



St Mary MacKillop

WESTERN BORDER PARISH, DIOCESE OF BALLARAT

Parish Office: 23 Dinwoodie Street, HAMILTON VIC 3300

Office Hours: 9:00am to 4:00pm, Tuesday to Friday

Phone (all hours): (03) 5571 1161

Website: www.westernborder.church

E-mail: westernborder@ballarat.catholic.org.au



St Patrick's **Balmoral**
Sacred Heart **Casterton**
St Joseph's **Coleraine**
St Patrick's **Dunkeld**
St Malachy's **Edenhope**
St Thomas' **Glenthompson**
St Mary's **Hamilton**
St Michael's **Harrow**
St Joseph's **Penshurst**
St Joseph's **Tarrayoukyan**

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th February, 2026

HEALING AND HOPE

Our Casterton and Hamilton communities were devastated this week by the tragic death of Alex Hill. A young man of 18, Alex is a member of the Caramut Footy Club, a past student of Casterton Primary School and Hamilton & Alexandra College, and the youngest son of Suzie McManus, principal of Sacred Heart Primary School in Casterton. The loss of a young life is a heavy burden for any community. At this difficult time, let's offer our prayers for Alex's family, friends, and colleagues, asking for God's peace to sustain them in the days ahead.

In the Gospel, Jesus calls us to be "salt of the earth" and "light of the world." Salt preserves and heals, while light guides the way through shadows. In a week where the shadows feel particularly long, we are each called more than ever to offer healing and hope through our kindness and presence.

Next Sunday we will welcome Bishop Paul to St Mary's in Hamilton, where he will celebrate the Opening School Year Mass for St Mary's Primary School, praying God's blessing upon our students, staff, and school families. During this Mass Bishop Paul will also formally install me as Parish Priest. In addition, the visit affords us an opportunity to thank and farewell Bishop Paul as he prepares for his retirement in March. It will be a significant moment for us to gather, to pray for our school community, and to honour the Bishop's many years of service to our diocese.

God bless,

Fr John

PARISH TEAM

Parish Secretaries: **Carolyn Stanhope** and **Kymhan Watson**

Parish Manager: **John Hockey** - managerwb@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Parish Priest: **Fr John Corrigan** - john.corrigan@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Assistant Priest: **Fr Cay Trinh** - cay.trinh@ballarat.catholic.org.au

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Casterton: **Brenda Bath** - phone 0427 701 327

Coleraine: **Kevin Myers** - phone 0407 688 449

LET US PRAY

FOR THE SICK: Michael Callaway, Enzo Diano, Roma Doherty, Ian Ferguson, Julie Gustus, Margaret Norris, Quirinus Onderwater, Ted Perkins, James Torpy, Bernadette Rees and Lainey Phillips.

FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED: Alex Hill.
Condolences to Alex's family and friends. May he rest in peace.

ANNIVERSARIES: John Bekker, Thomas Brown, Eileen Drew, Nola Edwards, Enid Flynn, Debra Gould, Robyn Ilett, Annie McLean, Grant Newell, Rosie O'Donnell, Maree Rigney, Jim Ross, Tony Lucas.

Casterton: Terry Gunn, Madge & Reg Slater, Mick Sullivan, James Patrick Lehane, Brian Tait, Lola Hurley, Mary Lowe, Ken Murrell, Bryan Hannan, Helen Kearney, Bernard Denis Gill, Denny Howley.

Coleraine: Mary Tippett and Tom Peterson.

Edenhope: Peter Fitzgerald, Pat Mc Donnell, Eva Thurgood, Jan Mc Carthy, James Close, Lucy Reader and Kate Hackwill.

Harrow: Mary Kirby.

PRAYER

*O God of justice,
grant us the true Spirit
of the gospel, that our faith
might rest not on human wisdom,
but on your power made known in
Christ crucified; and so that we,
committed to justice and untiring in
charity, might become salt for the
earth and light for the world.*

*Praying as always through
Jesus the Christ.*

AMEN.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

2pm Friday 6th March, Sacred Heart, Casterton

An ecumenical service prepared by the Christian women of Nigeria. All are welcome. Afternoon tea will follow the service – please bring a plate, and contact Cecily Condon if you can help further. For more information, call John Donegan: 5581 1933.



FAMILY CATECHESIS

Please note that as Bishop Paul is celebrating next Sunday's Mass, there is no Family Catechesis afterwards. Join us this weekend though, at 12pm Sunday. (Activity sheets are available both weeks.)

IF YOU ARE UNAVAILABLE FOR YOUR MINISTRY, PLEASE ARRANGE A SWAP AND ADVISE THE OFFICE ASAP.

THIS WEEK'S ROSTER

Sacred Heart, Casterton (10:00am Lay-Led Assembly)

- *Leaders:* Helen G. & Cecily C.
- *Reader:* Michael O'C.
- *Commentator:* Shane K.
- *Communion:* Volunteer & Maragaret D.
- *Counters:* Helen G. & Pauline D.

