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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/>

Garrett Publishing Lent Calendar 2025 This year, the Garratt Publishing Lent Calendar is taking inspiration from the Year of Jubilee 2025 – Pilgrims of Hope. Created for Jubilee 2025 are four Jubilee Journeys that take pilgrims on a tour of Rome's Basilicas and Churches from the comfort of your home. Each day also includes a brief reflection selected from one of our popular Lenten titles. To download this free calendar, scan or click the QR code.



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 after mass this morning, **6th of April.**

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, May 1, 2024.** You may attend either the 10.00 am or the 5.30 pm session.



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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
Closed school holidays (**St Columba's**)
Thu 10am-2pm (**Cathedral Office**)
Fri 10am-2pm (**Cathedral Office**)

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 50: 4-7
Ps 21: 8-9, 17-20, 23-24 R. v. 2
Philippians 2: 6-11
Luke 22:14-23: 56



6th April 2025 ~ Fifth Sunday of Lent Year C

Focus on the Scriptures

Rebalancing the Structures of Power Today's gospel story breaks the flow of John's narrative. It is a stand-alone story about restoring dignity to a woman and rebalancing the power structures that operated in that world. Historian Gerda Lerner has demonstrated that patriarchy emerged some 3000 years ago with the invention of weapons of war and the consequent gender division of labour. By the first century CE, when the gospels were written, every woman in the Roman world knew that she was the possession of a man, initially of her father, and then of her husband or of successive husbands. Slaves, both men and women, were the property of and sexually available to the head of the patriarchal household. Even free women had fewer choices than men in regard to the choice of life partners and social contact outside the family. In Second Temple Judaism, a woman's sexual liaison with another man was a sin against her husband who was also her proprietor. Her shame was of less consequence than her husband's loss of status and honour.

We are told nothing of the precise circumstances of the woman said to be "taken in adultery". She could not have been "taken" alone: there is a man somewhere in the wings who is at least as guilty as the woman. But only the woman is "brought" to Jesus in the public arena, a spectacle for the assembled crowd. Ironically, her accusers have little interest in the woman or in her fate. Their interest is in Jesus. They want to test him and catch him out on his attitude to and enactment of the Mosaic law. In other words, Jesus is the one on trial in this public setting, and the woman is no more than a dispensable object in the process, a means to a sinister end.

The woman's accusers ask Jesus for a legal opinion on her case. Should the full force of the law be exercised? Should she be stoned to death? Jesus does not dignify their manipulation with a response. Rather, he takes away their power by bending down and writing with his finger on the ground. What does he write? We can never know the answer to that question. They keep asking him to provide a ruling.

Jesus subverts their ploy by confronting them with their own sinfulness: "let the one without sin cast the first stone". They move off one by one and the woman is finally accorded the dignity of responding for herself. She is freed from the burden of condemnation. She can move forward with a strong sense of her worth and the knowledge that she matters in the scheme of things. As we bring today's gospel into dialogue with stories of violence against women, the horrific stories of women used as sex slaves or of women on the African continent being forced to offer sexual services in exchange for twigs of firewood, we might commit ourselves anew to the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.
-Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm: (R.) The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! With all your heart turn to me, for I am tender and compassionate. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

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

Anniversaries: We remember: Maureen Darbin, Sr. Patricia Vagg RSM, Terry Foran

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

Choir for Mass of the Oils 2025 Singers and musicians in the diocese are invited to join the music group which is being formed for the Mass of the Oils on Monday, April 14, 2025. Practice times are Sundays April 6 and April 13 at 6.15pm (following 5.00pm Mass) Please contact Julie Boyd in the Pastoral Ministry Office julie.boyd@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7159 to register your interest.

Liturgies and Easter Mass Times at St Columba's church:

