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St Bernard's Church Bacchus Marsh
150th Anniversary St Bernard's Church will mark the 150th Anniversary of the blessing and opening of the church with a special Mass on Sunday, June 23, 2024 at 11.00am. A 300 page history focusing on the priests and people who built the parish has been compiled. Details at <https://stbernardsbacchusmarsh.com.au/>

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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

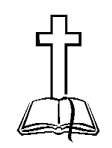
Administrator:
Fr Edward Moloney
Assistant Priests:
Fr Francis Kureeckal MST
Fr James McKay
Finance Officer:
Bernadette Prestwood
St Columba's Parish Coordinator:
Lia Andanar Yu
Wed-Friday 10:00am –2:00pm
Safeguarding Officer:
Peter Marquand

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
Ezekiel 17:22-24
Ps 91:2-3, 13-16 R. see v. 2
2 Corinthians 5: 6-10
Mark 4:26-34



9th June 2024 ~ 10th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Focus on the Scriptures

"Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother" Name calling is an age old device used to discredit enemies. Politicians are adept at finding labels with which to discredit their opponents. Sometimes the labels stick and often have the effect of destroying good people. In today's gospel, Jesus is subjected to the worst of all imaginable taunts or labels: he is said to be possessed by Beelzebub, the prince of demons. The story belongs within a trajectory of growing hostility towards him from the authorities.

Mark has presented Jesus as the Christ or Messiah, as God's Son who is authorised to usher in God's empire of reconciliation and peace. Jesus is the "stronger one" (1:7) who will destroy the powers of evil. He invites others to join him in his mission of healing, of proclaiming God's reign and of driving out demons. Those on the edge of Palestinian society flock to him for healing. The religious authorities, on the other hand, find themselves challenged, even threatened, by Jesus' growing popularity and his perceived challenge to their strict interpretation of aspects of the Mosaic Law. Such practices as dining with those considered to be "sinners" and permitting his hungry disciples to pluck grain on the Sabbath, for instance, are met with hostile responses from the religious authorities.

For Jesus, always the faithful Jew, the Law was established for humans, not humans for the Law and he is not afraid to say so. Early in his ministry, opposition has built to a point that traditional enemies, the Pharisees and the Herodians, join forces to find a way of destroying him. The surprise is that members of Jesus' biological family now get involved in the attempts to put a halt to his mission, even if their motives differ from those of the Jerusalem "scribes" who bring the charge of demon-possession. One factor to consider is that the family's honour is at stake. Another factor is the family's concern that Jesus and his disciples were failing to take care of themselves. The demands were such that "they could not even eat". Even if well-motivated, they want "to seize him" because they consider him to be "out of his mind". Jesus' biological family thus falls into the trap of taking responsibility for him instead of supporting him to pursue his dream.

Mark often places a story within a story. In this instance, the story within is the challenge from the scribes and of Jesus' powerful counter-challenge. The outer frame consists of the efforts of Jesus' biological family to save their honour by saving him from a crazy lifestyle and by his redefining of his "family" as those "who do the will of God". This complex story invites us to refrain from labelling those who threaten our status or authority. They may just happen to be agents of God's transforming grace for us and for our world

~Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm: (R.) With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The prince of this world will now be cast out, and when I am lifted up from the earth I will draw all to myself, says the Lord. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Bernadette Irvin, John Richards
Anniversaries: We remember: Arthur Sowter, Jack Caine, Scott Smeaton, Helen Foy, Maureen Costigan, Teresa Scholten, Loreto Bourke, Betty Rodgers
We pray: for all in areas of conflict, war, natural disasters, for those who are sick and all in need of our prayers.

Baptism This weekend we welcome to our Parish through the sacrament of Baptism:

Blythe Rose Parker and Kai Albert Parker, children of Alex and Mia.

“The Church gives the faith to your children through Baptism and you have the task to make it grow....” - Pope Francis

May twins Blythe and Kai grow in faith with the support of their family and our Catholic Community.

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/liturgy-sacraments/jubilee-year-2025-pilgrims-of-hope/>

St Columba's June 16	(next week) Sunday 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG	Terry Ranger
COMMENTATOR	Bruce Chapman
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Geraldine Mugavin
COMMUNION MINISTER	Bruce Chapman
DIGITAL PROJECTOR	Fiona Newton
SACRISTAN	Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe

Collections May 19– May 26, 2024 Thank you for your contributions
 Presbytery: \$ 455.15 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,047.50

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, July 4, 2024**. You may attend either the 10.00 am or the 5.30 pm session.

Sew and So Thursday, June 13 at 1:30pm St Columba's Church Foyer. Enquiries Margaret 0409533140. All welcome.

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:

Mildura- June 12 – 6.30pm – 8.30pm – Sacred Heart Church, Mildura

Robinvale- June 13 – 10.00am – 3.00pm – St Mary's Parish, Robinvale
Horsham- July 28 – 10.30am – 4.00pm – Ss Michael & Johns Church, Horsham

Colac- July 30 – 10.00am – 3.00pm – St Mary's Parish, Colac

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

Warrnambool- August 25 – 10.30am – 4.00pm – St Joseph's Church, Warrnambool.

Pope's intention for June - for those fleeing their own countries:

Let us pray that migrants fleeing from war or hunger, forced to undertake journeys fraught with danger and violence, may find welcome and new living opportunities in their host countries. Lord, hear us.

Prayer to end domestic violence

Loving God, we pray for an end to domestic and family violence against women in our community. We ask for your wisdom and guidance. We pray for constancy in seeking a society where all people are safe in their home, families and close relationships, and where all relationships respect the equality and dignity of each person. We pray for all those affected by violence, that they may find safety and healing. We pray that all women and children will find a place and life free from violence and children will be cared for in nurturing, protective and supportive ways. We pray for young men that they may find models of respectful relationships and reject the violent and demeaning images of manhood current in our society. We ask for the courage to confront the causes of family violence, including the prevalence of violence in society, abuse of power and the unequal position of women in the community. We pray for right and just relations between all people, so that together we may transform and overcome violence in all its forms. We long for the time you have promised, when violence is banished, women and men are open to love and be loved, children are protected and the work and wealth of our world is justly shared. Through Christ our Lord. Amen. *Source: Catholic Social Services Victoria*

Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program – Online Study

The Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation VLCFF) is a growing initiative to offer adult religious education and faith formation anytime and anywhere, online. This low-cost (\$50usd) online study and formation for employed or volunteer lay workers in parishes is available through our partner, Dayton University. Cycle 5 begins July 15. There are 41 subjects to choose from, find one that interests you! Registrations are open. For more info email [djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:djurджа.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or ph. 5337 7121. ph. 5337 7121.

St Columba's June 23	Sunday 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG	Tony Beggs
COMMENTATOR	Fiona Newton
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Bruce Chapman
COMMUNION MINISTER	Gina Hinchey
DIGITAL PROJECTOR	Vicki Moroney
SACRISTAN	Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe