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St Bernard's Church Bacchus Marsh
150th Anniversary St Bernard's Church will mark the 150th Anniversary of the blessing and opening of the church with a special Mass on Sunday, June 23, 2024 at 11.00am. A 300 page history focusing on the priests and people who built the parish has been compiled. Details at <https://stbernardsbacchusmarsh.com.au/>

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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/>

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.



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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

23rd June 2024 ~ 12th 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
Safeguarding Officer:
Peter Marquand

Focus on the Scriptures
Our hope is grounded in God who moves us to action Today's gospel story looks back to the parables of Mark 4:1-34 and to the crowds that heard them. The story also looks forward as it marks the beginning of the second major section of Mark's gospel (4:35-8:21), a section that seems to be structured around a number of crossings of the lake or Sea of Galilee. Jesus' decision to move with his disciples out of familiar territory is deliberate: "Let us go across to the other side." The crossing itself is difficult, as is the challenge that confronts them on the other side of the lake. From the disciples' perspective, the seeming indifference of the sleeping Jesus is even more disturbing than the storm that threatens their safe crossing: "Do you not care that we are perishing?" Jesus demonstrates that he does indeed care. From his perspective, the problem is with the fear in their hearts, a fear that is grounded in their lack of faith: "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?"

In the context of this Markan story, Jesus is like the sower in the parable (4:27-28) who goes to sleep and trusts that the seed will sprout and grow and bear fruit-which it does. Within a first-century Jewish context, Jesus' ability to "rebuke" the storm is a sign of divine power. In the Psalms, for instance, the God of Israel is the one who stills the roaring of the seas (Psalm 65:5) and controls the creatures that inhabit the waters (Psalm 89:9). Today's first reading has insisted that God commands the sea and all of its moods. In the Book of Job, God the Birthing Mother presents Job with a series of rhetorical questions, reminding him and us that, while the sea may be threatening, it is God's new born infant, wrapped in God's swaddling clothes of darkness and cloud (Job 38).

MASS TIMES (This week)

St Columba's
Sunday 10.00 am
Wednesday 10.00 am

Beaufort
2nd & 4th Sunday 8.30 am

Readings for Next Weekend
Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24
Ps 29:2, 4-6, 11-13 R. v.2
2 Corinthians 8: 7, 9, 13-15
Mark 5:21-43



We read Mark's little story against the backdrop of the Hebrew Scriptures. We might also read it in light of contemporary science and find within it a call to consider how our species respects or fails to respect and to nurture the fruit of God's womb, the cosmos. The story of the storm at sea is most certainly not an invitation to be complacent about the extreme weather events on our planet, trusting in God that all will be well. While such terrifying events can derive from the movement of tectonic plates over which we have no control, they can also derive from or be exacerbated by excessive carbon and methane emissions. We pollute the atmosphere and make the seas to rise at our peril. Trust in God may involve relinquishing vested interests and engaging the processes that are designed to reverse the effects of the human-induced climate catastrophe. As nations begin to embrace more ambitious climate action, we have some reason to hope. Our hope is grounded in God who moves us to action.

~Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm: (R.) Give thanks to the Lord, his love is everlasting.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: John Cushing

Anniversaries: We remember: Joan Whitty, Eric loader, Agnes Peters, Gavin Etheridge, Sr M. Luke Kenna RSM, Peter Curran, John Moran, Brian Kenna, Alice O'Donnell, Jim Gercovich

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

St Vincent Pallotti Scholarship Trust The St Vincent Pallotti Scholarship Trust offers scholarships to enable lay people to further their understanding and skills in leadership/ministry or a specialised activity, such as promoting faith enhancement, social justice and pastoral care. Details and application forms at <http://pallottine.org.au/svpscholarship> Closing date is July 31, 2024.

Jubilee Year 2025 “Pilgrims of Hope” Pope Francis has announced that 2025 will be a Jubilee Year, with the theme “Pilgrims of Hope”. It will be a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic and the climate crisis. In the lead-up to the Jubilee Year, Pope Francis has asked that 2024 be marked as a Year of Prayer, to promote the centrality of individual and community prayer. The Dicastery for Evangelisation has made some useful resources available to help people to better understand and rediscover the value of prayer. In addition to the 38 catecheses on Prayer that Pope Francis himself presented, a series of booklets entitled, “Notes on Prayer” is being published by the Vatican publishing house. The eight titles are designed to put the need for a profound relationship with the Lord back at the centre of people’s lives, through the many forms of prayer to be found in the rich Catholic tradition of prayer. In addition, a pastoral aid is available online, in a digital version, to help parish communities, families, priests, cloistered nuns and young people to become more aware of the need for daily prayer. To access resources and find out more about the Jubilee Year, go to <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/liturgy-sacraments/jubilee-year-2025-pilgrims-of-hope/>

Caritas Australia’s Papua New Guinea Landslide Disaster Remote communities in Papua New Guinea have been devastated by a catastrophic landslide that struck at 3.00am on May 24. The timing of the landslide meant most people were sleeping at the time of the disaster, with little time to escape. Thousands are feared dead. As rescue efforts continue, those who have lost their homes urgently need our support now, and in the weeks and months ahead. To donate go to Papua New Guinea Landslide Disaster | Caritas Australia

St Columba’s June 30	(next week) Sunday 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG	Mark Lacey
COMMENTATOR	Colleen Wakefield
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Vicki Moroney
COMMUNION MINISTER	Tim O’Farrell
DIGITAL PROJECTOR	Kathleen Keogh
SACRISTAN	Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe

Collections May 27 to June 16, 2024 Thank you for your contributions
 Presbytery: \$ 1,130.15 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 3,116.50

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.

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, July 4, 2024**. You may attend either the 10.00 am or the 5.30 pm session.

150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat – Formation In preparation for the Diocesan Assembly in November 2024, there will be formation sessions held around the diocese with a focus on leadership and governance. In 2023, Bishop Paul asked parishes to focus on leadership in their local communities, either by forming or developing further a parish council or leadership team according to local circumstances. The Diocesan Assembly will bring together clergy, representatives of the leadership teams in parishes, schools and Catholic organisations to consider how we might develop leadership and governance in our communities in the future. The formation opportunity is for Clergy in parishes, Parish Leadership Team/Parish Councils, School Leadership Teams/School Advisory Councils, Catholic Organisations Leaders. An invitation is also extended to people who have leadership potential and who would like to participate. Leadership teams are invited to nominate others who might benefit from this experience. Fr Justin Driscoll will facilitate the formation sessions.

Dates are:

Horsham- July 28 – 10.30am – 4.00pm – Ss Michael & Johns Church, Horsham

Colac- July 30 – 10.00am – 3.00pm – St Mary’s Parish, Colac

Ballarat- August 4 – 10.30am – 4.00pm

Saints Peter and Paul Church, Buninyong

Ballarat- August 13 – 5.00pm – 8.30pm

Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Wendouree

Warrnambool- August 25 – 10.30am – 4.00pm – St Joseph’s Church, Warrnambool.



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 on July 7. See you then. In the meantime, keep warm and God bless!

Pope’s intention for June - for those fleeing their own countries:

Let us pray that migrants fleeing from war or hunger, forced to undertake journeys fraught with danger and violence, may find welcome and new living opportunities in their host countries. Lord, hear us.

National Refugee Week: June 17-23, 2024 In a world marked by displacement and the search for refuge, this year’s Refugee Week theme “Finding Freedom” – with a focus on family – encapsulates the profound journey of resilience, strength, and unity that defines the refugee experience. This Refugee Week, we aim to shed light on the transformative power of familial bonds as well as chosen bonds in the face of adversity and emphasise the crucial role families play in providing solace, support, and a sense of belonging to those forced to flee their homelands. More info is available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/national-refugee-week-june-17-23-2024/>

Prayer for Refugee Week

Lord, no one is a stranger to you

and no one is ever far from your loving care.

In your kindness watch over refugees and asylum seekers,

those separated from their loved ones, those who are lost,

and those who have been exiled from their homes.

Bring them safely to the place where they long to be,

and help us always to show your kindness to strangers and those in need.

- Australian Catholic Social Justice Council

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. Cycle 5 begins July 15. There are 41 subjects to choose from, find one that interests you! Registrations are open. For more info email djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7121.

St Columba’s July 7	Sunday 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG	Terry Ranger
COMMENTATOR	Faustin Epeabaka
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Terry Ranger
COMMUNION MINISTER	Judy Brown
DIGITAL PROJECTOR	Bruce Chapman
SACRISTAN	Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe