

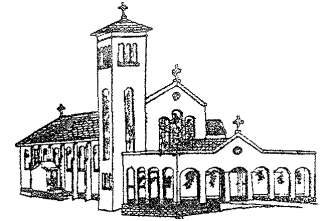
St Columba's Parish - Ballarat North

306 Gregory St, Ballarat North Phone: 5331 7131

Email: ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au or pastoral@stcolumbasparish.org

Parish Web: ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au

School Web: scballarat.catholic.edu.au



Weekend of
11th-12th
February, 2017

Mass times:

Saturday vigil: 6pm
Sunday: 10am
Wednesday: 9.30am

Parish Priest: Fr Marcello Colasante
(from 25/2/2017)

Pastoral Associate: Judith O'Sullivan

Parish Secretary: Ruth Marquand

Leadership Chair: Bruce Chapman

School Principal: Kim Butler

Priest in Resident: Fr Barry Ryan

Visiting Priest: Fr Dan Arundell

Readings for next weekend:
Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18
Psalm 102:1-4, 8,10,12-13
1 Corinthians 3:16-23
Matthew 5: 38-48



Faith Seeking Understanding in the Contemporary World

Venue: Mercy Gathering Room, Gent Street, Ballarat East. Dates: March 16; April 27; May 18; June 22; July 20. Sr. Veronica Lawson and Fr. Barry Ryan invite parishioners to sign up for five two-hour sessions on the meaning of faith commitment in the contemporary world.

Contact Sr. Veronica by email (veronica.lawson@mercy.org.au) or by phone (0408392297) before February 20. Provide contact details and indicate whether you wish to enrol in the afternoon sessions (1-3pm) or the evening sessions (7-9pm). Donation to cover costs is \$20. Note that this is a new course, not a repeat of either the 2015 or the 2016 sessions.

Reflection on the Gospel-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

(Matthew 5:17-37)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

We sometimes forget that Jesus was a faithful Jew who observed the Law handed down within Israel from generation to generation. Today's gospel brings us the continuation of Matthew's Sermon on the Mount in which Jesus, the faithful Jewish teacher, addresses his Jewish disciples and the Jewish crowds gathered to hear his words.

The mission of Jesus ("I have come to...") is to fulfill the law, not to do away with it, and fulfilling the law is a question of "righteousness". The Greek term for righteousness, *dikaionē*, translates both the Hebrew *sedeqah* meaning "right relationship" and *mishpat* meaning "justice". The righteousness of the official teachers of the Law, the scribes and Pharisees, their manner of relating to others and their notions of justice, are judged to be quite inadequate for those who are part of God's reign, "the kingdom of heaven" in Matthew's terminology. The righteousness of Jesus' followers is to "exceed" such minimalist interpretations and expressions of the Law.

Jesus, authentic teacher and interpreter of the Law, offers six examples of the righteousness that "fulfils" the Law. Four of these examples are included in today's reading. What was heard "of old" is contrasted with what Jesus wants to say to them. In the first instance, they all know that the Law forbids murder. They may not have considered the connection between unrestrained anger or murderous thoughts and murder itself. In a series of cascading sentences, Jesus presents a charter for reconciliation and forgiveness. He reminds his audience that true worship demands a forgiving heart expressed in action. He includes a fairly pragmatic reason for settling out of court: you may actually find yourself in prison. There may be an implicit criticism here of the increasingly punitive legal system of the time.

The second example puts "lustful looking" on a par with adultery. In an age of easy access to internet pornography, this example has a particular resonance. Such activities make a travesty of gospel righteousness. The third example on divorce is complicated by the exceptive clause, "except in the case of *porneia*". *Porneia* referred to any illicit sexual activity. Here it probably means marriages within degrees of kinship prohibited by Jews but not by Gentiles. The question seems to have arisen as to whether couples in such unions could stay together on becoming Christian. While Jesus presents the ideal (no divorce), we have to put this teaching into a broader context. Writing to the people of Corinth on this subject, Paul allows for exceptions, since "God has called us to peace". The fourth example is about swearing on oath. Righteousness calls for honesty and transparency in every day dealings. If the words we use are congruent with the intentions of our heart, we should not have to invoke God as a witness to the veracity of our claims.



Deaths: Fr Joe McMahon, Thomas Sheils

Anniversaries: Marianne Kenna, Jim Dougherty

We pray: for the sick of our Parish

We are Eucharistic people, who love, pray, serve, hope and follow Jesus

PARISH NEWS

Fr Marcello Colasante will celebrate his first mass at St Columba's Parish on Sunday 26th February at 10:00am. A morning tea following mass will be provided. Fr Marcello will be officially installed by the Bishop as the Parish Priest on Saturday 4th March at 6:00pm. Please bring a plate to share following Mass as we officially welcome Fr Marcello to the parish.

Annette Madigan—the parish thanks Annette for her contribution over many years on the Finance Committee and in particular as the Committee Secretary. We wish her well as she assumes greater grandparental duties in Melbourne.

Sacrament of Senior Reconciliation (Grade 5) Parents (*only*) are invited along to an information evening on Tuesday 21st February at 7:00pm in the Grade 5/6 Learning Community. A brief outline of the participation required for your child to prepare for this sacrament along with the celebration dates will be provided at the info evening.

