

# St Columba's Parish - Ballarat North

306 Gregory St, Ballarat North Phone: 5331 7131

Office Hours: Wednesday 8.30am – 12.30pm, Thursday & Friday 9am – 2.30pm

Email: [ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or [pastoral@stcolumbasparish.org](mailto:pastoral@stcolumbasparish.org)

Parish Web: [ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au) School Web: [scballarat.catholic.edu.au](http://scballarat.catholic.edu.au)



## Mass Times

Saturday Vigil: 6pm

Sunday: 10am

Wednesday: 9.30am

**Supervising Priest:** Fr Peter Sherman

**Priest in Residence:** Fr. Barry Ryan

**Pastoral Leader:** Judith O'Sullivan

**Parish Secretary:** Ruth Marquand

**Leadership Chair:** Colleen Wakefield

**School Principal:** Kim Butler



## 3rd SUNDAY IN ADVENT – 10/11 December 2016

**Deaths:** Carmel Caligari, Ron Rosser, Noel Shannon, David Poynton, Trevor Jeffreys

**Anniversaries:** Fr John Martin

**Sick:** Please pray for all those who are sick in our parish.

### RCIA – RITE OF WELCOME

This weekend St Columba's will celebrate the Rite of Welcome. Through this Rite our parish will welcome three children who wish to receive full reception into the Catholic Church (this is the first Rite that they will celebrate through the RCIA). During the Sunday Mass we welcome into our Parish baptised candidates Zack and Noah Cummins as well as unbaptised catechumen Eva Grano. As we celebrate in this journey of faith, we pray as a community that Zack, Noah and Eva may continue to grow in faith as they journey to fullness of faith in the Eucharist. Please join us in the foyer after Mass for morning tea to celebrate.

### RECONCILIATION SERVICE FOR ADVENT

Will be held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm. A cuppa in the foyer to follow.

### ADVANCE NOTICE – DATES FOR 2017

Rite of Election: Saturday, March 4 at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat

Mass of the Oils: Monday, April 10 at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat

### OLHC CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH

OLHC has extended an invitation to join them on Christmas Day for Lunch (no cost). Time 12noon – 2:00pm (Meal at 12:30pm) at the OLHC Parish Hall, 482 Gillies Street, Wendouree. Book Early as Numbers are limited. Tel: 0419 975 914

### 2017 ROSTER AVAILABILITY

Judith and Ruth will be putting the roster for the first half of 2017 together next week. If you are unavailable any time during this period please let the office know so you are not rostered on.

### CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

The School is currently preparing Christmas hampers for those in our parish who are unwell and receive Communion in their homes. We would appreciate if the special ministers who take communion to our parishioners could collect a hamper from the St. Columba's School Office from Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December. Please feel free to contact Alison Thorpe at St. Columba's school on 53324894 if you have any queries or concerns.

### ST COLUMBA'S END OF SCHOOL YEAR MASS

The End of the School Year Mass will be held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 12noon. All parishioners are welcome to join the school children, families and teachers to thank God for blessings in the past year.

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

### CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES AT ST COLUMBA'S

Christmas Eve 24<sup>th</sup> December at 6:00pm & 8:00pm

Christmas Day 25<sup>th</sup> December at 9:00am

We require a Special Minister for 6pm mass on Christmas Eve and two Special Ministers for 9am Christmas Day and an overhead projectionist on Christmas morning. If you can assist with any of these please let Judith know.

### MINI VINNIE'S NEWS

We would like to acknowledge the students who volunteered their time to join our Mini Vinnie's group this year. It has been a very positive way for us to raise funds for those in need and also link with our parish St. Vincent de Paul group.

We have raised funds for our local St. Vincent de Paul Conference group as well as Caritas Australia, Catholic Mission and the Ryder Cheshire Foundation. We have continued to assist the funding of educational cost for five students from the Philippines through the St. Vincent de Paul Assist a Student Fund.

We are so proud of the way the children interact with the residents from Hailey House. The children have thoroughly enjoyed the experience of visiting Hailey House and it is wonderful to see the children forming relationships in such a positive way. We would like to extend our appreciation for all of the Grade Six students who have been a part of this group this year. We would like to acknowledge those who held a leadership position for 2016 particularly Georgia Dridan as President and Brodie Bull as Vice President.

### FROM BACH TO BING

Make this a Christmas to remember. Celebrate all your Christmas favourites with David Hobson and Georgia Wilkinson in a stunning new show. Performing at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm. Bookings can be made by tel: 5333 5888 or <http://www.hermaj> Ticket prices, Adults: \$55, Concession: \$45

### MERCY CONNECT BALLARAT – SUPPORTING REFUGEE & ASYLUM SEEKER STUDENTS IN LOCAL SCHOOLS

Volunteer mentors needed.

Mercy Works is currently recruiting volunteers to support refugee and asylum seeker students in Ballarat Schools through their Mercy Connect Project. The volunteer commitment is for approximately three hours per week for four school terms. Experience working in an educational setting is preferred, but you will receive ongoing training and support. Initial training for new volunteers will be held in February 2017. Contact Paulene Barton - Mercy Connect Project Coordinator on 0417 624 330 or email: [mercyconnectb@gmail.com](mailto:mercyconnectb@gmail.com) for information and application form. Applications close on 2/2/2017.

### MAKING A SCENE AT CHRISTMAS

A display of Christmas Nativity scenes will be held in St Patrick's Hall Ballarat from Wednesday evening 14<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December. On display there will be in excess of 300 nativities from over 40 countries. Opening hours are Wednesday 6-8pm, Thursday and Friday 10-am-5pm, Saturday 10am – 8pm and Sunday 9am-7pm. St Columba's former Principal, Fiona Tonkin is involved with this display having collected many nativity scenes from her travels to many parts of the world.

### CONGRATULATIONS THOMAS KEOGH

We wish to congratulate Thomas Keogh on his recent award from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for a scholarship to Japan for 2017. Thomas will be studying and undertaking an internship in Japan in the second half of 2017. We congratulate him on this achievement and wish him well for his time in Japan.



### Thank you for your generous support

1 <sup>st</sup> Collection	For the support of the Clergy of the Ballarat Diocese	\$825.40
2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection (Envelopes)	-Last week's giving for the upkeep of the parish	\$2764.50
	-Average given weekly for this financial year (week 23)	\$2037.15
Sundry Change		\$75.55

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

This weekend is the last this year that the Piety stall will be open for sales. If you urgently want something please ask a member of our society and they will endeavour to assist you. We also require assistance with the bread run over the holiday period. If you can assist please contact the Parish Office.

## Reflection on the Gospel-Advent 3A

(Matthew 11:2-11)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

The third Sunday of Advent used to be called *Gaudete* (be joyful) Sunday. It provided a mid-term break within a period of austerity or penance in preparation for Christmas. Advent is no longer celebrated as a penitential period, but rather as a reflective time of expectation and hope. The invitation to rejoice nonetheless remains part of the Advent liturgy: it is certainly present in the first reading: *“the desert shall rejoice and bloom ...”* (Isaiah 35:1-6, 10).

Today's gospel passage is full of questions. First John sends his disciples to Jesus with a question: "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another? Jesus responds by directing them to the evidence: "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them." He adds a comment about those who take no offence at him: they are blessed. He then turns to the crowds with a series of rhetorical questions about their motivation for going out to John in the desert. His words to the crowds conclude with an identification of John as God's prophet and messenger, his own precursor. He pays an extraordinary tribute to John, but leaves the reader puzzling about the final statement: the least in the kingdom is greater than John.

John's imprisonment is a sobering reminder of what can happen to those who are faithful to their mission. As Matthew's Jesus will attest, John is no reed shaken by the wind. This could well be a subtle reference to Herod Antipas' choice of the reed as a symbol on the coins commemorating the founding of Tiberias. Herod has arrested and imprisoned John and later will have him put to death on specious grounds. John is not a fickle reed like Herod, but steadfast and strong.

The reader knows that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah or Anointed of God. John is checking it out. He clearly has contact with his disciples whom he sends to Jesus with the question about his identity. Is Advent over or not? The answer to John's question is to be found in what they hear and see. The restorative and healing activity of Jesus is realising the Messianic dream of the prophet Isaiah (first reading). In a sense, Advent never ends: the women and children brought into our own cities as sex slaves can attest to this, as can those who remain in the limbo of Nauru and Manus Island. We might well pray: "Strengthen our weak hands, and make firm our feeble knees" in the face of such challenges.

