God movement. As the gospel story unfolds we discover that it is, rather, a mission to bring the vulnerable safely to shore where they can know the compassion and justice and the "hospitality" of God.

While Peter and his companions are said to "leave everything" and "follow" Jesus, the subsequent narrative makes it clear that they do not abandon their fishing activities. They simply re-centre their lives on the following of Jesus. In other words, they undertake to live out in their lives the pattern of Jesus' life amid the ordinary concerns of daily life. The previous chapter of Luke's gospel has provided glimpses of that pattern: bringing good news to the destitute, release to the shattered, healing to the sick and the broken. In our times, we have begun to realise that the "shattered" needing to be freed include the despoiled Earth, its waters and the endangered species of both land and sea.

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm: (R.) In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Come follow me, says the Lord, and I will make you fishers of my people. Alleluia!

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

Anniversaries: We remember: Marianne Kenna, Kevin Hynes, Sr. Angela (Josepha) Caine RSM

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

Baptism This weekend we welcome to our Parish through the sacrament of Baptism: **Oscar Wood**, son of Nicholas and Melissa.

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

- Pope Francis



May Oscar grow in faith with the support of his family and our Catholic Community.

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, 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 16	(next week)	Sunday 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG		Tony Beggs
COMMENTATOR		Mitch Chalmers
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Min Myers
COMMUNION MINISTER		Colleen Wakefield
DIGITAL PROJECTOR		Vicki Moroney
SACRISTAN		Fiona Newton

Collections Dec 22,2024 to last week Thank you for your contributions
 Presbytery: \$ 1,981.55 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 4,939.20

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*



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 of 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 at: <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/liturgy-sacraments/jubilee-year-2025-pilgrims-of-hope/>

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.

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, MARCH 1, 2025 at 12.30pm** in **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

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>

Word of God Sunday: February 9, 2025 The Church in Australia celebrates the 2025 Word of God Sunday today. Pope Francis established the day, which is devoted to “the celebration, study and dissemination” of the Word of God. Visit www.catholic.org.au/wordofgodSunday to access resources to help commemorate the day and for suggestions on how to better engage with Sacred Scripture in various ways and settings.

