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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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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 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
Wisdom 2:12, 17-20
Ps 53:3-6, 8 R. v. 6
James 3: 16- 4: 3
Mark 9:30-37



15th September 2024 ~ 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Focus on the Scriptures

The Wisdom to Seek a Deeper Understanding Today's gospel reading leads us into a section of Mark's gospel that explores challenges confronting all disciples on their journey of faith. The first challenge is to clarify the nature of our commitment as disciples. If we fail to understand who Jesus is, we have little chance of understanding the nature of our own call to follow. Two questions ("Who do people say that I am?" and "Who do you say that I am?") are addressed to our forbears in faith communities of the late first century as well as to Christians across the millennia. We are invited to hear these questions anew. Do we simply share what "the people" say about Jesus? Are we like Peter who has the right language but only partial insight? Or do we have the wisdom to seek a deeper understanding of the identity of Jesus?

In response to Jesus' second question ("Who do you say that I am?"), Peter gets the words right: Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ, God's anointed messenger. It becomes clear, however, that Peter has a very different notion from Jesus of what it means to be the Messiah or the Christ. This is understandable since there were diverse messianic expectations within first-century Judaism. Many expected a royal militaristic figure who would drive out the Roman occupiers and restore Israel's status as an independent nation. Jesus, as God's Messiah, refuses the way of violent action. His way is to be true to his mission of bringing God's empire, even if it brings the most intense personal suffering. Peter refuses to accept a suffering Messiah. He is severely reprimanded for his refusal and instructed to get out of the way, to get back to where a disciple should be, namely behind Jesus, following him, and not out in front obstructing the path to wisdom and life.

Our experience of global conflicts should make us wary of accepting militaristic messiahs. We have learnt from bitter experience that war does little to bring peace and justice. In our times, to know and follow Jesus as the Christos or Messiah is to seek and support more moderate and lasting responses to both perceived and real injustice. It is to listen to the wisdom of those with insight and experience, to calculate with the utmost care the consequences of violent reactions to the problems in our world, in contemporary society, and in our homes. That may well involve hard work, personal misunderstanding, physical and emotional trauma or, in other words, it may mean "losing one's life" for the sake of the gospel. It may call us to ensure that all have access to a more equitable share of earth resources. It certainly calls for profound trust in the saving power of God. In this Season of Creation, the Sunday gospels call us into the ways of respect, of commitment, and of peaceful negotiation, to ever deeper insight into the ways of the Christ, the anointed agent of God's empire.
~Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm: (R.) I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! My only glory is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, which crucifies the world to me and me to the world. Alleluia!

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

Anniversaries: We remember: Eileen McManus, Norm Donehue, Mick McNamara, Leonie Kelly, Francis Curran, Jack Clancy

We pray: for all in areas of conflict, war, 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 Sacrament of First Eucharist preparation sessions took place over four Monday evenings at St Columba's School. First Holy Communion was celebrated last Sunday and **today, 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 were 27 candidates for First Eucharist last Sunday and 17 children and families today. Thank you, everyone, 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 22	(next week) Sunday 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG	Terry Ranger
COMMENTATOR	Judy Brown
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Anthea Hinchey
COMMUNION MINISTER	Colleen Wakefield
DIGITAL PROJECTOR	Bruce Chapman
SACRISTAN	Barb Brown

Collections last three weeks Thank you for your contributions
 Presbytery: \$ 1,154.85 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 2,324.15

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.

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.

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.

CASPA's - National Week of Prayer and Action: September 16 - 20, 2024 Each year, the Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum (CAPSA) holds a National Week of Prayer and Action and celebrates World Day of Migrants and Refugees. This National Week of Prayer and Action will focus on "Journeying together with Refugees and People Seeking Asylum." There will be an online webinar on Wednesday, September 18, 2024 from 7.00pm - 8.30pm with a panel of speakers to explore further what "Journeying together with refugees and people seeking asylum" entails. Panel speakers will provide different perspectives and expertise within the sector: David Manne (Human rights lawyer and Executive Director, Refugee Legal) and Sharon Sherwood (Chief of Mental Health and Cabrini Outreach). Chair of CAPSA and Jesuit Social Services CEO, Julie Edwards, will chair the discussion. Register at <https://events.humanitix.com/capsa-webinar-national-week-of-prayer-and-action-journeying-together-with-refugees-and-people-seeking-asylum>

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. **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 available at: <https://seasonofcreation.org/>

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.

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.

2024 Season of Creation Prayer

Triune God, Creator of all, we praise you for your goodness, visible in all the diversity that you have created, making us a cosmic family living in a common home. Through the Earth you created, we experience love and nourishment, home and protection. We confess that we do not relate to the Earth as a Mothering gift from you, our Creator. Our selfishness, greed, neglect, and abuse have caused the climate crisis, loss of biodiversity, human suffering as well as the suffering of all our fellow creatures. We confess that we have failed to listen to the groans of the Earth, the groans of all creatures, and the groans of the Spirit of hope and justice that lives within us. May your Creator Spirit help us in our weakness, so that we may know the redeeming power of Christ and the hope found in him. May the groans of the Spirit birth in us a willingness to serve you faithfully, so that we may hear and heal Creation, to hope and act together with her, so that the first fruits of hope may blossom. Loving and Creator God, we pray that you will make us sensitive to these groans and enable us to have the same compassion as that of Jesus, the redeeming Lord. Grant us a fresh vision of our relationship with Earth, and with one another, as creatures that are made in your image. In the name of the one who came to proclaim the good news to all Creation, Jesus Christ. Amen.