<b>DATE: 10 &amp; 11 DECEMBER</b>		
<b>DUTY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>SUNDAY</b>
WELCOMER	Margaret Schreenan	Helen Linane
COMMENTATOR	Rosemary Fithall	Judy Brown
PROCLAIMER 1	Frank Sheehan	Brian Kennedy
PROCLAIMER 2	John McGlashan	Derek Streulens
GIFTS	Tom & Greta Kelly	Sharon De Beer
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Maureen Eddy, Kathleen Keogh, Shirley Edgar	El Kennedy, M Martino, K Merbach
LITURGY PREPARATION		Margaret & Leo Schreenan
ALTAR SERVERS	Volunteer please	Gabrielle Arrieta
OVERHEADS	Volunteer please	Volunteer please
SACRISTAN	Norah Moloney	Anne Rossiter
ALTAR & FLOWERS	Margaret Ranger	Margaret Ranger
<b>DATE: 17 &amp; 18 DECEMBER</b>		
<b>DUTY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>SUNDAY</b>
WELCOMER	Greta Kelly	Adele Carter
COMMENTATOR	John van de Laar	Kim Butler
PROCLAIMER 1	John Kennedy	Christopher Brennan
PROCLAIMER 2	Tony Beggs	Kim Butler
GIFTS	Glenane Family	Lorna Batty & Carmel King
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Jennifer Adams, Kate Lawry, Rosemary Fithall	Brenda Ryan, Kim Butler, Gina Hinchey
LITURGY PREPARATION		Judith O'Sullivan
ALTAR SERVERS	Volunteer please	Gabrielle Arrieta
OVERHEADS	Volunteer please	Volunteer please
SACRISTAN	Sullivan Sisters	Megan Bourke
ALTAR & FLOWERS	Margaret Ranger	Margaret Ranger

**Please remember it is your responsibility to find a replacement if you are unable to fulfil your role**

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

**JOHN THOMAS ELECTRICAL**  
ELECTRICAL, SALES & SERVICE  
A.B.N. 63 927 625 970

Address: 4 Dawson Street North,  
Ballarat, 3350  
Phone: (03) 5331 3099  
Email:  
bryan@johnthomaselectrical.com.au



**OPEN EVERY DAY**  
**8.00AM TO 9.00PM**

1010 STURT STREET BALLARAT Phone (03) 5331 1271

Prop: John P Pickersgill

**IN STEP**  
PODIATRY

1/520 Mair St  
Ballarat 3350  
**0459546980**



Address: 139 Bogong Ave,  
Invermay Park, 3350  
Phone: 5331 4510  
Mobile: 0418 501 606



Address: Shop 2, 1103 Howitt Street,  
Wendouree, 3355  
Phone: (03) 5339 1166  
Email: [ballarattrophies@bigpond.com](mailto:ballarattrophies@bigpond.com)  
[www.ballarattrophies.com.au](http://www.ballarattrophies.com.au)



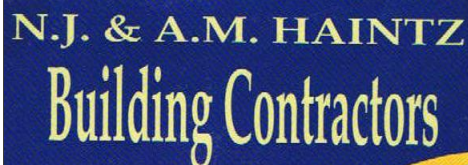
Address: 1251 Doveton Street North,  
Ballarat, 3350  
Phone: (03) 5333 3101  
[www.petertobinfunerals.com.au](http://www.petertobinfunerals.com.au)



Proudly supporting  
St Columba's Parish

211 Gillies Street, Ballarat, VIC, 3350  
Phone: (03) 5339 9333  
Email: [info@ballaratholden.com.au](mailto:info@ballaratholden.com.au)

[www.ballaratholden.com.au](http://www.ballaratholden.com.au)



Phone: (03) 5332 3069  
Mobile: 0418 504 254



Address: 612 Sturt Street,  
Ballarat, 3350  
Phone: (03) 5333 2040  
Email:  
[michael@professionalsballarat.com.au](mailto:michael@professionalsballarat.com.au)  
[www.professionalsballarat.com.au](http://www.professionalsballarat.com.au)



801 HOWITT ST WENDOUREE PH: 5339 5033  
127 GILLIES ST STH BALLARAT PH: 5334 2700

55 ALBERT ST  
SEBASTOPOL



Phone: (03) 5332 3547  
Mobile: 0418 503 694  
Email: [rjmayne@ncable.net.au](mailto:rjmayne@ncable.net.au)



Address: 20 Lydiard Street South,  
Ballarat  
Phone: (03) 5331 3711  
Mobile: 0408 159 311  
Email: [stephenl@ppt.com.au](mailto:stephenl@ppt.com.au)  
[www.ppt.com.au](http://www.ppt.com.au)

## HORTICAREBALLARAT

  
**JAMES FRANCIS**  
0416 896 113

Garden clean ups  
Mowing  
Maintenance  
Tree/rose/hedge pruning  
Irrigation repairs/install

**SERVICE CENTRE**  
**CAR REPAIRS**

SUN-BAR P/L  
Sunset Strip Service Centre  
1017 Lydiard St. Nth  
BALLARAT 3350

Ph: (03) 5331 2200



Address: 1114 Doveton Street North,  
Ballarat, 3350  
Phone: (03) 5333 3911