

Please support our loyal advertisers



**Prepaid Funerals**  
Eliminate family stress  
Details: 5337 7111



**Ed Browne**  
Busy Bookkeeping  
Phone 5364 2922  
ballarat@busybookkeeping.com.au



**PPT**  
PROWSE PERRIN & TWOMEY  
20 Lydiard Street Sth,  
Ballarat  
Ph: (03) 5331 3711  
www.ppt.com.au



**Pat Cashin Funerals**  
Ballarat  
A.B.N. 28 007 228 757  
Address: 1114 Doveton  
Street North, Ballarat, 3350  
Phone: (03) 5333 3911  
All hours. Moderate cost



**BALLARAT MEAT COMPANY**  
11 Neerim Crescent,  
Wendouree Industrial Park  
Ph: 5339 3122  
Open Direct to the Public  
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

**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's Prayer for January – For the right to an education:** Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected. Lord, hear us.

**Our Diocesan Community Issue 3** The final edition of ODC for the year is available at our church foyer. Please feel free to take copies to the home-bound, nursing homes, hospitals, etc., to spread the good news of the diocese.



Save with CDF Community Fund –  
it's in everyone's best interest.



By opening an account with CDF Community Fund, you are saving for a reward greater than money alone. Help build classrooms for students, places of worship for communities, hospital wings for the sick, aged care homes for the elderly and social service facilities for the most vulnerable. It's a way to save while doing good.

With competitive interest rates available across a range of accounts, including on a 12-month Term Investment, it's a way to save while doing good. To find out more, visit [www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund/offer](http://www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund/offer), or contact the CDF Team on [csg@melbcdf.org.au](mailto:csg@melbcdf.org.au) or phone 1800 134 135.  
\*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 Abraham Thomas MST  
Fr James McKay

**Finance Officer:**  
Jackie Wrigglesworth

**St Columba's Parish Coordinator:**  
Lia Andanar Yu  
Wed-Friday 10:00am –2:00pm  
(closed on school holidays)

**Safeguarding Officer:**  
Anthea Hinchey

**MASS TIMES (This week)**

**St Columba's**  
Sunday 10.00 am  
Wednesday 10.00 am  
[Reconciliation 10.30am]

**Beaufort**  
2nd & 4th Sunday 8.30 am

**Readings for Next Weekend**  
Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7  
Ps 28: 1-4, 9-10, R. v.11  
Acts of the Apostles 10:34-38  
Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22



**5th January 2025 ~ The Epiphany of the Lord Year C**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

**To be Pilgrims of Hope** If our way of being in the world is one of openness to wonder, then we are open to understanding the meaning of today's feast, a feast of hope for pilgrims of hope in this Year of Jubilee. The wonder of God's presence is revealed to us in diverse ways: we can read the book of God's vast creation; we can search out the meaning of our dreams; we can learn from our own and others' experience; and we can listen to the voice of our sacred scriptures. Being attentive to God's presence involves a personal and communal dialogue between our life experience and our faith tradition. A deep awareness of our place in the Earth community teaches us humility. It also teaches respect for the whole of creation and for the power of the more-than-human to lead us beyond ourselves. While this has always been true, the global turmoil of the past few years has brought home to most of us our utter dependence on a healthy environment and on right relationship within our planetary home.

Epiphany celebrates the story of the hope-filled astrologers "from the East" who are led beyond themselves and their immediate location by the rising of a star. They form their own preliminary hypothesis and travel west to search out the meaning of this sign. They learn from the official interpreters of the Jewish scriptures, the "scribes of the people". Pilgrims of hope, they follow the star that leads them to the new born child, the incarnate Wisdom of God. The gospel does not stipulate how many astrologers or magi come to pay homage to the child. There is no indication in the story as to whether they are men or women or both. The three precious earth derived gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh have traditionally been associated with three different characters, usually kings, of diverse nationality and colour, although there is no support for this in the text. These strangers are the first to recognise "God-with-us" in the person of Jesus of Nazareth and to pay him homage. They also come to recognise, in a dream, the duplicity of King Herod. They have the good sense not to accede to Herod's request to "bring him word" of the newborn king. Warned once again in a dream, they return home "by another road".

The story-teller Matthew leaves room in the tableau for the insertion of the pilgrims of hope who will emerge through the ages. There is an invitation for us to enter into Matthew's drama, to be the wise ones, to join with people of diverse cultures, to engage in our own search for Wisdom, to honour the birth and the life of every child and to follow the "star" that leads to truth and lasting peace. There is also an invitation to be wary of self-serving rulers who find their positions threatened by the different sort of power that is based on vulnerability and openness to new life.

-Veronica Lawson RSM

**Responsorial Psalm:** (R.) Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord. Alleluia!

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

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Pope Benedict XVI, Dianne Artz, Patricia Blasiak,, Margaret Holmes, Patrick Sullivan, Mary Beggs, Maureen Armstrong

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

**Parish Office hours over the Christmas period** Fr. Francis will be taking leave during the month of January and Lia will be away. Whilst the parish office will not be staffed during this time, please make contact via email or in an emergency please call St Patrick's Cathedral 5331 2933.