St Joseph's, Coleraine (9am Mass)

- *Reader:* Kaye W.

St Malachy's, Edenhope (11:15am Mass)

- *Reader:* C. McCann.
- *Intercessions:* ???

St Joseph's, Peshurst (8:30am Mass)

- *Lector:* Catherine Loria
- *Prayers:* Terry Pezzutti
- *Gifts:* Helen & Aileen

St Mary's, Hamilton (6pm Vigil Mass and 10:30am Sunday)

	Opening & Welcome	Cuppa	Computer	Commentator	First Reading	Second Reading	Communion
This Sat	Karen Brewis	Annette & Peter	Pauline Oliver-Snell	Fiona-Marie	Maureen Dunn	Annette Mason	J Ryan K Brewis
This Sun	John Hockey	Maria & Bridget	Peter Christopher	Frank Soulsby	Helen Tripovich	Sherrie Hockey	R Fitzgerald F Soulsby M Cook
Next Sat	Chris Jansen	Jisha & Angelina	Chris Jansen	Pauline Kelly	Angelina Juby	Sairah Joeman	Annette & Peter
Next Sun	Frank	Della & Glenn	Carolyn	St Mary's School	St Mary's School	St Mary's School	F Soulsby T Groves T Stevens M Cook R Fitzgerald

NEXT WEEK'S ROSTER

Sacred Heart, Casterton (5pm Mass)

- *Commentator:* Shane K.
- *Reader:* Riya.
- *Communion:* Renju & M Baulch.
- *Counters:* John D. & Helen G.

St Joseph's, Coleraine (9am Mass)

- *Reader:* John K.
- *Communion:* Volunteer.

St Malachy's, Edenhope (11:15am Mass)

- *Reader:* C. Heenan.
- *Intercessions:* C. McCann.

St Joseph's, Peshurst (8:30am Lay-Led Assembly)

- *Leader:* Catherine Loria
- *Lector:* Brendan Kelly
- *Prayers:* Theresa Fitzgerald

MONDAY 9th FEBRUARY
Fifth Week in Ordinary Time

9:30am Mass, Hamilton
5pm Confessions, Hamilton

Saint Bernadette:
'Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for me,
a poor sinner'.

TUESDAY 10th FEBRUARY
St Scholastica

10am Zone Meeting, Warrnambool
4pm Holy Hour, Hamilton
5:15pm Mass, Hamilton

St Scholastica was born in Nursia in about 480, the twin sister of St Benedict. She was dedicated to God from an early age and followed her brother to Cassino, where she died in about 547.

WEDNESDAY 11th FEBRUARY
Our Lady of Lourdes

9:30 Mass, Hamilton
10:30am Mass, Casterton
1pm Anointing, Edgarley
5pm Rosary, Hamilton
7pm Leadership Team, Casterton

In 1858 the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Bernadette Soubirous at Lourdes. Her message renewed in the Church a love of prayer and service to the poor and sick.

LENT BEGINS NEXT WEEK

LENTEN PROGRAM

The Diocese of Wollongong's *Compassio* program is suitable for small groups praying with the Sunday readings, and also for individuals who would like a short daily reflection for their private prayer. **Booklets are \$5, available to purchase at each church (or where groups gather).** If you wish to lead a Lenten prayer group please advise the office so that we can advertise.



7pm Tuesdays in Hamilton (starting 17th Feb)

Hosts: Chris and Kathie Jansen, 24 Carmichael St.
Please phone or text 0407 719 530 to register.

7:30am Thursdays Men's Prayer Group, Hamilton

Host: St Mary's Presbytery, 23 Dinwoodie St.
No need to register.

7pm Thursdays in Glenthompson (starting 19th Feb)

Host: Elisabeth Cumming, 72 Fishers Lane.
Please phone or text 0427 774 223 to register.



ASH WEDNESDAY

- 10am School Mass, St Mary's, Hamilton
- 9.15am, St Malachy's, Edenhope
- 11.15am, Sacred Heart, Casterton
- 6pm, St Mary's, Hamilton



WAY OF THE CROSS

Every Friday in Lent, from 20th February

- 5pm, Sacred Heart, Casterton
- 5:30pm, St Mary's, Hamilton

LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETINGS

Members of leadership teams: please note that the **Casterton** team is meeting this Wednesday evening; the **Hamilton** team is meeting Friday afternoon; and the **Edenhope** team is meeting next Sunday after Mass.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Bishop Paul Bird's visit to the parish

10:30am Mass, Sunday 15th February, St Mary's Hamilton

Ballarat Clergy Retreat – No Masses Tue/Wed/Thu

From Monday 23rd to Friday 27th February, Halls Gap

Diocesan farewell and thanks to Bishop Paul

7pm Mass, Monday 2nd March, St Patrick's Cathedral

World Day of Prayer - Ecumenical Service

2pm Friday 6th March, Sacred Heart Casterton

Fr Mark Freeman's episcopal ordination

11am Mass, Thursday 19th March, St Patrick's Cathedral

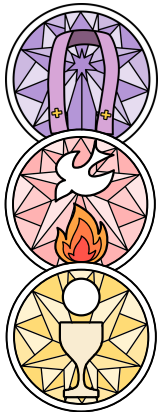
2026 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

We invite children who are in Grade 3 or above who are interested in Reconciliation, Confirmation, and First Communion to join our 2026 sacramental program.



