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**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, June 6, 2024.** You may attend either the 10.00 am or the 5.30 pm session.



Climate change is a global problem with grave implications: environmental, social, economic, political and for the distribution of goods. It represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day. (Laudato Si' 25).

reduce reuse recycle  
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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).



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:**  
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

Acts of the Apostles 2: 1-11  
Ps 103: 1, 24, 29-31, 34 R. v. 30  
1 Corinthians 12: 3-7, 12-13  
John 20:19-23



12th May 2024 ~ The Ascension of the Lord Year B

Focus on the Scriptures

**Proclaim the Good News to the Whole Creation** The feast of the Ascension invites us to face the universal experience of loss, the loss of a loved one or of something precious to us, and to face this experience in a transformative way. In Ordinary Time, we celebrate the life and ministry of Jesus. Over the period of Lent and Easter, we have been re-membering his death and resurrection. The liturgy now draws us into another aspect of the Mystery, that of the presence and absence of the One who has been raised. The physical loss of Jesus means a new and different sort of presence. Like the early Christians, we need time to grasp each dimension of the one great Mystery of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. We need time to ponder the implications of this great Mystery for ourselves and for our planetary home.

Today's gospel passage receives little attention in commentaries and classes because, along with the immediately preceding passage (Mark 16:9-14), it is a late addition to the original text of Mark's gospel. The author of these verses is familiar with the similar commission to proclaim the good news to all nations and to baptise in the name of the Trinity, found at the end of Matthew's gospel. In Mark 16:15, the command is to go "into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation (ktisis)." It is a more inclusive vision than Matthew's and opens a space for an ecological reading of the text, an extension from the human to the other-than and more-than-human elements of the Earth community. The command to proclaim the good news, the gospel, recalls the first words of the Markan Jesus, "The time is fulfilled, and the kin-dom of God has come near; repent [=expand your horizons], and believe in the good news" (1:15).

If we were to accept that our mission in the "in-between times" is to bring the gospel to all creation, then we might take more seriously God's command in Genesis 2 to reverence and protect the earth (usually translated as "to till and to keep"). We might stop polluting the air that all creatures need for life. We might also read the affirmations of Genesis 1 through the lens of Mark 16 and respect once more the intrinsic goodness of all creation as a gospel imperative.

The "Ascension" event recounted towards the end of the passage presupposes a pre-scientific, three-tiered understanding of the structure of the cosmos. In this ancient view, God is in the heavens above and Jesus is caught up into God's realm. The vertical movement is balanced by a horizontal movement: Jesus' return to "the right hand of God" ensures a different kind of presence in the church despite his seeming absence, one that enables believers to stop "looking up to the heavens" (Acts 1:11) and to continue the healing and re-creative ministry of Jesus "to all creation".

~Veronica Lawson RSM

**Responsorial Psalm: (R.)** God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

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

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Helma Van Den Brule, Stan Mahar, Timmy Mahar, Brian Molloy, John Kennedy

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

**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. The Cycle 4 begins May 27. There are 30 subjects to choose from – find one that interests you! Registrations are ongoing. For more information email [djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:djurджа.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or ph. 5337 7121.

**Damascus College Ballarat Reunions** Damascus College warmly welcomes past students and staff of Sacred Heart College, St Martin’s in the Pines and Damascus College to our 2024 Class Reunions. This year, we are thrilled to host “class of” reunions for:

- Class of 1984 – 40 Year Reunion Celebration – Saturday, May 18
- Class of 1994 – 30 Year Reunion Celebration – Saturday, May 18
- Class of 2004 – 20 Year Reunion Celebration – Saturday, May 25
- Class of 2014 – 10 Year Reunion Celebration – Saturday, May 25

Details at <https://www.damascus.vic.edu.au/community/alumni/alumni-reunions-events>. Enquiries: [connecting@damascus.vic.edu.au](mailto:connecting@damascus.vic.edu.au)

**Ballarat Diocesan Committee Catholic Women’s League** An invitation is extended to all to the Diocesan Conference/Reflection Day on Thursday May 23rd in the Mary Glowrey Room at the Cathedral.

Registration 9.15am

Conference 10am - 3pm. Including Mass 12.05 in the Cathedral with the crowning of Our Lady Help of Christians.

Entry \$20. Morning Tea. Lunch and Afternoon Tea. Guest speakers. Stalls and Competition - Cash only. RSVP (20th May) to Margaret Rowe Phone 0419 114 435. Please email [margrowe@bigpond.com](mailto:margrowe@bigpond.com) OR to Carmel Kavanagh - E. [annekav1234@gmail.com](mailto:annekav1234@gmail.com).

