

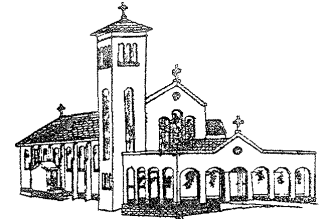
St Columba's Parish - Ballarat North

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
4th-5th
February, 2017

Mass times:

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

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

Pastoral Associate: Judith O'Sullivan

Parish Secretary: Ruth Marquand

Leadership Chair: Bruce Chapman

School Principal: Kim Butler

Priest in Residence: Fr Barry Ryan

We welcome the newest members of the parish through the Sacrament of Baptism:

Isla Mae Kearney and Mila Eve Kearney, daughters of Jacob and Leah Kearney. May they grow in faith in their loving family and our Catholic Community.



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-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year

Matthew 5:13-16

- Veronica Lawson RSM

In today's gospel, Jesus addresses two short parables to his disciples in the presence of the crowds. The crowds as well as the disciples hear what he has to say. Parables were intended to tease their hearers, inviting them to see things differently or from a new perspective, to see themselves in a new light. One of the difficulties for us is that Jesus told these parables in early first century Palestine with its particular symbol system, while we hear them through the multiple layers of our own twenty-first century contexts and symbol systems. "Salt" and "light" have slightly different resonances in different contexts, as do "earth" and "world". Exploring those resonances or nuances can bring us to a deeper appreciation of the text.

This short reflection allows for a focus only on "the salt of the earth" parable or metaphor. For Jesus' Palestinian audience, salt was used to preserve and season food. It also functioned as a cleansing or purifying agent. It could only lose its savour if contaminated by additives. We can resonate with all of that. For some of the Jewish rabbis, salt signified wisdom: a "salted" disciple was a "wise" disciple. In some parts of the ancient world, as in Pakistan today, salt was used in dyeing processes as a way of intensifying as well as preserving the colour of fabrics. Many Westerners are not aware of this practice. Farmers today are rightly concerned about high levels of salinity in overworked soil. That was certainly not the case for first-century Palestinians.

When we declare someone to be "the salt of the earth", we are generally referring to the sheer goodness of the person in question, her/his down-to-earth reliability, lack of pretentiousness and practical wisdom. To be salt of the earth is to season the earth community, to intensify its beauty, to be wise in one's judgments and just in all one's dealings. This parable, with its multi-layered symbolism, certainly teases the mind.

In the original Greek, the emphasis is on the first word in the sentence. Jesus is telling his hearers, disciples and crowds, that they are the salt of the earth. They do not have to become the salt of the earth; they are the salt of the earth. In short, he is affirming their worth. In its literary context, that assertion contrasts Jesus' followers with those who might persecute them. It affirms their capacity to stand strong in the face of opposition, "for the sake of justice". If they allow themselves to be overwhelmed or their commitment to be shaken, then the "salt" will be contaminated and the "earth" cannot be seasoned. As we reflect on the diverse metaphorical applications of salt and earth, we might take a moment to give thanks to God for the gift of the material realities that underlie these metaphors.



Be there
MATTHEW 5:13-16

Deaths: Dorothy Wise, Peter Bassett, Fr Joe McMahon

Anniversaries: For all those whose anniversaries occur about this time

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.

Sew and So—will resume on Thursday 9th February, 2017 at 1:30pm in the Church Foyer. Come along for a pleasant afternoon and catch up for the New Year. Any enquires: Margaret Ranger, tel: 5331 4032.

Holy Hour & Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament—Friday 10th February from 7:00—8:00pm in the Church. All most welcome.

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 Sincere congratulations to Sr Geraldine Mugavin who celebrates her Golden Jubilee of Profession on 4 February. A life of service to God and people in many places and following in the footsteps of the great Mercy women who have gone before her. We extend our prayerful good wishes and warmest congratulations and thank Geraldine for her work in our parish and school.

