

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/>

Pope Francis' Prayer for Peace in Ukraine: I ask you to pray the Our Father for peace in Ukraine, now and throughout this day.
Our Father...

Let us ask the Lord to grant that the country may grow in the spirit of brotherhood, and that all hurts, fears and divisions will be overcome. We have spoken about the Holocaust. But let us think too that [in Ukraine] millions of people were killed [1932-1933]. They are a people who have suffered; they have suffered from hunger, suffered from much brutality and they deserve peace.

May the prayers and supplications that today rise up to heaven touch the minds and hearts of world leaders, so that dialogue may prevail and the common good be placed ahead of partisan interests.
Please, no more war.

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!



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@melbcd.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

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
Genesis 15: 5-12, 17-18
Ps 26: 1, 7-9, 13-14, R. v. 1
Philippians 3:17- 4:1
Luke 9: 28-36



9th March 2025 ~ First Sunday of Lent Year C

Focus on the Scriptures

"Power-With" rather than "Power-Over" Lent is a time for personal as well as group reflection, a time for entering into the "wilderness" or "desert place" and grappling with the mysteries of life. While deserts are often depicted as uninhabited or desolate regions, anyone who has spent time in such places knows that the desert supports a rich diversity of other-than-human life. Human retreat to the wilderness can be an opportunity to encounter God in the unfamiliar and to understand oneself in relation to the other-than-human. It can reveal to us our capacities for right relationship with God, with each other, and with the Earth. Right relationship resides in "power-with" rather than "power-over".

In Israel's story, the wilderness is the place of testing for God's people: "Remember the long way that your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness...testing you to know what was in your heart" (Deuteronomy 8:2). Jesus is "filled with the Holy Spirit" and, like so many human beings before and since, is "led by the Spirit" into the wilderness to be "tested" there. ["Tested" is a more accurate translation of the Greek peirazein than the usual "tempted"].

The three-fold drama of the testing of Jesus in the wilderness is about the proper exercise of power and about trust in a loving God. In refusing to turn the stones of the wilderness into bread in order to satisfy his own hunger, the Lukan Jesus demonstrates that he is not prepared to exercise power over the other-than-human Earth, even if he had the capacity to work such magic. By refusing to accept the "glory of all the kingdoms of the world", he shows that power over the human communities of the Earth is not "of God" and that worship belongs to God alone. Finally, in refusing to cast himself from the parapet of Israel's holiest shrine, the Jerusalem Temple, he makes it clear that he is not prepared to test the power of God to rescue him from a self-inflicted death or to use God's holy place to such ends. The Lukan Jesus passes the tests that the people Israel failed in the wilderness of Sinai.

Adelaide priest, Michael Trainor, in a wonderfully sensitive reading of Luke's gospel, detects three ecological ethical principles in today's gospel reading: 1) Earth is to be cared for and treated respectfully, not ravaged through greed; 2) All ecological and environmental engagement is grounded in and enhanced by one's communion with God; and 3) Earth's resources are to be respected by all and not usurped as a means of power and control by one over another (About Earth's Child 2012, 107-109). These principles derive from today's gospel story as a whole with its three-fold testing and from Jesus' three-fold response to these tests. As Earth's people and Earth's bounty are exploited to wage war in so many places, we pray with all our being that peace and order will prevail.

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm: (R.) Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.
Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Ruperlito Tan Andanar, Bernadette Payne

Anniversaries: We remember: Margaret O'Brien, Philip O'Brien, Muriel Langer, Sr Mary Lynch RSM, Bryan Deady, Sheila Prendergast

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

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 Ballarat and St John the Baptist Beaufort will come together as one Ministry District, 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 continues at Masses on **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**.

Sew and So on Thursday, 13th March 2025, at 1.30pm at the St Columba's Church Foyer. Come along for a cuppa. All welcome. Enquiries Margaret 53314032

Project Compassion 2025: Unite against poverty this Lent Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes are available for you to collect at the church foyer. Thank you. Your donation counts.

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](mailto:djurджа.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or ph. 5337 7121.

St Columba's Mar 16	(next week)	Sunday 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG		Tony Beggs
COMMENTATOR		Tom Keogh
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Jo-anne van der Voort
COMMUNION MINISTER		Tim O'Farrell
DIGITAL PROJECTOR		Bruce Chapman
SACRISTAN		Fiona Newton

Collections last week Thank you for your contributions
 Presbytery: \$ 407.15 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 421.00

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.

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://laudatosiplatform.org/welcoming-2025-with-joy-and-hope/>.)



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, April 3, 2024**. You may attend either the 10.00 am or the 5.30 pm session.

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>