13th April, 10:00am, Palm Sunday

17th April, 7:00pm, Holy Thursday: Mass of the Lord's Supper


18th April, 10:00am Way of the Cross starts at St Columba's Church

3:00pm, Good Friday: Celebration of the Passion of the Lord

** It's our first Good Friday mass at St Columba's for some time, all parishes are very welcome to attend.*

20th April, 10:00am, Easter Sunday: Resurrection of the Lord

Pilgrimage with St Paul - Missionary of Hope In this Jubilee year, dedicated to becoming Pilgrims of Hope, pilgrims are invited to experience the world of the early Christian communities. The Acts of the Apostles will come alive as we go out with St Paul and his companions to rediscover the faith and struggles of the early Christian communities. The proposed itinerary departs Melbourne on Sunday, September 21, 2025 with the pilgrims arriving in Istanbul and proceeding to Adana, Tarsus, Antioch, Ephesus, Troas, Kavala, Philippi, Thessalonica and Athens with the possibility of an extension to Rome. For further information, please contact Lifestyle Travel, 11 Armstrong Street North, Ballarat, phone 03 5331 8077, email info@lifestyletravel.com.au or Fr Justin Driscoll justin.driscoll@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Project Compassion 2025: Unite against poverty this Lent Watch the  Introduction to Project Compassion video <https://vimeo.com/1034878113> Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes are available for you at the church foyer or you may support Project Compassion by calling 1800 024 413 or online at www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion. Thank you for your generosity.

St Columba's Apr 13 (next week) Palm Sunday 10.00 am	
LEADER OF SONG	Mark Lacey
COMMENTATOR	Tom Keogh
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Terry Ranger
COMMUNION MINISTER	Bruce Chapman
DIGITAL PROJECTOR	Kathleen Keogh
SACRISTAN	Norah Moloney

Collections last week Thank you for your contributions
 Presbytery: \$ 351.45 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 317.45

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.



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.

Sew and So Thursday the **10th April, 2025** at 1.30pm at the St Columba's Church foyer. Come along for a pleasant sharing in good company. Enquiries Margaret 0409533140

Pope Francis' Prayer for April - for the use of new technologies: Let us pray that the use of new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of each person and will help us face the crises of our times. Lord, hear us.

Holy Land Collection - Good Friday, April 18, 2025 The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land will take place on Good Friday, April 18. Over the last five years the people of the Holy Land have had so much turmoil in their lives. We pray that the ceasefire in Palestine, Gaza and Israel will be honoured by all the leaders. Already the Christian church leaders are encouraging people to come back on pilgrimage. Pilgrims are vital because they generate income that allows care for the Holy Places (which also gives work to the local people), as well as running parishes, schools and caring for orphans, refugees, the homeless and more. The Pontifical Good Friday Collection will continue to support the works of the Holy Land through the generosity of the Australian Church. Your donation is a direct way to make a difference in the lives of people who are keeping alive the Christian presence in the land of Jesus, often in the face of great odds.

Forming of a New Parish In recent years, the Ballarat Diocese has created new Ministry Districts under the direction of Bishop Paul and the Pastoral Planning Office to help meet the needs of the current situation of the Diocese. We are now in the process of coming together as one parish which will happen on 1st July 2025. Our new parish will be comprised of St Columba's Ballarat North, St John the Baptist Beaufort and St Patrick's Ballarat and (Streatham if it continues). Under the direction of Bishop Paul, the Council shall be called "Cathedral Parish."

The Parish is the basic unit of the Universal Catholic Church with its responsibility of evangelization, expression of faith and administration of Sacraments. It exists to improve the quality of the life of its members; spiritual, religious, and social. It is a community of love, based on a Communion of Faith. Its function is beyond that of a corporate entity.

Election Process of the new Cathedral Parish Council As has been suggested by the previous separate Parish Councils, we now call for Election of 9 members 2 Beaufort, 3 North Ballarat, 4 Cathedral, (1 if Streatham continues).

Ex-officio Members

- 1 Representative from Primary School Principals
- 1 Representative from Finance Council
- Priests

Timeline for elections:

- Information on newsletter 26th/27th April
- Nominations called for from 3rd/4th May (Parish Administrator will discern initial nominees before informing the parish).
- Parish informed of final nominees 17th/18th May.
- Discernment time for parishioners who wish to vote from 19 - 23 May
- Voting 24th /25th May if needed.
- Announced 1st June

Pope Francis' message for Lent "Let Us Journey Together in Hope" is Pope Francis' message for Lent 2025. He reminds us that we cannot stay where it is comfortable, that we must always accompany others, and that we must always do everything with the hope that never disappoints. The Dicastery for Integral Human Development have provided resources for Lent. To read the Pope's message and access the resources, scan or click the QR code.



St Columba's Apr 20 Easter Sunday 10:00 am	
LEADER OF SONG	To be confirmed
COMMENTATOR	Judy Brown
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Anthea Hinchey
COMMUNION MINISTER	Tim O'Farrell
DIGITAL PROJECTOR	Bruce Chapman
SACRISTAN	Fiona Newton