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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/>



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).

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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**

Exodus 24: 3-8  
Ps 115:12-13, 15-18 R. v. 13  
Hebrews 9: 11-15  
Mark 14:12-16, 22-26



**26th May 2024 ~ Most Holy Trinity Year B**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

**A Communion of Relational Love** Trinity Sunday celebrates the core Christian conviction that God is a communion of relational love. For the people of Israel, no other god could compare with their God whom they knew as both creator and liberator and whom they experienced as intimately involved in every aspect of their lives. In a world of many gods, the assertion found in today's first reading from Deuteronomy that there is "no other god" was an enormous claim to make. Awareness of YHWH's sustaining and liberating presence brought with it serious responsibilities: keeping the commandments grounded the people of Israel in the life of their God.

The earliest Christians inherited the Jewish belief in one God. At the same time, Christian Jews expressed their faith in distinctively Trinitarian language. Over the first six centuries of the Christian era, the belief that God is a communion of love was to develop into the doctrine of the Trinity, a teaching that is at the heart of Christian faith. The word Trinity is not used in the Christian Scriptures. In fact, it was not until the Council of Constantinople in 381CE that the doctrine of the Trinity was set out in the creed, and not until the Second Council of Constantinople in 551CE that the word "Trinity" was actually used of the Triune God.

The gospel reading has Jesus commanding his followers to make disciples of all and to baptize in the name of the Trinity. At the beginning of this gospel, Jesus is named Emmanuel, "God with us". With Jesus' final assurance, "know that I am with you always", we find ourselves gathered into the very life of God. Perichoresis, a Greek term suggestive of both permeation and diversity in unity, is one of the earliest and probably one of the most striking metaphors used to explain this Trinitarian life of God. The life in God is three and yet one in a totally harmonious union of love. Since God is neither male nor female, the traditional male language of Father, Son and Spirit is not to be absolutized or taken as a literal description of the triune God: it is one way of imaging God.

As St. Paul reminds us in today's reading from his letter to the community in Rome, God is not a distant God, but rather a God whose Spirit draws us, as "joint heirs with Christ", into God's own life of love and relationship. Trinity Sunday is the day we set aside to celebrate the mystery of God and the nearness of God who invites us into the dynamic cycle of life and love, a cycle that reaches out beyond the human community and embraces the entire cosmos. As we make the sign of the cross, a symbolic action with a two millennia history (from 2nd Century CE), we might become more and more attentive to the wonder of the divine life that dwells in us and in whom we are privileged to dwell.

~Veronica Lawson RSM

**Responsorial Psalm: (R.)** Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: to God who is, who was, and who is to come. Alleluia!

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

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Gerard Tobin, Kevin Irvin, Patricia Gleeson, Lang Dean, Maxwell Franklin, Eileen Dean, John Kirby, Frank Reilly, Kathleen De Groot, Margaret Waight, Anthony Hall, Faye Tobin, Francis White, Jan Dwyer, Peter Driscoll, Paul Gleeson

**We pray:** for all in areas of conflict, war, 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.



**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.*

**Congratulations Confirmation Candidates!** St Columba's Sacramental Program continues with the Sacrament of Confirmation. Preparation sessions were completed over the past several weeks at St Columba's School. There were 25 children in our parish who received Confirmation last Sunday. Celebrations continue within Sunday mass today, the **26th of May**, with another 26 candidates receiving the sacrament. Thank you to all families, school staff, St Columba's parishioners and volunteers for making this possible. Let's keep the children and their families in our prayers. May the Holy Spirit guide them on their faith journey and may God bless us all!

**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>

**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 on June 2, 2024. Keep well and warm, everyone!

**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.

**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)

**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.

**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

St Columba's June 2nd (next week) Sunday 10.00 am	
LEADER OF SONG	Terry Ranger
COMMENTATOR	Tom Keogh
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Bruce Chapman
COMMUNION MINISTER	Colleen Wakefield
DIGITAL PROJECTOR	Vicki Moroney
SACRISTAN	Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe

**Collections last week** Thank you for your contributions  
 Presbytery: \$ To be confirmed (TBC) Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ TBC

St Columba's June 9 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