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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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Parishes of St Columba's and St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat

Communities of Ballarat North, Ballarat Cathedral, Beaufort

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:
Peter Marquand

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

Amos 7:12-15
Ps 84:9-14 R. v.8
Ephesians 1:3-14
Mark 6:7-13



7th July 2024 ~ 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Focus on the Scriptures

Being Open to an Alternative Wisdom Most of us have known the experience of feeling powerless in the face of rejection, especially when it is rejection from those who are closest to us, from those who might normally be expected to understand and affirm us. Mark presents such rejection as the experience of Jesus. Earlier in the gospel (3:20-21), we find that Jesus is misunderstood by his family who consider him to be out of his mind. Members of his family try to take responsibility for him, to take hold of him and to save him from himself. When they come to take him away, he leaves them outside and continues to teach those gathered around him about a new sort of kinship, kinship that is based on doing God's will.

In today's gospel reading (6:1-6), we find that the neighbours and friends of Jesus' family have trouble coping with him. They admit that his teaching demonstrates considerable wisdom. They also acknowledge his extraordinary power as a healer. From their perspective, however, something does not add up. After all, he is basically just one of them, "the craftsman".

Jesus' hometown people do not simply puzzle over his extraordinary powers. They are actually "scandalised" by him. He experiences their response as rejection and tells them how he feels. In so doing, he identifies himself with the rejected prophets of old. The townspeople's lack of faith renders Jesus, the prophet in their midst, powerless: he is simply unable to perform any mighty deeds among them. There is a hint in the text, however, that some few do have faith: "he cured a few sick people." He cures these people "by laying his hands on them". We have seen, in the request of the man with leprosy (1:41) and the action of the crowds (3:10,) some people's well-founded faith in the healing power of touch, of bodily encounter. Touch is once more the agent of healing.

At times, we may be like Jesus, bringing the wisdom and power of God to our families or friends or local communities, only to meet with rejection. Sometimes, we may be like the few who come in faith and experience a healing touch. At other times, we may replicate the behaviour of the opponents of Jesus and discount the achievements of those who excel or whose message challenges us or our lifestyle. To refuse to listen to a prophetic message because the messenger fails to meet our preconceived ideas about prophets may have something to do with a lack of faith. It may actually stymie the power of God. Finally, the emphasis on healing in this reading invites us to pause and consider what is happening in our world, presently beset by needless violence and suffering. It invites us to affirm the intrinsic value of all, human and other-than-human, so often denigrated and devalued by attitudes that dichotomise the material and the spiritual with dire consequences for the Earth community.

~Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm: (R.) Our eyes are fixed on the Lord, pleading for his mercy.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

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

Anniversaries: We remember: Ann Lawry, Luca Antonelli, Valma Billman, Vin Hooper, Buck (Ray) Jeffrey, Mark Baulch, Keith Davies, Bob Smerdon

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

St Vincent Pallotti Scholarship Trust The St Vincent Pallotti Scholarship Trust offers scholarships to enable lay people to further their understanding and skills in leadership/ministry or a specialised activity, such as promoting faith enhancement, social justice and pastoral care. Details and application forms at <http://pallottine.org.au/svpscholarship> Closing date is July 31, 2024.

Jubilee Year 2025 “Pilgrims of Hope” Pope Francis has announced that 2025 will be a Jubilee Year, with the theme “Pilgrims of Hope”. It will be a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic and the climate crisis. In the lead-up to the Jubilee Year, Pope Francis has asked that 2024 be marked as a Year of Prayer, to promote the centrality of individual and community prayer. The Dicastery for Evangelisation has made some useful resources available to help people to better understand and rediscover the value of prayer. In addition to the 38 catecheses on Prayer that Pope Francis himself presented, a series of booklets entitled, “Notes on Prayer” is being published by the Vatican publishing house. The eight titles are designed to put the need for a profound relationship with the Lord back at the centre of people’s lives, through the many forms of prayer to be found in the rich Catholic tradition of prayer. In addition, a pastoral aid is available online, in a digital version, to help parish communities, families, priests, cloistered nuns and young people to become more aware of the need for daily prayer. To access resources and find out more about the Jubilee Year, go to <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/liturgic-sacraments/jubilee-year-2025-pilgrims-of-hope/>

Try Alpha Alpha is a safe space to explore life, purpose and the Christian faith, ask questions and share your point of view. Thursdays from July 11 to September 5, 6.30pm – 8.00pm at St Patrick’s Cathedral Presbytery, 3 Lyons Street South Ballarat. Alpha is free and everyone is welcome. To find out more about Alpha, go to [Explore Life, Faith & Meaning in Community | Alpha](#)

St Columba’s July 14	(next week) Sunday 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG	Terry Ranger
COMMENTATOR	Judy Brown
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Anthea Hinchey
COMMUNION MINISTER	Colleen Wakefield
DIGITAL PROJECTOR	Bruce Chapman
SACRISTAN	Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe

Collections last weekend Thank you for your contributions
 Presbytery: \$ To be confirmed Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ TBC

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.

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, August 1, 2024**. You may attend either the 10.00 am or the 5.30 pm session.

150th 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. In 2023, Bishop Paul asked parishes to focus on leadership in their local communities, either by forming or developing further a parish council or leadership team according to local circumstances. 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. Leadership teams are invited to nominate others who might benefit from this experience. 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

New Ministry District

Invitations have been forwarded to those involved in current parish council leadership, finance and schools of Beaufort, North Ballarat and Cathedral parishes for a combined meeting to be held on Wednesday 17th July at 6.30 pm. This meeting will continue the process of forming our new ministry district . Please keep this process in your prayers .



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 this morning. See you!

Annual Collection for the Pope: July 7 The annual collection for the Holy Father is to be taken up throughout the world on the weekend near the Feast of Ss Peter & Paul (June 29). St Columba’s will take this up today.

St Vincent de Paul Society Winter Appeal The theme of the appeal this year is the “Working Homeless”, focusing on the emerging trend of people who are experiencing housing hardship and disadvantage despite being in employment. Between May 2023 to May 2024, St Vincent de Paul provided material household assistance to the value of \$730,000 across greater Ballarat. Envelopes will be available here at the church for donations on **July 14 & 21** and can be placed on the collection plate. Please write your name and address if you require a receipt. All donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible. To donate online, go to www.vinnies.org.au or call 131812.

Planned Giving Envelopes are ready for you to collect at the church foyer. Many thanks for your continued generosity to our parish community.

Sport can lead the way to Christ Like many other countries, Australia is passionate about sport. But how are the Church, faith and sport connected and why should they be? Whether competing, supporting or encouraging play for health, sport is part of our family and social life. In sport we experience community and teamwork, sacrifice and dedication, the benefits of rules and fair play, the highs of success and the learnings that come with defeat. We learn from coaches, parents and friends as we put in the extra effort to train or to attend games. Sport forms us not only in the skills of play or competition, but in life experiences that form our personal human development. The Church and sport can learn from each other in many ways. The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has published a new document that explains how sport is a gift that can draw people closer to Christ. More information available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/sport-can-lead-the-way-to-christ/>

St Columba’s Sacramental Program continues with the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist in Term 3. Let’s keep the children and their families in our prayers.

St Columba’s July 21	Sunday 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG	Tony Beggs
COMMENTATOR	Vicki Moroney
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Min Myers
COMMUNION MINISTER	Gina Hinchey
DIGITAL PROJECTOR	Fiona Newton
SACRISTAN	Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe