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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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\*Interest rates subject to change. View current rates on the [CDF website](http://www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au).

**Seminary Enquiry Day**

An invitation is extended to those considering a vocation to the priesthood or who may like to hear more about a vocation, to attend the Seminary Enquiry Day on Saturday, August 10, 2024 at Corpus Christi College Melbourne from 10.45am – 3.30pm. For more information contact the Vocations Director, Fr Dishan Candappa at [vocations@cam.org.au](mailto:vocations@cam.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  
**Safeguarding Officer:**  
Anthea Hinchey

**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**

1 Kings 19:4-8  
Ps 33:2-9 R. v.9  
Ephesians 4:30-5:2  
John 6:41-51



**4th August 2024 ~ 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

**Life-Sustaining Bread** The question of the crowds "Rabbi, when did you come here?" has to do with time and place. They address Jesus as teacher, as one who can lead his questioners from one physical and metaphorical place to another. His response to their question introduces a discussion about bread. This opens up for readers through the ages a whole world of earth activity, of sun and soil and seed and plant, a world of planting and harvesting, of processing and cooking.

We have become so familiar with many of the sayings of Jesus that we can easily fail to notice the earth elements or the constructed environment in the text and treat them simply as backdrop for human activity rather than as having value in themselves. Jesus' claim "I am the bread of life" invites us to consider bread as matter essential to life as well as a metaphor for God's incarnate Word. It invites us to consider what both material and symbolic dimensions of the statement might mean for living a gospel way of life.

We might note the close attention in this passage to the material and social context of Jesus' words. Boats, a town (Capernaum), the sea (of Galilee), the land on the "other side" all feature in this text. For those who have visited Galilee and seen the first century boat preserved in Kibbutz Ginnosar, reference to boats might evoke the diversity of wooden materials used in boat construction, in this case mostly oak and cedar. It might also alert us to the human communities that interacted with the material world to build the boats so integral to the life of the lake communities.

Those who have seen images of Capernaum will be aware of the basalt building materials used in the construction of the houses and might be led to wonder at the extraordinary processes of rock formation. The Sea of Galilee has agency in so many gospel stories. Here it is mentioned in passing, but must not be ignored, especially as we become aware of how perilously endangered it has become since its waters have been exploited for irrigation over several decades. The "other side" evokes the rich agricultural land generally referred to as the "bread-basket" of the region. Mention of the crowd introduces children as well as women and men searching for Jesus. In other words, the text invites us into the whole Galilean world encoded in the text.

Ironically, the words of the Johannine Jesus with their focus on the symbolic meaning of the bread turn his questioners away from the physical, material Earth elements that constitute both bread and flesh. Pope Francis invites us again and again to value and respect the material world. In these troubled times when the riches of the planet are concentrated in the hands of so few, those hungering for life sustaining bread can rightly expect to find their hunger satisfied by the disciples of the one who claims to be the "bread of life".

~Veronica Lawson RSM

**Responsorial Psalm: (R.)** The Lord gave them bread from heaven.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Alleluia!

**Recently Deceased: We commend to God:** Helen Sawkins

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Mary Elizabeth (Betty) Glenane, Fr. Frank Smith CSsR, Des Watts, Tony Driscoll, Carmel Sheehan, Ella Deady, Kevin Deady, Hugh Deady, Henry Morgan, Rodney Stapleton

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

**THE MERGING OF PARISHES INTO A MINISTRY DISTRICT**

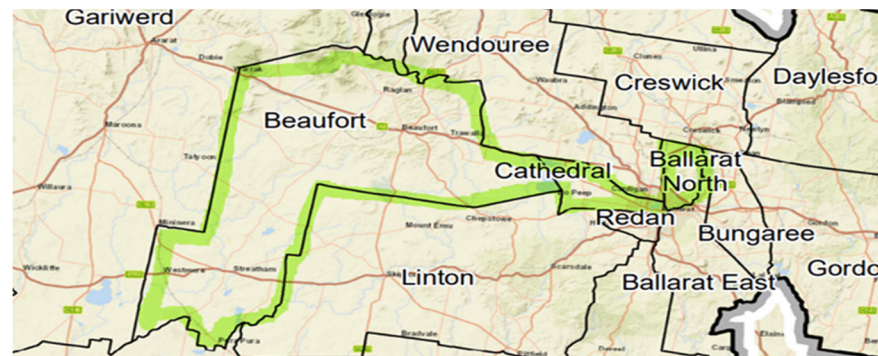
**Parish District Map (See below)**

Represents the 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.