*Wishing you a Safe and Happy Jubilee Year of Hope!*

**Diocesan Office Closures** Diocesan office dates in December/January are available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/diocesan-offices-dates-for-christmas-new-year-2/>

**Advance Notice of dates 2025:**

\**Rite of Election* – Saturday, March 1, 2025 at 12.30pm, St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat;

\**Mass of the Oils* – Monday, April 14, 2025 at 1.00pm, St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat. Afternoon tea will follow in the Hall.

**Time line of Future Parish Merge** Parish activity will remain operating independently for the immediate future, but in time the parishes will come together as one, with a projected date of merger 1st July 2025. Through a position of collaboration, the parishes will work towards a harmonious grouping. There are many gifts and talents in the communities and many experts in various fields. The Priests want to use the expertise of the Laity as we explore the merging of the parishes.

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

St Columba's Jan 12 (next week) Sunday 10.00 am	
LEADER OF SONG	Musicians on break
COMMENTATOR	Colleen Wakefield
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Bruce Chapman
COMMUNION MINISTER	Judy Brown
DIGITAL PROJECTOR	Vicki Moroney
SACRISTAN	Norah Moloney

**Collections last week** 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.*

**Jubilee Year 2025- Pilgrims of Hope** Pope Francis has declared a Jubilee Year of Hope in 2025, centred on the theme, "Pilgrims of Hope." A Jubilee is a special year of grace and conversion, involving prayer, pilgrimage and sacramental repentance, held every 25 years, or during other years as called for by the Pope. Through a series of concrete rituals, acts and commitments, the goal of a Jubilee year is to inspire and encourage holiness of life among the faithful and therefore to strengthen the Church's witness to God's loving mercy in and for the world. Pope Francis opened the Holy Door of the Basilica of St Peter in the Vatican on December 24, 2024 to begin the year. On the following Sunday, today December 29, the Holy Door of the Pope's Cathedral, St John Lateran, will be opened. Then on January 1, 2025, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, the Holy Door of the Papal Basilica of St Mary Major will be opened. Finally, Sunday, January 5, 2025 will mark the opening of the Holy Door of the Papal Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls. Pope Francis has decreed that on Sunday, December 29, 2024, in every cathedral and co-cathedral, diocesan bishops are to celebrate Holy Mass as the solemn opening of the Jubilee Year, using the ritual indications that will be provided for that occasion. Bishop Paul will celebrate Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 10:30am this morning. The Holy Year will conclude in the particular Churches on Sunday, December 28, 2025. The doors of St John Lateran, the Basilica of St Mary Major and the Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls will also close on this date.

St Columba's Jan 19 Sunday 10:00 am	
LEADER OF SONG	Musicians on break
COMMENTATOR	Fiona Newton/Volunteer please
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Mitch Chalmers
COMMUNION MINISTER	Colleen Wakefield
DIGITAL PROJECTOR	Bruce Chapman
SACRISTAN	Fiona Newton

St Columba's Jan 26 Sunday 10.00 am	
LEADER OF SONG	Musicians on break
COMMENTATOR	Colleen Wakefield
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Vicki Moroney
COMMUNION MINISTER	Gina Hinchey
DIGITAL PROJECTOR	Bruce Chapman
SACRISTAN	Barb Brown

**Bishop Paul's message about the Diocesan Christmas Appeal 2024**

Our Christmas Appeal is one way by which the Diocese can respond to the many communities from near and far who turn to us for assistance. Often these requests come from people who have personal links with the Diocese of Ballarat. I thank the people of the Diocese for their support of last year's appeal. The funds raised were distributed as follows:

Caritas Lebanon Appeal	\$ 5,000	
Catholic Mission Myanmar Appeal	\$ 5,000	
St Columban's Mission Peru	\$ 5,000	
Nazareth House Ballarat	\$ 5,000	
St Vincent De Paul	\$ 5,000	
Catholic Care Victoria	\$ 5,000	
Australian Catholic Religious...		
Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH)	\$ 2,000	<b>\$32,000</b>

**World Day of Peace – January 1, 2025** Hope has been a constant theme in all of Pope Francis' World Day of Peace messages. This is all the more true in his message for the 58th World Day of Peace, which will be marked on January 1, 2025, as the Church begins the Jubilee of Hope amid an unprecedented combination of challenges facing the world today. Read the Pope's message for World Day of Peace at <https://shorturl.at/6DZCp>.

**High Court Judgement – Message from Bishop Paul**

Dear People of the Diocese,

You may have seen media coverage following a recent judgement of the High Court of Australia that involved the Diocese of Ballarat. This judgement has prompted renewed discussion about liability. I appreciate people's concern for those who have suffered abuse and people's questions about organisations accepting responsibility. I offer the following notes in response to people's concern and questions.

In cases where there is evidence that the Diocese of Ballarat has been negligent in the duty of safeguarding children, the Diocese accepts liability and provides compensation to victims.

In the case considered by the High Court, Victorian courts had found that the Diocese of Ballarat was not negligent but still held that the Diocese was liable – vicariously. The High Court set aside this decision of the Victorian courts.

I would like to make it clear that the Diocese of Ballarat will continue to accept liability and provide compensation in cases where there is evidence that the Diocese has been negligent in safeguarding. In addition, the Diocese will continue to provide compensation through the Federal Government's Redress Scheme and through the state-wide Church process called Pathways Victoria. As well as providing compensation in these ways, the Diocese will continue to provide assistance to those who have suffered abuse by funding counselling and other pastoral help. God bless you all. ~ Bishop Paul

