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Thank you! St Vincent de Paul, Ballarat North would like to thank St Columba's Parish for the on-going support of the annual St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal. This year, the weekend collections raised \$1,652.00. This generosity from our parishioners means that we have been able to help ease the burdens of winter for some of the most disadvantaged in our local community. The donations have been going towards providing blankets for warmth, assistance in paying utility bills and rent and the provision of food. We were taken aback by the generosity and thank St Columba's for it – this generosity will be appreciated by many.



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/>

THE MERGING OF PARISHES INTO A MINISTRY DISTRICT Three current parishes merging into one parish. **Beaufort**- Larger geographically but fewer people. **Ballarat North**- More people in small area. **Cathedral**- Largest group of people in reasonably small area.

There are two crucial areas of consideration: Pastoral and Financial. There has already been some communication between the priests, parish council members and finance committee members of each parish. Finance Committees of all three parishes will formally come together by September 2024 and begin the discernment of a combined finance council. Independent finance council operations will continue at the same time. A meeting, no later than September 2024, will be held with 2 nominated representatives of each parish council and one representative from a parish school to reflect on the make-up of a future Combined Parish Council.



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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

8th September 2024 ~ 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Staffing

Administrator:
Fr Edward Moloney
Assistant Priests:
Fr Francis Kureeckal MST
Fr James McKay

Finance Officer:
Bernadette Prestwood

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
Isaiah 50:5-9
Ps 114:1-6, 8-9 R. v. 9
James 2: 14-18
Mark 8:27-35



Focus on the Scriptures

Let us Open our Ears to Hear Today's gospel draws our attention to the profoundly deaf who find themselves on the edge of the earth community. Without access to birdsong, to spoken discourse, to music and to the vast range of media communication, they often struggle to understand and to be understood. Their capacity to communicate their deepest wisdom, their hopes and dreams, their anxieties and fears, is limited not only by personal disability but also by the incomprehension and impatience of others.

Whatever degree of deafness is experienced, relief from such an affliction offers far more than physical healing. It brings insertion into the life of family, community, workplace and the wonderful world of God's other than human creation. It opens up new horizons and unimagined possibilities. Sophisticated hearing aids and cochlear implants can transform the lives of those who suffer from serious hearing loss. We give thanks for the earth elements in cochlear implants, the silicone, platinum, titanium and ceramics and the rare earth elements in hearing aids.

In first century Palestine, chances of relief from hearing deficiency and associated speech impairment were minimal. Desperate people put their faith in folk healers who used their healing hands and wisely drew upon their knowledge of the medicinal properties in certain herbs and other plants. Many turned to Asclepius, the Greek god of healing, or to his daughter Hygeia. Jesus was an effective healer who used some of the same methods as other healers of his time. In today's gospel story, he turns to the God of Israel ("looking up to heaven...") as the source of healing power.

There is layer upon layer of meaning in today's healing story. Habitat features significantly. Jesus travels from Tyre on the northern Mediterranean coast to the Sea of Galilee via the non-Jewish territory on the eastern side of the lake. The gospel writer is stressing the all-embracing nature of Jesus' healing ministry. Land belongs to God and territorial claims on land are no barrier to Jesus' healing ministry, a lesson Jesus himself has just learned from the Syro-Phoenician woman of Mark 7:26-30.

In Mark's gospel, the healing power of God is available to Jews and Gentiles, to male and female, to young and old alike. It is available to those with bodily afflictions and to those who are paralysed by anxiety and fear. There is irony in the telling of the story: a Gentile deaf man can be brought from no hearing to hearing, from "speaking with difficulty" to clarity of speech, but Jesus' own disciples will shortly fail to hear and understand. "Do you have ears and not hear?" (Mark 8:18) is the question he will put to them when they fail to understand. Let us open our ears to hear in the hope that we might understand what we have done to our planetary home and how we might play our part in renewing God's wonderful yet battered creation. ~**Veronica Lawson RSM**

Responsorial Psalm: (R.) Praise the Lord, my soul!

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

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

Anniversaries: We remember: Maria (Rita) Keogh, Sr Anne McMillan, Margaret Hall, Danny Frawley, Giuseppe Finocchiaro, Michael Crowley, Joseph Davis, Nancy Davis, Val Allan, Kevin McLaughlin, Muriel Mugavin

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

Congratulations to all St Columba's Parish children and families receiving the Sacrament of First Eucharist today! May God bless you all and keep you in His care!



St Columba's Sacramental Program continues with the Sacrament of First Eucharist. Preparation sessions took place over four Monday evenings at St Columba's School and will be celebrated over two Sundays, **today** and **September 15**. Thank you so much to all families who attended, to our parent group facilitators for sharing their time and talents, to school staff who supported and welcomed all the candidates over the month-long preparation journey and to our parishioners who continue to pray for the children and their families and have helped in today's celebration. There are around 27 candidates for First Eucharist today, the 8th of September, and 17 children and families on the 15th of September. Thank you all for making St Columba's a lovely community for us to share and live our faith.

The St. Columba's Parish Council has returned with Father Ed's recommendation. The first meeting was held on the 20th August. Member's include Bruce Chapman, Rudi van der Voort, Anthea Hinchey, Judy Brown, Vicki Moroney, Georgina Hinchey and Diane Cowie. Father Ed was also in attendance while Fr Francis was an apology.

