

St Columba's Parish

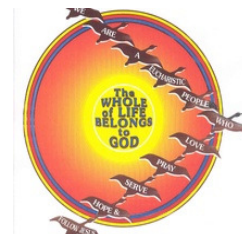
4/5 January 2020

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School Web: www.scballarat.catholic.edu.au

Presbytery: Phone 5332 4324



Focus on the Scriptures

Feast of the Epiphany Year A

The Christmas season reaches an apex with the Epiphany. In some liturgical traditions, it is the central celebration of Christmas. It commemorates not only the birth of Christ and the visit of the Magi, but also his baptism in the Jordan and the manifestation of his glory at the wedding feast of Cana. In the Roman Catholic tradition, the focus is on the visit of the Magi and the implications of that visit for the glorious manifestation of God to all the peoples of the world.

There is a wonderful summons to alertness and presence of mind and heart, a call for all the nations to witness the marvellous works of God that shine as light in the midst of the surrounding darkness. The light of God is known in the ways in which the most vulnerable in the city are cared for and acknowledged. In just action and righteousness, the city becomes the beacon of God, and all the nations are attracted by this light. The quality of the light leads the way through the darkness and sustains the world in goodness and peace.

The manifestation of God among us changes the ways in which we perceive each other. Christ's birth provides us with the light by which we see a new criterion for relating. The Magi represent the multi-ethnic and cultural diversity in civic and parish situations, as well as the many religions of the world. All people, regardless of race or ethnic origin, can be co-heirs with Christ.



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Recent deaths: We commend to God: May Kirby, Moya Hall, Greg Hogan, Mary Barnett

Anniversaries: We remember:

<u>This WEEKEND</u>	SATURDAY 4th January	SUNDAY 5th January
WELCOMER	John Madigan Family	Geraldine Mugavin
COMMENTATOR	Volunteer	Kim Butler
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD	Ruth Marquand	Jim Kierce
SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD	Volunteer	Anthea Hinchey
GIFTS	Glenane Family	Colleen Wakefield
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Peter Marquand, Ann Lacey, Trish Simmons	Kay Merbach, Colleen Wakefield, Georgina Hinchey
OVERHEADS	Troy Severio	Sharon De Beer
SACRISTAN	Sullivan sisters	Josie Crowe

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Prayer for Plenary Council-
Blessed are you, God of all creation. You have given us life and light and all the wonders of the world.

You have sent your Son Jesus to be our Saviour and your Holy Spirit to be our guide. As we prepare for the Plenary council, we ask you to come into our hearts with your Son and Holy Spirit.

Come to us and make your home in us. We pray for our local community, for the people of our diocese and for the Church throughout Australia.

May your wisdom show us the way, for your word is a lamp for our feet and a light for our path.

Come and fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in us the fire of your love, that we may live by your gospel and share your good news with all we meet. Holy Mary, Mother of our Saviour, pray for us. St Mary MacKillop, pray for us. Amen



Plenary Council 2020
Listen to what the Spirit is saying...

Nominations for Delegates

Bishop Paul is inviting us to nominate delegates from our diocese to attend the sessions of the Australian Plenary Council to be held in 2020 and 2021. Copies of Bishop Paul's letter are available in the foyer via www.ballarat.catholic.org.au. Nominations need to reach Bishop Paul by **Friday 7th February 2020**

Collections: 28th / 29th Dec

Presbytery: \$ 500.40
Parish: \$ 1,188.95
Chris Offrngs \$ 540.60

Thank You!!!

Child Safe Church The Parishes of St Columba's & Our Lady Help of Christians (including Learmonth, Lexton, Miners Rest and Waubra) 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 Parish website or on the foyer notice board. If you have any concerns whatsoever—please contact the Parish Office, Fr. Marcello or one of the Safe Guarding Officers at ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au or wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au