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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/>



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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 Abraham Thomas MST
Fr James McKay

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
Wisdom 7:7-11
Ps 89:12-17. R. v. 14
Hebrews 4:12-13
Mark 10: 17-30



6th October 2024 ~ 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Focus on the Scriptures

A Call for Inclusivity The Taliban's recent decision to enact draconian laws in relation to Afghani women's presence in the community, their attire and even their right to speak in public has foregrounded the global issue of gender inclusivity. Even in countries where the law permits equal voice and equal access to positions of leadership, there is no country or religion on earth that can claim gender equity in practice. Since the creation of patriarchy in the Bronze Age, some 3000 years ago, lack of gender inclusivity has posed a challenge, particularly for those who find themselves excluded.

The "test" question about divorce that the Pharisees put to Jesus is very strange in a first century Jewish context, as is the reference to women divorcing their husbands. While there is no evidence that anyone in Jewish circles questioned the legality of divorce, there is plenty of evidence for lively debate concerning the grounds on which a Jewish man could divorce his wife: adultery; inferior cooking; even diminished beauty! There were various schools of thought. Jewish law, unlike Roman law, however, did not permit women to initiate divorce proceedings on any grounds at all. From the perspective of the Markan Jesus, Moses only permitted divorce as a concession to "hardness of heart": it was not so from the beginning. The ideal, he insists, is expressed in the Garden Story of Genesis, the story of "one flesh", of partnership, of equality and mutuality, of enduring commitment in marriage. The Hebrew word 'ezer which is translated as "helper" in the first reading from Genesis is used in the Psalms of God's relationship to Israel. It does not denote inferiority of women to men as is sometimes suggested. A better translation might be "companion".

Human limitation is just as much a reality now as it was in the ancient world. We strive for the ideal but fall far short of it in so many ways. When this happens in marriage, the consequences can be more far-reaching than in other aspects of life. The parties involved often become the "little ones" whose lives are shattered and disoriented. The embrace of the community is needed in a particular way for everyone affected by divorce, especially the children. When parents part company, the best interests and needs of the children are sometimes forgotten. Too often, those who have experienced the trauma of divorce feel alienated from the worshipping community, and this at a time when they most need support to face a different future from the one they had envisaged.

The story about marital commitment leads immediately into a story about Jesus taking the children in his arms and blessing them, despite the disciples' attempts to send them away. Children are never to be excluded from the inner circles of love, compassion and care. We might hear today's gospel as a call to be inclusive in all our relationships and to listen to the children's cries for a sustainable and life-giving future. **-Veronica Lawson RSM**

Responsorial Psalm: (R.) May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! If we love one another, God will live in us in perfect love. Alleluia!

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

Anniversaries: We remember: Elena IaFrate, Dorothy Elliott, Shirley Mitchell, Anthony (Tony) Pennington, John Kirby, John Sullivan, Connie Rice, Josephine Reilly, Carmel Brinkmann, Walter Gercovich, Thomas Keogh

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

Sew and So on Thursday the 10th October, 2024 at 1.30pm at the St Columba's Church Foyer. Join the happy band of ladies who enjoy each others' company.

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, November 7, 2024**. You may attend either the 10.00 am or the 5.30 pm session.

Catholic Theological College – Engaging your Faith Online Series
Engaging Your Faith is a series of short, online presentations that invite participants to reflect on what it means to be people of faith in the contemporary world. Topics include the following: Scripture, Synodal Church, Lay and Ordained Ministry, Spirituality, Religion and Ethics, Science and faith issues. Cost is \$25.00 per session or \$40.00 if seeking teacher accreditation. For more information and to register go to <https://ctc.edu.au/news-and-events/engaging-your-faith/>

Upcoming events at Catholic Theological College

- Information Session for Educators
- Information Session for Prospective Students
- Engaging Your Faith Online Sessions

For more information go to <https://ctc.edu.au/news-and-events/> or <https://ctc.edu.au/contact/contact-the-registrar/>

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.

St Columba's Oct 13	(next week) Sunday 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG	Tony Beggs
COMMENTATOR	Min Myers
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Tim O'Farrell
COMMUNION MINISTER	Colleen Wakefield
DIGITAL PROJECTOR	Fiona Newton
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.

Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Victoria – Coordinator Recruitment

The Aboriginal Catholic Ministry (ACM) Victoria is seeking a passionate and dedicated Coordinator to lead initiatives that support the spiritual needs of Indigenous Catholics across Victoria. This role honors and integrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage and culture with Catholic beliefs and traditions. It fosters shared understanding, promotes reconciliation and provides pastoral care to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics in living out their faith. The ACMV Coordinator, supported by two direct reports (the Office Administrator and Engagement Officer), will represent the challenges of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and act as an advocate on their behalf working in collaboration with the Victorian Catholic Bishops and the Office of the Archbishop, in communicating advocacy for Indigenous related policy and campaigns. This position is available as either a full-time role or part-time at 0.8 or 0.6 FTE (Full-Time Equivalent). This is an integral role to the future of ACMV and to ensuring the support of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Catholics. More information available at <https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies/aboriginal-catholic-ministry-of-victoria-acmv-coordinator-2>

"Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion" – Fr Greg Boyle SJ

The October 2024 visit to Australia of Father Greg Boyle SJ, founder of Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles for "Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion" will be a wonderful opportunity for the Church and beyond the Church. HomeBoy Industries from Los Angeles is the largest gang intervention, rehabilitation and re-entry program in the world. The Melbourne program is:

October 8, 2024, Tuesday, "Boundless Compassion: A Mission to Serve" Secondary Students Leadership Festival;

October 9, Wednesday, "Courageous Encounter" School Executive Leadership Teams and

October 10, 2024, Thursday, "On the Margins" an evening with Fr Greg.

For more information and to register, go to <https://www.gpbs.com.au/workshops-courses-events/>

Tea and Coffee after Mass every first Sunday of the month at St. Columba's Our next tea and coffee is today. Looking forward to catching up with you after mass!



Pope leads call for worldwide day of Prayer and Fasting for Peace

On Monday 7th October there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 11.00 am until 12.05 pm at the St Patrick's Ballarat Cathedral for World Peace.

Rosary will be recited at 11.00 am and the rest of the time will be for silent prayer.

Pope Francis has called for a day of prayer and fasting for peace on Monday, October 7, the first anniversary of the start of the catastrophic conflict in the Holy Land. He said: "In this dramatic hour of our history, while the winds of war and the fires of violence continue to devastate entire peoples and nations," the Christian community is reminded of its call to "put itself at the service of humanity."

Speaking after Mass in St Peter's Square for the opening of the second session of the General Assembly of the Synod, the Pope invited all the Synod members to accompany him on a visit to the Basilica of Saint Mary Major on Sunday, October 6, the day before the anniversary, where, he said, he will "address a heartfelt petition to the Virgin" for peace.

"Let us walk together. Let us listen to the Lord. And let us be led by the breeze of the Spirit."

Echoing the Pope's call, Cardinal Vincent Nichols has asked priests and parishioners throughout the diocese of Westminster to pray for peace next Monday, in response to the increase of the intensity and scope of the conflict in Lebanon and Israel.

The 'Cardinal said: "I ask everyone to participate in a day of prayer and fasting for peace in the world."

"Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, has also invited us to mark next Monday as a day of prayer, penance and fasting for peace in the Holy Land. He speaks of the 'need to pray, to bring our pain and our desire for peace to God.' We need to convert, to do penance, and to implore forgiveness."

"I should be grateful if you could respond to these requests from the Holy Father and the Patriarch in your parish. You will know best how to do that. As 7 October is the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, it may be that a public recitation of the Rosary would be appropriate, or perhaps a time of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Those parishioners who are not able to participate in public prayers can be encouraged to pray the Rosary privately, or to mark Monday in some way as a fast day.

"Let us keep in our prayers all who are affected by the violence in the Middle East."

Pope's call for day of prayer and fasting for peace: www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2024-10/pope-7-october-to-be-day-of-prayer-and-fasting-for-peace.html