DATE: FEBRUARY 4 & 5

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WELCOMER	Mary Dinning	Gerard Macklin
COMMENTATOR	Jan Mullaly	Judy Brown
PROCLAIMER 1	Mary Dinning	Richard Francis
PROCLAIMER 2	Frank Sheehan	Sr Geraldine Mugavin
GIFTS	David & Catherine Fara	Maureen & Hans van de Ploeg
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	J O'Sullivan, P Marquand, R Fithall	D Streulens, B Chapman, A Thorpe
LITURGY PREPARATION		St Columba's School
ALTAR SERVERS	Volunteer please	Gabrielle Arrieta
OVERHEADS	Volunteer please	Harry Chapman
SACRISTAN	Trish Simmons	Josie Crowe
ALTAR & FLOWERS	As arranged	As arranged

DATE: FEBRUARY 11 & 12

DATE: FEBRUARY 11 & 12		
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 Maraquand	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

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

WHAT'S ON next week:	
Wednesday 8th February	9:30am Mass
Thursday 9th February	1:30pm Sew & So, Church Foyer
Friday 10th February	2:30-3:15pm School Assembly in the Church 7:00-8:00pm Holy Hour in the Church

	Thank you for your generous support	
1 st Collection	For the support of the Clergy of the Ballarat Diocese	\$894.05
2 nd Collection (Envelopes)	-Last week's giving for the upkeep of the parish -Average given weekly for this financial year (week 30)	\$1119.60 \$1988.10

OTHER NEWS

St Patrick's College Ballarat Enrolments for 2018 Year 7 are now open and you are invited to submit your sons application. A College prospectus can be downloaded from <http://www.stpats.vic.edu.au/en/prospective-families/prospectus>. College Tours College tours are available each Friday morning for prospective families and take in all learning areas of the College. Contact Caitlin Bennett at cbennett@stpats.vic.edu.au or phone 5331 1688. Scholarship registration for 2018 close on Sunday February 19 at midnight. Registrations after this date will not be considered. To register your son for a Scholarship for Years 7, 10 and 11 for 2018 please click on the link below: Payment is \$93 and is payable at the time of registering. <http://www.stpats.vic.edu.au/en/prospective-families/scholarships>. Testing will take

2017 Jubilees of Ordination On Tuesday June 27th following the meeting of the Council of Priests, the Mass for priests celebrating jubilees of ordination to the priesthood will be celebrated, followed by dinner. Frs John McKinnon and Kevin Murphy will be celebrating 60 years since their ordination in Rome on December 21st 1957 and Fr Greg Tait will celebrate 25 years since ordination at St Pius X West Warrnambool on August 28th 1992. 2017 will also be 30 years since Emeritus Bishop Peter Connors was ordained Bishop in Melbourne when he (together with +George Pell) became Auxiliary Bishops on May 27th 1987.



Royal Commission Update: The final hearing into the Catholic Church begins in Sydney on February 6th and is expected to run for three weeks. It will be an important exploration of a devastating chapter in the history of the Catholic Church in Australia and it will be difficult for the Catholic community. But the revelations will provide a litmus for how we as Church recover and move on from this low point. Fr Justin Driscoll, **Vicar General. (See notice board).**



World Wide Marriage Encounter Invest in your most precious asset....Your Marriage !

Forget life's tensions and interruptions and rekindle the closeness, intimacy, love and romance that brought you together. Recharge your relationship batteries and explore the precious nature of your marriage, allowing you both to share your feelings, hopes and dreams with each other in ways that normal, daily living tends to inhibit. *There is no group sharing. Couples and a priest present the weekend. It is based around Catholic values but couple of all faiths are welcome.* **2017 Melbourne weekend dates: 24-26 March, 28-30 July, 17-19 November 2017.** Starts 7pm on Friday, ends 5pm Sunday. Accommodation and all meals provided. Information/Bookings: PH: Marianne & Marcel (03) 9733 0997; Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au Website: www.wwme.org.au

Centacare is running a fundraiser in partnership with The Smith Family, Federation University, United Way, Australian Catholic University and City of Ballarat for the Clemente program. They are bringing this film to Ballarat for a one off screening at the Regent Multiplex on Thursday 23rd February 2017 at 7pm. Tickets are \$15 and are available for Debbie Mannix tel: 5337 8955, or by calling into Centacare at 4-6 Peel Street North Ballarat. *The Clement program provides high support educational opportunities for people to find pathways out of the poverty cycle.*

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

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Phone: (03) 5331 3099

Email:

bryan@johnthomaselectrical.com.au



OPEN EVERY DAY

8.00AM TO 9.00PM

1010 STURT STREET BALLARAT

PH 5331 1271

Prop: John P Pickersgill



1/520 Mair St
Ballarat 3350
0459546980



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



Address: Shop 2, 1103 Howitt Street,
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Email: ballarattrophies@bigpond.com

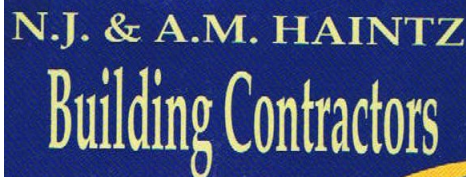


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