**Time line of Future Parish Merge**

Parish activity will remain operating independently for the immediate future, but in time the parishes will come together as one, with a projected date of merger 1st July 2025. Through a position of collaboration, the parishes will work towards a harmonious grouping. There are many gifts and talents in the communities and many experts in various fields. The Priests want to use the expertise of the Laity as we explore the merging of the parishes.

**Parish Council and Finance Committee**

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.

St Columba's Aug 11	(next week) Sunday 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG	Terry Ranger
COMMENTATOR	Tom Keogh
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Bruce Chapman
COMMUNION MINISTER	Colleen Wakefield
DIGITAL PROJECTOR	Vicki Moroney
SACRISTAN	Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe

**Collections last weekend** Thank you for your contributions  
 Presbytery: \$ 416.25 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 875.25

**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.*

**150<sup>th</sup> 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. 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. Fr Justin Driscoll will facilitate the formation sessions.

Dates are:

**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**

*Fr Ed would like to encourage all members of the current Parish Pastoral Councils and Finance Committees* to attend the Formation session at OLHC on **Tuesday August 13** at 5:00pm. This is a preliminary information meeting relevant to attendance and representation for the November Diocesan Assembly. For catering and planning purposes could your attendance be recorded by emailing Tony at the Cathedral office on [ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au) by Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> August.

**St Columba's Sacramental Program** continues with the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist this Term 3. Preparation sessions for Reconciliation took place over the last two weeks. Let's keep the children and their families in our prayers as they receive Reconciliation this coming week. May the Holy Spirit guide them on their faith journey.

**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 after mass today!

**SEW and SO** on Thursday 8th August 2024 at 1.30pm at the St Columba's Church foyer. Come and join us for a cuppa and anyone who is knitting or crocheting for East Timor can drop off their contribution. All welcome. Enquiries Margaret 53314032.

**Sacristan Formation** The St Patrick's Cathedral Liturgy Committee will be running a formation afternoon for Sacristans **today, Sunday 4th August 2.00 – 4.30, in the MacKillop Room.** We invite all current Sacristans and anyone interested in this ministry to participate in this formation.

**St Mary MacKillop Feast Day Celebration – August 8, 2024** Mary MacKillop Place North Sydney and the Sisters of Saint Joseph are livestreaming Mass on **August 8 at 10.00am** to celebrate the Feast of St Mary MacKillop. **Livestreamed free** at: [www.marymackillopplace.org.au](http://www.marymackillopplace.org.au) Livestream link is <https://www.youtube.com/embed/lppmamzmObo>.

**Bishop Paul offers this update following discussions about ribbons on the cathedral fence** In March this year, LOUD fence ribbons were removed from the St Patrick's Cathedral fence following consultations between members of LOUD fence and representatives of St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, to allow maintenance work to be undertaken. In 2015, during the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, the LOUD fence began tying ribbons to fences in Ballarat and beyond, as a sign of solidarity and support for those who suffered child sexual abuse in institutional settings.

While maintenance work was undertaken, Parish Council and LOUD fence representatives began discussions for a long-term memorial on the grounds of St Patrick's Cathedral to acknowledge victim survivors, their loved ones and supporters who experienced child sexual abuse in church settings and elsewhere. We hope that the memorial will provide ongoing recognition of those who experience the ongoing impacts of child sexual abuse, be a reminder for the continuing attention to safeguarding children and vulnerable people in the community and promote healing across the Ballarat community.

With maintenance work on the fence completed, Bishop Paul, together with representatives of the Parish Council and LOUD fence have announced a next step to be taken while discussions about a long-term memorial continue. As an interim arrangement, ribbons will be placed on a dedicated section of the cathedral fence on Sturt Street. Parish representatives gathered with LOUD fence members last July 6 to tie ribbons to the dedicated section of fence. Parishioners and LOUD fence invite anyone who wishes, to tie a ribbon as a sign of support for victim/survivors, their loved ones, and supporters and as a reminder for continuing to safeguard children and vulnerable people everywhere.

St Columba's Aug 18	Sunday 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG	Tony Beggs
COMMENTATOR	Faustin Epeabaka
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Fiona Newton
COMMUNION MINISTER	Gina Hinchey
DIGITAL PROJECTOR	Bruce Chapman
SACRISTAN	Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe