

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Sandy Watkins: 0409 492 508  
Contact: St Columbas Ballarat North: 5331 1012

Fr Marcello Colasante: 0416 194 825  
Email: [ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

Special Parish Events (Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals) Phone: Bernadette Franc 0427678830

Parish Support - *If you need help with anything, please phone one of our members:*  
Gail Hall: 0412 311 586 Bernadette Franc: 0427 678 830

SUNDAY – December 24<sup>th</sup>  
CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

**DEATHS:** Frank Meehan (Sue Mahony’s brother)

**ANNIVERSARIES:**

Joan Noye, Maree Briody, Ted Mulcahy, Stan Meredith  
Terry McManus, Joan MacIntosh, Liam Patrick Rice,  
Des Brennan, Sr Margaret Gustus, Michael Mahoney  
& Alice Howard.

**PRAY FOR THE SICK:**

Pat Byrne, Blake Dridan, Shelagh Mulcahy,  
Fr Adrian McInerney, Graeme Trethowan,  
Tony Collins, Wilma Tiley, and all those in need of  
prayer.

**ROSTER:**

**Introduction & Reading**

Today: John Jess  
Dec 31<sup>st</sup>: Bernadette Franc

**Prayers of the Faithful**

Today: Carita Clancy  
Dec 31<sup>st</sup>: Bernadette Franc

**Assembly Leaders**

Dec 31<sup>st</sup>: Genevieve & Clarrie Johnston

**Special Minister**

Dec 31<sup>st</sup>: Therese Jess

**Music**

Sue Mahony

**Church Cleaning, Linen, Flowers**

Dec 24<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>: Genevieve Johnston

**Church Grounds:**

Dec 24<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>: Clarrie Johnston

**Newsletter:**

December: Bernadette Franc 0427678830  
January: Angela Gerrard

**MASS TIMES**

Dec 31<sup>st</sup> LLA 10.00 am. Feast of the Holy Family

**UPCOMING DATES for 2024:**

**Rite of Election 2024:** Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at  
12.30 pm at St Pat’s with lunch.

**150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat**

**Mass of the Oils 2024:** Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at  
11.30 am at St Pat’s with lunch & displays.

**Diocesan e-News** see the below link  
[Edition 125 - December 19, 2023 \(mailchi.mp\)](mailto:mailchi.mp)

**Christmas Message**

This year we grieve with and long for peace in Israel / Palestine. The homeland where Jesus was born, we hope and pray that peace will be born again.

St. John the Baptist Parish Council would like to thank Fr Marcello for his continued ministry to our faith community. We also wish everyone here tonight celebrating with us a Happy, Holy and Safe Christmas and New Year.



A very big thank you to all our volunteers, without whom we would not be able to operate. Thank you all and God bless you.

**SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM:**

We have had word from Sandra Watkins that our Sacramental Program will commence with Reconciliation preparation on Sunday 28 January 2024. Sandra will be in touch with the participants. Thanks Sandra for your commitment to our Sacramental Program.

**AN URGENT PRAYER FOR PEACE** by Michael McGirr

God of compassion, we turn to you with heavy hearts as we consider the needs of your family. Israelis and Palestinians, we are all your people, each of us loved by You and called to live in peace and justice. We lament the dreadful loss of life, destruction of property and loss of human dignity. We are pained by so much suffering. We beg you to bring healing to this ancient place. Help your people find a way forward. Enable everyone to look each other in the eye, and embrace each other as sisters and brothers, as they find your image in every face. We ask that courage and grace will help create a wiser and more gentle future, where everyone has a home. God of wisdom, come to our aid. Amen.