St Columba’s May 19th	(next week) Sunday 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG	Terry Ranger
COMMENTATOR	Anthea Hinchey
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Tom Keogh
COMMUNION MINISTER	Bruce Chapman
DIGITAL PROJECTOR	Kathleen Keogh
SACRISTAN	Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe

**Collections last week** Thank you for your contributions  
 Presbytery: \$ 490.30 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 785.30

**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.*

**St Columba’s Sacramental Program** continues with the Sacrament of Confirmation. Preparation sessions are ongoing at St Columba’s School. There are over 50 children in our parish preparing to receive Confirmation. Celebrations will take place within Sunday mass on the **19th of May, Pentecost Sunday, and the 26th of May**. Let’s keep the children and their families in our prayers. May the Holy Spirit guide them on their faith journey.

*Happy Mother’s Day to all the mothers and mother figures in our parish Community. May God bless you and keep you in His care. Thank you for all that you are!*

**Prayer for Mother’s Day – Sunday, May 12, 2024**

*Loving God, we pray for our mothers, who have given us life and love, that we may show them reverence and love, and others who show us a mother’s love.*  
*We pray for adoptive mothers and for the women who wish to give birth but experience challenges, that they know your care.*  
*We pray for mothers who have lost a child through death, that their faith may give them hope, and their family and friends support and console them.*  
*We pray for those who wish to serve as mothers, but are not able to do so, that they know your comfort.*  
*We pray for mothers who have died, that God may bring them into the joy of his kingdom. Amen.*

**Mass Counts all weekends in May** The Annual Diocesan Mass Count continues each weekend until the end of May.

**Prevention of domestic violence and violence against women** The following resources are available from various catholic agencies for an end to domestic violence and violence against women:

- A prayer service, “Prayer for the Elimination of Violence Against Women” from the National Centre for Evangelisation <https://shorturl.at/pqzBS>
- Social Justice Statement 2022-23, “Respect: Confronting violence and abuse”, developed by the Australian Catholic Bishop’s Conference’s Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace <https://www.catholic.au/s/article/violence-against-women>
- Catholic Social Services Victoria “Prevention of Domestic Violence Kit” <https://css.org.au/advocacy-policy/prevention-of-family-violence/>
- “A Catholic Response to Domestic Violence” from the Diocese of Broken Bay <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/safeguarding/a-catholic-response-to-domestic-violence>

**Laudato Si’ Week 2024: May 19-26** Caritas Australia have provided the following resources for Laudato Si’ week, available on the diocesan: <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/catholic-earthcare-ballarat-diocese/laudato-si-2024/>

**Fr Paddy Mugavin Golden Jubilee of Ordination to the Priesthood Mass** All are welcome to Mass to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood for Fr Paddy Mugavin on Sunday, May 19, 2024 at 10.30am at St Mary’s Church, Hamilton. Morning tea / light lunch provided.

**Prayer for Vocations**

O Holy Spirit of wisdom and divine love, awaken in the hearts of the young, Your knowledge, understanding, and counsel. May they discover the vocation wherein they can best serve God to be of service to their sisters and brothers.  
 Inflame all young hearts with courage and grant them your peace. Mary, Mother of our Saviour, and our Mother, pray for us.

**Are you interested in becoming a Mercy Associate?** This group seeks to “Preserve, Nurture and Reimagine the Mercy charism”, established by Catherine McAuley and the Sisters of Mercy. Members are offered a number of social and spiritual activities throughout the year. If you are interested, both women and men are welcome, please email [mercyassociates@ismapng.org.au](mailto:mercyassociates@ismapng.org.au)

**Praying with Pope Francis** The Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) is an international movement that is more than 170 years old. Each month, the Pope puts forward a prayer intention and asks Catholics around the world to join him in prayer. These intentions cover all sorts of areas of life, encouraging faith, renewing hope and calling us to loving service. Praying each month ‘The Pope Video’ forms part of the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network – view at [www.thepopevideo.org](http://www.thepopevideo.org).

**Pope’s intention for May – for the formation of men and women religious and seminarians:** Let us pray that men and women religious, and seminarians, grow in their vocational journey through human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, that leads them to be credible witnesses of the Gospel. Lord, hear us.

St Columba’s May 26th	Sunday 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG	Tony Beggs
COMMENTATOR	Min Myers
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Tim O’Farrell
COMMUNION MINISTER	Judy Brown
DIGITAL PROJECTOR	Bruce Chapman
SACRISTAN	Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe