

Please support our loyal advertisers



**Prepaid Funerals**  
Eliminate family stress  
Details: 5337 7111



**Busy Bookkeeping**  
Phone 5364 2922  
ballarat@busybookkeeping.com.au



**PROWSE PERRIN & TWOMEY**  
20 Lydiard Street Sth,  
Ballarat  
Ph: (03) 5331 3711  
www.ppt.com.au



**Pat Cashin Funerals**  
Ballarat  
A.B.N. 28 007 228 757  
Address: 1114 Doveton  
Street North, Ballarat, 3350  
Phone: (03) 5333 3911  
All hours. Moderate cost



11 Neerim Crescent,  
Wendouree Industrial Park  
Ph: 5339 3122  
Open Direct to the Public  
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

**Pope's intention for August**

**For political leaders:** Let us pray that political leaders be at the service of their own people, working for integral human development and the common good, taking care of those who have lost their jobs and giving priority to the poor. Lord, hear us.

**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, September 5, 2024.** You may attend either the 10.00 am or the 5.30 pm session.

**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.



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 **5.35% p.a.\* 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](http://www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund/offer), or contact the CDF Team on [csg@melbcd.org.au](mailto: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](http://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**  
Deuteronomy 4: 1-2, 6-8  
Ps 14:2-5 R. v. 1  
James 1: 17-18, 21-22, 27  
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23



**25th August 2024 ~ 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

**Grappling with the Complexities** If we have trouble understanding and coming to terms with the teachings of the Johannine Jesus, then we can take some comfort from the reaction of the disciples in John's community some decades after the death of Jesus. It seems that it was not only the members of the Jewish synagogue who were offended by his teaching, but also those Jews who had accepted Jesus as Messiah or Christ and had joined the community of believers. "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" they complain. They are referring to his teaching on the "bread" that he will give them. Once again, Jesus' response introduces new teaching, teaching that can only raise more questions in their minds. He links "spirit" with "life". Having used the term "flesh" of his body and of the life that he offers to those who eat of his flesh, he now introduces an element of doubt: flesh is now "useless"! We must be careful not to interpret this literally. It is typical of John to use the same word in a variety of ways. Here "flesh" is used negatively and metaphorically to refer to human weakness and sinfulness in contrast with "spirit" which evokes the creative spirit of God that moved over the waters at creation and the spirit of God that informed the word of the prophets.

The Johannine Jesus lays the ground for offering progressively deeper insights into his identity and destiny and into the meaning of a gospel way of life. The reference to his "ascending" recalls the earlier part of the gospel where he is presented as the pre-existent one, the one who comes from God and has already ascended to God (John 3:13). Once again, we are confronted with an ancient cosmology that places God in the heavens above. After his death, Jesus will tell Mary the Tower (the Magdalene) that he has not yet ascended and instructs her to tell the disciples that he is ascending to God (20:17). It seems that John wants to keep emphasising the origins of Jesus as the eternal Word and the Wisdom of God.

There are many who refuse to grapple with the complexities and implications of his teaching and they turn away. Jesus asks his closest followers if they too will desert. Peter speaks for himself and his companions when he declares their undying allegiance: "To whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life." Eternal life is the Johannine equivalent of the "kin-dom of God" or "of the heavens" of the other gospels. Most of us have wanted to abandon our commitment at some time or another. There are times when it seems to be all too hard. Peter's declaration is a sobering one for us in times of doubt and an encouragement for those of us who seek to understand more deeply and to keep believing despite the challenges.  
~Veronica Lawson RSM

**Responsorial Psalm: (R.)** Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Your words, Lord, are spirit and life: you have the words of everlasting life. Alleluia!