Congratulations Many congratulations to Brian and Eleanor Kennedy who celebrated 50 years married last weekend on 4 February. It was fabulous to see them supported by family members at Mass last weekend and trust they had a great celebration afterwards.



DATE: FEBRUARY 11 & 12

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WELCOMER	Kitty Dower	Helen Linane
COMMENTATOR	Trish Simmons	Kim Butler
PROCLAIMER 1	Jan Mullaly	Clare Fuller
PROCLAIMER 2	John McGlashan	Jim Kierce
GIFTS	Kath Scanlon & family	Pat & Bernie Kenna
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	A Madigan, J Van de Laar, P Marquand	K Taylor, R Pitman, M Burke
LITURGY PREPARATION		Sr Geraldine Mugavin
ALTAR SERVERS	Volunteer please	Gabrielle Arrieta
OVERHEADS	Volunteer please	Judith O'Sullivan
SACRISTAN	Norah Moloney	Anne Rossiter
ALTAR & FLOWERS	As arranged	As arranged

DATE: FEBRUARY 11 & 12

DATE: FEBRUARY 11 & 12		
WELCOMER	Anne Caine	Adele Carter
COMMENTATOR	Maree Phelan	Terry Grano
PROCLAIMER 1	Trish Simmons	Irene Monigatti
PROCLAIMER 2	Tony Beggs	Terry Ranger
GIFTS	Madigan Family	Mandy Carroll
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	R Marquand, T Keogh Jnr, A Lacey	M Kennedy, C Haintz, I Monigatti
LITURGY PREPARATION		Sr Geraldine Mugavin
ALTAR SERVERS	Volunteer please	Gabrielle Arrieta
OVERHEADS	Volunteer please	Colleen Wakefield
SACRISTAN	Sullivan Sisters	Megan Bourke
ALTAR & FLOWERS	As arranged	As arranged

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WHAT'S ON next week: Wednesday 8th February	9:30am Mass
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Thank you for your generous support		
1 st Collection	For the support of the Clergy of the Ballarat Diocese	\$ 832.30
2 nd Collection (Envelopes)	-Last week's giving for the upkeep of the parish -Average given weekly for this financial year (week 32)	\$ 1025.20 \$1994.20

OTHER NEWS

Call for Nominations – Diocesan Pastoral Council

The Diocese of Ballarat is calling for nominations for the 2017 Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC). The DPC is a consultative and advisory body to the Bishop. Click onto the Diocesan Website for more information or check with your parish priest/parish leader, or phone Amanda in the Diocese office, ph. 5337 7125.

Resources from the Diocese for Parishes

The Diocesan Resource Centre has a wide range of resources that can be borrowed free by groups or individuals in parishes. There are books, music and dvds on many topics including sacraments, Lent, the Gospel of Matthew, Pope Francis, social justice and resources for children. Attached is a poster for display in your parish. More about the Resource Centre on the Diocesan website: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or contact

Mission Conference 2017 “One Heart Many Voices” May 15-17, 2017

Mission 2017: *One heart many voices* is for those who are inspired to strive creatively for justice, peace, reconciliation and God's mission of mercy. It is a unique opportunity to listen, converse and experience the many and diverse voices that are an expression of the one heart of mission. The conference will explore the complexity and issues surrounding leadership, formation, theology and the practice of mission. For more information go to www.mohmv.com.au

National Council of Priests Media Release

Please see on the notice board in the foyer a Media Release from the Executive, National Council of Priests

World Day of Prayer

Celebrating 90 Years of World Day of Prayer in Australia—A Service will be held at St John's Anglican Church, 606 Armstrong Street Ballarat North on Friday 3rd March at 2:00pm. The speaker will be Fr David Oulton, Rector of St John's.

Lay Pastoral Ministry Program - you can start in March or May

The Lay Pastoral Ministry Program offers low-cost opportunities for online study and formation for lay workers in the diocese, both employees and volunteers. Registration for the March study cycle closes on February 27, 2017 **so contact us now** - or you can start in May or later in the year. If you are interested, first check out the details on the diocesan website (link to Lay Pastoral Ministry Program in lower part of front page), then contact Amanda, ph: 5337 7125 or email amanda.smith@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Passionist Family Group Movement Victoria/Tasmania

The PFGM State Team members invite you to a

Farewell function for Maree and Bernard Metcalfe

to mark their retirement as Directors, to be held on

Saturday, April 1, 2017

with Mass at 11am in St Francis Xavier Parish Church,

86 Mayona Road, MONTMORENCY, 3094 (Melway Map 21, E5)

followed by a light lunch in the SFX Parish hall - BYO drinks

RSVP by March 17, 2017 to: Judy & Rob Lewis, 4 Alvina Street, FERNTREE GULLY 3156 OR Email: pfgm.victas@gmail.com



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Prop: John P Pickersgill



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Mobile: 0418 501 606



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Email: ballarattrophies@bigpond.com

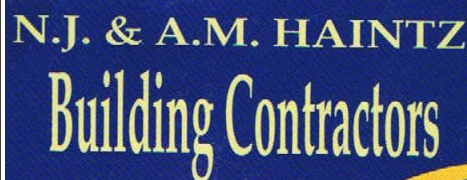


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