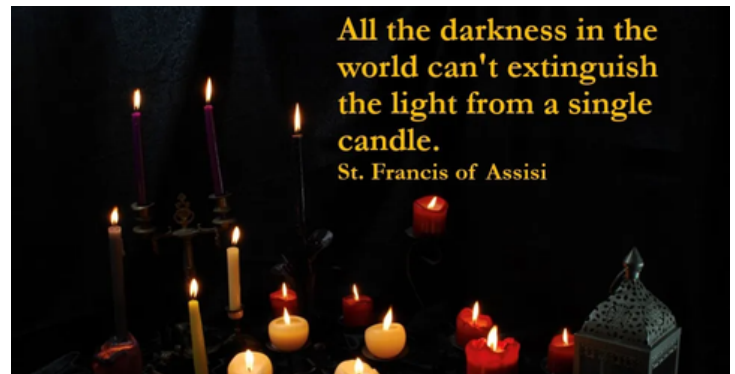
To enrol into the program and arrange a 10 minute interview with Fr John and Fr Cay, please scan the QR code or visit:

www.westernborder.church/sacramental



All the darkness in the world can't extinguish the light from a single candle.

St. Francis of Assisi



THURSDAY 12th FEBRUARY Fifth Week in Ordinary Time

7:30am Men's Prayer Group, Hamilton
10:30am Mass, Casterton
4pm Holy Hour, Hamilton
5:15pm Mass, Hamilton

FRIDAY 13th FEBRUARY Fifth Week in Ordinary Time

9:30am Mass, Hamilton
11am Anointing, Eventide
12pm Leadership Team, Hamilton
5pm Confessions, Hamilton

SATURDAY 14th FEBRUARY Sts Cyril & Methodius

9:30am Mass, Hamilton
10am Confessions, Hamilton
5pm Confessions, Hamilton
6pm Mass, Hamilton

Saints Cyril and Methodius were brothers, born in Greece, who are recognised as "Apostles to the Slavs" and patron saints of Europe. They translated Christian texts into the Slavonic language and invented the Glagolitic and possibly the Cyrillic alphabet.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 58:7-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord: Share your bread with the hungry, and shelter the homeless poor, clothe the man you see to be naked and do not turn from your own kin. Then will your light shine like the dawn and your wound be quickly healed over. Your integrity will go before you and the glory of the Lord behind you. Cry, and the Lord will answer; call, and he will say, 'I am here.'

If you do away with the yoke, the clenched fist, the wicked word, if you give your bread to the hungry, and relief to the oppressed, your light will rise in the darkness, and your shadows become like noon.

RESPONSORIAL

Psalms 111(112):4-9

(R.) A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

He is a light in the darkness for the upright:
he is generous, merciful and just.
The good man takes pity and lends,
he conducts his affairs with honour. (R.)

The just man will never waver:
he will be remembered for ever.
He has no fear of evil news;
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord. (R.)

With a steadfast heart he will not fear;
open-handed, he gives to the poor;
his justice stands firm for ever.
His head will be raised in glory. (R.)



SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

When I came to you, brothers, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you what God had guaranteed. During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him as the crucified Christ. Far from relying on any power of my own, I came among you in great 'fear and trembling' and in my speeches and the sermons that I gave, there were none of the arguments that belong to philosophy; only a demonstration of the power of the Spirit. And I did this so that your faith should not depend on human philosophy but on the power of God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 8:12

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
the man who follows me will have the light of life.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 5:13-16

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'



SUNDAY 15th FEBRUARY
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30am Mass, Dunkeld
8:30am Lay-led, Peshurst
9am Mass, Balmoral
9am Mass, Coleraine
10:30am Mass, Hamilton
11:15am Mass, Edenhope
12pm Leadership Team, Edenhope
12pm Family Catechesis, Hamilton
5pm Mass, Casterton

**WE ARE A CHILD
SAFE PARISH**

We adhere to Victoria's eleven Child Safe standards. Our policies are displayed in our churches and on our website. Our Parish Safety Officer is **John Hockey - 0439 319 823**.


AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC SAFEGUARDING LTD
A safe Church for everyone

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
OF COUNTRY**

St Mary MacKillop Western Border Parish recognises the Traditional Custodians of parish lands: the Eastern Maar people, the Gunditjmarra people, and the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagalk Nations.