



# 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](http://www.westernborder.church)

E-mail: [westernborder@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto: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' **Glenhompson**  
St Mary's **Hamilton**  
St Michael's **Harrow**  
St Joseph's **Penshurst**  
St Joseph's **Tarrayoukyan**

## First Sunday of Lent

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> and Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2026

### WELCOME TO LENT!

Over the next 40 days, we aren't just testing our willpower against the chocolate stash in the pantry; we're making a "spiritual spring clean." The word *Lent* comes from the Old English for "spring." It's an annual invitation to hit the reset button, reduce the background noise, and make a little more room for God in our daily lives.

Whether you are planning to dive deeper into prayer, challenge yourself with fasting, or lean into almsgiving, know that you aren't walking this desert path alone. We are a community travelling together towards the light of Easter.

Look for opportunities to simplify your schedule and focus on what truly matters. Join us for our weekly Stations of the Cross or one of the Lenten prayer groups. Let's make this more than just a season of "giving up" — let's make it a season of growing closer to Jesus.

Fr Cay, Fr Damien and I are in Halls Gap this week on the Ballarat clergy retreat. We will keep you in our prayers. Please note the changes to the weekday Mass schedule.

God bless,

*Fr John*



### LET US PRAY

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

**FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED:** Alan Johnson, Brian Walsh.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Margaret Hardingham, Basil Lyon, Maureen Myers, Nancy Sparrow, Ernest Harris, Mon Murphy, Patricia Edge, Frank Waight, Elizabeth Davis.

**Casterton:** 22<sup>nd</sup> Glenn Wombwell (1994), Brian O'Connell, Jim Ryan, Max Peart, 25<sup>th</sup> Cecelia Foster (1991), Ivy Murphy, Terry O'Connell, Doris Johnson, Jack Widdicombe, 26<sup>th</sup> Kathy McLean (2022), Scott Pretlove, 27<sup>th</sup> Ivy Myrtle Jansey (1984) and Kathy McLean.

**Coleraine:** Robina Fitz-Gerald (1994), Dolly Kane (1988), and Fr James Brophy (PP 1930-1931).

**Edenhope:** Patricia Mahney, Robina Fitzgerald, Keith Ryan, John Mulraney, Lizzie Pahl, Veronica Kealy and Bill McCann.

*Because you formed us from the dust,  
Lord God, you know well how deeply  
sin has scarred our human nature.  
Strengthen us, then, as we set  
out on the lenten journey.*

*Make us victorious with Christ  
over the deception of the tempter,  
so we may come at length in the joy of  
the Holy Spirit to the celebration of  
the Lord's glorious Passover.*

*Praying as always through  
Jesus the Christ.  
AMEN.*

#### PARISH TEAM

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

Parish Manager: **John Hockey** - [managerwb@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:managerwb@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

Parish Priest: **Fr John Corrigan** - [john.corrigan@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:john.corrigan@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

Assistant Priest: **Fr Cay Trinh** - [cay.trinh@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:cay.trinh@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

#### COMMUNITY CONTACTS

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

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

## THIS WEEK'S ROSTER

### Sacred Heart, Casterton (11am Mass - cuppa afterwards)

- *Commentator:* John Donegan.
- *Reader:* Charlie Koch.
- *Communion:* Kaye M. & Riya.
- *Counters:* Pauline. D & Monica M M.

### St Joseph's, Coleraine (9am Mass)

- *Reader:* Aileen Utber.
- *Communion:*

### St Malachy's, Edenhope (11.15am Lay-Led Assembly)

- *Leader:* A. Kealy.
- *Reader:*
- *Intercessions:*

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

- *Lector:* Rob Coates
- *Prayers:* Don Adamson
- *Gifts:* Helen & Aileen

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

	Opening & Welcome	Cuppa	Computer	Commentator	First Reading	Second Reading	Communion
<b>This Sat</b>	Karen Brewis	Chris & Kathie	Chris Jansen	Maureen Dunn	Jacinta Ryan	Karen Brewis	N & N Joseph
<b>This Sun</b>	John Hockey	Anne & Des	Carolyn	Frank Soulsby	Jacob Nenke	Sherrie Hockey	M Roberts P Stanhope T Hurley
<b>Next Sat</b>	Chris Jansen	Annette & Peter	Chris Jansen	Fiona-Marie	Jack Bell	Terrielynn Groves	M & P Dunn
<b>Next Sun</b>	Carolyn	Geetha & Frank	Peter Christopher	Frank Soulsby	Wendy Collins	Trish Irving	R Fitzgerald M Cook F Soulsby

## NEXT WEEK'S ROSTER

### Sacred Heart, Casterton (9am Mass)

- *Commentator:* Karen H.
- *Reader:*
- *Communion:* Margaret D. & Renju.
- *Counters:* Michael O'C. & Pauline D.

### St Joseph's, Coleraine (9am Lay-Led Assembly)

- *Leader:* Dot Norris & Marge Ferguson.
- *Reader:* Kevin Myers.
- *Communion:* John Kane.

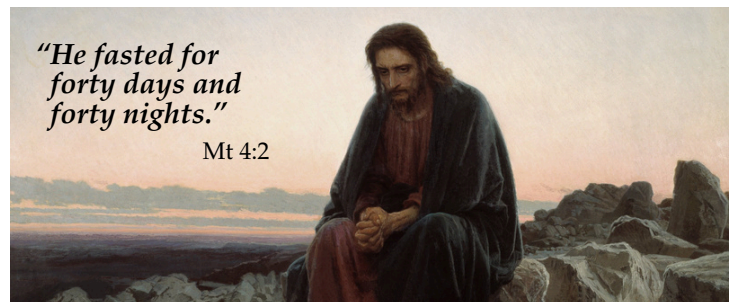
### St Malachy's, Edenhope (11:15am Mass)



- *Reader:* H. Surman.
- *Intercessions:* E. Musser.

