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**St Bernard's Church Bacchus Marsh**  
**150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** St Bernard's Church will mark the 150<sup>th</sup> 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/>

**"Use Cloth Bags"**  
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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**  
Genesis 3: 9-15  
Ps 129. R. v. 7  
2 Corinthians 4: 13- 5:1  
Mark 30:20-35



**2nd June 2024 ~ The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ Year B**

**Focus on the Scriptures**  
The Gospel for today reminds us that we are in a "covenant" relationship with our God. We renew that covenant in every celebration of the Eucharist. The Israelites of old sealed their covenant with God in animal sacrifice, a practice we may wish to critique, and in the celebration of a meal (Exodus 24:1-12). The blood of the slain animal was sprinkled on the altar and on the people. The people knew that blood signified life: if blood spilled out then life spilled out. The altar signified God. The sprinkling of the blood denoted their shared life with God. Israel was called to be holy as God is holy. The symbolism of the Jewish covenant ritual informs today's Gospel story of Jesus' final Passover meal with his disciples. Through the actions and words of Jesus, the bread broken and shared becomes his body broken and "given" for them. The sharing of the cup of wine becomes their sharing in the life of Jesus "to be poured out for many". Bread and wine in this context have taken on a new meaning.

While all analogies fall short, we might begin to understand this mystery by considering the Eureka flag. The flag is constructed of fabric and thread. Because of its associations with the Eureka rebellion and what Eureka stands for in Australian history and folklore, it carries the story that informs its creation as well as all the goodness of its fabric and thread. It has acquired multiple levels of meaning.

Through the actions and words of Jesus, the bread and wine of the Eucharist have likewise come to signify something entirely new along with all the goodness of their materiality. They are Life for us, the shared life of the Risen Christ. We are called to bring that life to others, to give life for the sake of the many. Reading the passage in the context of Mark's gospel provides some insight into how we might do this. The eleven preceding verses recount stories of contrasting responses to Jesus as he faces his final days: temple authorities plot to destroy him; an unnamed woman "breaks" an alabaster jar and "pours" the healing perfume on his head, thus anointing his body "for burial" by means of a "eucharistic" action; Jesus declares that what she has done will be told "in remembrance of her"; a close friend seeks to betray him.

Betrayal and rejection are ever present possibilities even in Eucharistic communities. We are all too aware of this as we endeavour to address the consequences of child sexual abuse. We need to learn from the other possibility presented to us in this context, namely that of pouring out the healing perfume of compassion and love. Our "pouring out" at this time might include sharing our resources with those who struggle to put food on their tables.

~Veronica Lawson RSM

**Responsorial Psalm:** (R.) I will take the cup of salvation, and call on the name of the Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord; whoever eats this bread will live for ever. Alleluia!

**Recently Deceased: We commend to God:** Betty Rice, Peter Kamaretsos  
**Anniversaries: We remember:** Tom Hanrahan, Reiny Strybosch, Vincent Haintz, Malcolm James, Bernard Irvin, Max Hughes, Michael Clancy, Maureen Fithall, Margaret Hanrahan, Frances Dorrington  
**We pray:** for all in areas of conflict, war, natural disasters, for those who are sick and all in need of our prayers.

**Tea and Coffee after Mass every first Sunday of the month at St. Columba's** Looking forward to having a cuppa and catch up with you after mass today, June 2, 2024. See you at the foyer!

**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 go to [mercyassociates@ismapng.org.au](mailto:mercyassociates@ismapng.org.au)



St Columba's June 9 (next week) Sunday 10.00 am	
LEADER OF SONG	Mark Lacey
COMMENTATOR	Maree Phelan
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Fiona Newton
COMMUNION MINISTER	Gina Hinchey
DIGITAL PROJECTOR	Bruce Chapman
SACRISTAN	Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe

**Collections May 19- May 26, 2024** Thank you for your contributions  
 Presbytery: \$ 1,339.50 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,799.60

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

**St Columba's Sacramental Program** continues with the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist in Term 3. Let's keep the children and their families in our prayers. May the Holy Spirit guide them on their faith journey.

**150<sup>th</sup> 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: Robinvale - June 13; Horsham - July 28; Colac - July 30; Buninyong - August 4; **Wendouree- August 13**; Warrnambool - August 25. Further details on the format will follow.

**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. More information and application forms are available at <http://pallottine.org.au/svpscholarship>. Closing date is July 31, 2024.

## 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 16 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