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

Tea and Coffee after Mass every first Sunday of the month at St. Columba's Our next tea and coffee is on the **6th of October**. Looking forward to catching up with you then! In the meantime, keep well and warm.

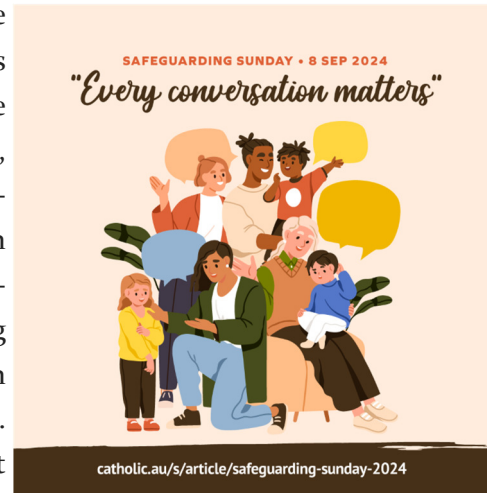
St Columba's Sep 15	(next week) Sunday 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG	Tony Beggs
COMMENTATOR	Faustin Epeabaka
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Terry Ranger
COMMUNION MINISTER	Judy Brown
DIGITAL PROJECTOR	Bruce Chapman
SACRISTAN	Fiona Newton

Collections last two weeks Thank you for your contributions
 Presbytery: \$ To be confirmed Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ TBC

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.

Safeguarding Sunday Today, the Catholic Church in Australia marks Safeguarding Sunday, on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise and apologise for the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings. Rebuilding trust and confidence in the Church requires constant work and vigilance. We recommit to cultural change that will help the Church be a place that respects the dignity of all children and adults at risk, and empowers and listens to all people, especially those who are vulnerable. More information and resources on diocesan website: <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/safeguarding-sunday-september-8-2024/>



St Columba's Safeguarding Officer: Anthea Hinchey

Ballarat Clergy Support Fund - Collection for Retired Priests The Ballarat Clergy Support Fund relies on your generosity to enable it to continue supporting our sick and retired priests. Creating a secure retirement future for the priests of the diocese is a duty and care in which we can all participate. Seventeen retired priests are currently supported by this Fund. Some live privately, some are retired in units in Ballarat or elsewhere, others live in supported accommodation. You are still able to contribute, by using the special envelope provided, or in an envelope marked "Ballarat Clergy Support Fund". Contributions over \$2.00 are tax-deductible.

Caring for those who cared for us - the Church community's responsibility.

Position Vacant: Pastoral Care at Mercy Place Ballarat Aged Care A permanent part-time position is available at Ballarat Mercy Place Aged Care. Applications are available on the seek link:

<https://www.seek.com.au/job/77920166?type=standout&ref=search-standalone&origin=jobCard#sol=bf828cb7ac33e2ee3foao309916d6ede9fc496a3>.

For any further information or interest in formation regarding pastoral care, please contact Bernadette Wurlod, email: BWurlod@mercy.com.au

Pope's intention for September - For the cry of the earth: Let us pray that each of us listen with our hearts to the cry of the Earth and of the victims of environmental disasters and the climate crisis, making a personal commitment to care for the world we inhabit. Lord, hear us.

Season of Creation 2024 The Season of Creation runs from September 1 – October 4, with the theme for 2024, "To hope and act with Creation". Resources are available from <https://seasonofcreation.org/>

Laudato Si': Water security - access to safe drinkable water is a basic and universal human right, since it is essential to human survival and, as such, is a condition for the exercise of other human rights. The quality of available safe water is constantly diminishing. In some places there is a growing tendency, despite its scarcity, to privatise this resource, turning it into a commodity subject to the laws of the market. (Laudato Si 30). Consider your water usage even though here in Australia we are lucky to have access to this precious resource.

Catholic Earthcare to host Season of Creation workshop in September Caritas Australia's Catholic Earthcare team is inviting the Catholic community, including schools, parishes, diocese, organisations and religious orders – to join its 2024 Season of Creation convocation. Taking place from Thursday, September 12 to Saturday, September 14, it will call participants to 'Wonder', 'Weave' and 'Heal' together. Attendees will enjoy keynote presentations, workshops, discussions and spiritual experiences, before gathering to transform learnings into action. Keynote speakers include Sr Anne-Maree O'Beirne RSM, Pedro Walpole and Sally Neaves. More information available <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/catholic-earthcare-to-host-season-of-creation-workshop-in-september/>

Sew and So this Thursday , 12 September 2024 at 1.30pm, St Columba's Church Foyer. Please join us for a cuppa and chat. All Welcome. Enquiries Margaret 0409533140

Wisdom at the Cathedral All are welcome to hear Fr Shawn Murphy ibp present *From Paris to Chartres to Eternity* at the next Wisdom at the Cathedral event on Thursday, September 19, 2024 at 7.00pm. Father Murphy, an experienced pilgrim of the famous Paris-Chartres pilgrimage, which attracts tens of thousands of people each year in Holy Week, will share his experiences and reflections on pilgrimage as an enriching journey not only for the body but for the mind and soul. The talk and discussion time will go for an hour and will be followed by a cup of tea. Entry by donation. For all enquiries, please contact Fiona Bradley at fionalouisebradley@gmail.com.