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

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Gavin Frawley, Pauline Rowe, Basil Ffrench, Margaret Trevenen, Mark Milne, Eddie Kennedy, Francis Reidy, Therese Hayes, Eileen O'Meara, Gerald Butler, Fides Lilia Nery

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

**The 'Right of Christian Initiation for Children of Catechetical Age'** (RCICCA) is a preparation process that is more than bringing your child for Baptism – you are bringing them to be fully initiated into the Catholic Church through Baptism, Confirmation and Communion. It is about your child forming a relationship with Jesus and with a community that welcomes them. Catechetical age of children is 7 – 13 years. If you wish to learn more about RCICCA, an information afternoon will be held in the MacKillop Room of St Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday 1st September at 2.00 pm. Further enquiries contact Susan at [sm.crowe23@gmail.com](mailto:sm.crowe23@gmail.com)

**Diocesan Social Justice Commission Reflection Day – Saturday, September 7, 2024** The Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission **invite all members of the diocese** to a Reflection Day, in celebration of the launch of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement 2024-2025, "Truth and Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World" on Saturday, September 7, 2024 from 10.00am - 2.30pm at Ss Michael and John's Horsham Parish Centre. Facilitator for the day is writer and educator, Michael McGirr. Registrations are essential through **trybooking**. A flyer is available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/ballar-at-diocesan-social-justice-commission-reflection-day-with-michael-mcgirr-saturday-september-7-2024/>.

**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/>

St Columba's Sep 1	(next week) Sunday 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG	Mark Lacey
COMMENTATOR	Fiona Newton
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Bruce Chapman
COMMUNION MINISTER	Gina Hinchey
DIGITAL PROJECTOR	Vicki Moroney
SACRISTAN	Josie Crowe

Collections last week Thank you for your contributions  
 Presbytery: \$ 349.25 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 452.50

## 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.*

### St Columba's Parish Ballarat North

30th June 2023 **Statement of Income and Expenditure** 30th June 2024

\$	INCOME	\$
58,181	Stewardship Program and Loose Plate	53,784
50,000	Rental Income 802 Armstrong St	50,000
—	Lydiard St Townhouses	49,527
24,169	Interest, Donations, Latin Mass	23,684
1,106	Advertising Subscriptions (notice sheet)	600
	<b>Special Collections:</b>	
1,115	Clergy Retirement	1,100
727	Bishop's Christmas Appeal	805
50	Special Appeals & Missions	20
3,650	Caritas Project Compassion	2,452
214	Annual Collection for the Pope	187
<b>139,212</b>	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>182,159</b>
\$	EXPENDITURE	\$
34,519	Salaries, Superannuation, Workcover, etc	36,546
22,213	Administration Expenses	16,890
16,677	Diocesan Levies	15,868
42,709	Operating Expenses	29,769
—	Rental Property Costs (agent fees, land tax, etc)	42,116
1,307	Clergy Assistance Fund Levies	1,121
3,636	Liturgical & Pastoral Expenses	4,979
—	General Maintenance & Capital Expenses	18,716
5,656	<b>Special Collections Disbursed</b>	4,864
<b>126,717</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>170,869</b>
<b>12,495</b>	<b>SURPLUS</b>	<b>11,290</b>

**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/>

**Advance Notice Sep 3, Tuesday, 12:05 pm Mass at St Columba's** Lights at St Patrick's Cathedral will be replaced on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. The Cathedral will be closed all day. The 12.05 pm Mass will be celebrated at St Columba's, Ballarat North.

**Social Justice Sunday Today** Today is Social Justice Sunday. The Australian Bishops' have launched the 2024-2025 Social Justice Statement "Truth and Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World." Every year, the bishops seek to make a substantive comment on a key social issue and this year the focus is on the promotion of peace and the need for truth in public life. Bishop Paul has released a video message in relation to the current Social Justice Statement. To watch Bishop Paul's video and to access the statement and liturgy resources, go to the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/social-justice/social-justice-statement/> You can also download a text copy of Bishop Paul's message from this webpage.

**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.

**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.

**Tea and Coffee after Mass every first Sunday of the month at St. Columba's** Looking forward to catching up on the **1st of September**.

**St Columba's Sacramental Program** continues with the Sacrament of First Eucharist. Preparation sessions are ongoing. First Eucharist will be celebrated over two Sundays, **September 8 and 15**.

**Ballarat Clergy Support Fund Annual Appeal next weekend** The BCSF Collection for Retired Priests will be held next weekend. 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. Special envelopes will be available for this collection and contributions over \$2.00 are tax-deductible.

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