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

### 2pm Friday 6<sup>th</sup> 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.



MONDAY 23 <sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY First Week of Lent	TUESDAY 24 <sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY First Week of Lent	WEDNESDAY 25 <sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY First Week of Lent
<p><b>9:30am Mass, Hamilton</b> <b>5pm Confessions, Hamilton</b></p> <p><i>"I can only offer very little things to God. These little sacrifices bring great peace of soul."</i></p> <p>St Thérèse of Lisieux </p>	<p><b>4pm Holy Hour, Hamilton</b> <b>5:15pm Mass, Hamilton</b></p> <p><b>7pm Lenten Group, Chris &amp; Kathie Jansen, 24 Carmichael St, Hamilton</b></p>	<p><b>9:30am Mass, Hamilton</b> <b>10:30am Mass, Casterton</b></p> <p><b>5pm Rosary &amp; Mary's Way of the Cross, Hamilton</b></p> <p><i>"Forward with courage! Fear nothing. God is with you."</i></p> <p>St Joan of Arc </p>

# MESSAGE FOR LENT

In a letter to the faithful, Pope Leo has proposed a concrete resolution for Lent:

“A very practical and frequently unappreciated form of abstinence is refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbour.

“Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgment, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves.

“Instead, let us strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media and in Christian communities. In this way, words of hatred will give way to words of hope and peace.”

To read the Holy Father’s message in full, scan the QR code or visit: [www.tinyurl.com/leo14lent2026](http://www.tinyurl.com/leo14lent2026)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Diocesan farewell and thanks to Bishop Paul**  
7pm Mass, Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, St Patrick’s Cathedral

**Monivae College joining Parish Mass**  
10:30am, Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March, St Mary’s Hamilton

**Fr Mark Freeman’s episcopal ordination**  
11am Mass, Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March, St Patrick’s Cathedral

## POPE LEO’S PRAYER FOR CHILDREN WITH INCURABLE DISEASES

Lord Jesus, who welcomed the little ones in your arms and blessed them tenderly, today we bring before you the children living with incurable illnesses. Their fragile bodies are a sign of your presence, and their smiles, even in the midst of pain, are a testimony of your Kingdom.



We ask you, Lord, that they may never lack proper medical care, human and compassionate attention, and the support of a community that accompanies them with love. Sustain their families in hope, in the midst of weariness and uncertainty, and make of them witnesses of a faith that grows stronger through trial.

Bless the hands of doctors, nurses, and caregivers, so that their work may always be an expression of active compassion. May your Spirit enlighten them in every difficult decision, and grant them patience and tenderness to serve with dignity.

Lord, teach us to recognize your face in every suffering child. May their vulnerability awaken our compassion, and move us to care, accompany, and love with concrete gestures of solidarity. Make of us a Church that, animated by the feelings of your Heart and moved by prayer and service, knows how to uphold fragility, and in the midst of suffering, becomes a source of comfort, a seed of hope, and a proclamation of new life. Amen.



## DONATION ENVELOPES: How do I use them?

This Lent, like we did in 2025, there is a single Project Compassion donation envelope – rather than the six weekly envelopes used in previous years. This change was made to reduce waste and support our shared commitment to caring for our common home.

You can still give weekly by taking several envelopes at once or simply make your offering when you're ready. Thank you for Uniting Against Poverty with us this Lent.



THURSDAY 26 <sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY First Week of Lent	FRIDAY 27 <sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY First Week of Lent	SATURDAY 28 <sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY First Week of Lent
<p><b>7:30am Men’s Prayer Group</b>, St Mary’s Presbytery, Hamilton</p> <p><del>10:30am Mass, Casterton</del></p> <p><del>4pm Holy Hour, Hamilton</del></p> <p><b>5:15pm Communion Service</b>, Hamilton</p> <p><b>7pm Lenten Group</b>, Frank &amp; Betty Balkin, 1328 Old Ararat Road, Glenthompson</p>	<p><b>9:30am Mass</b>, Hamilton</p> <p><b>12pm Leadership Team</b>, Hamilton</p> <p><b>2pm Women’s Prayer Group</b>, Hamilton</p> <p><b>5pm Way of the Cross</b>, Casterton</p> <p><b>5pm Confessions</b>, Hamilton</p> <p><b>5:30pm Way of the Cross</b>, Hamilton</p>	<p><b>9:30am Mass</b>, Hamilton</p> <p><b>10am Confessions</b>, Hamilton</p> <p><b>5pm Confessions</b>, Hamilton</p> <p><b>6pm Mass</b>, Hamilton</p> <p><i>“Sadness is looking at ourselves; happiness is looking towards God.”</i></p> <p>St Carlo Acutis</p> 

# FIRST READING

Genesis 2:7-9,3:1-7

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

Now the serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death." Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

# RESPONSORIAL

Ps 50(51):3-6,12-14,17

*R/.* Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.  
In your compassion blot out my offence.  
O wash me more and more from my guilt  
and cleanse me from my sin.

My offences truly I know them;  
my sin is always before me  
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;  
what is evil in your sight I have done.

A pure heart create for me, O God,  
put a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Give me again the joy of your help;  
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,  
O Lord, open my lips  
and my mouth shall declare your praise.

# SECOND READING

Romans 5:12-19

A reading from the letter of Paul to to the Romans

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no

one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

# GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 4:4

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

No one lives on bread alone,  
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

# GOSPEL

Matthew 4:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew  
Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says:

*Man does not live on bread alone  
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'*

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God' he said 'throw yourself down; for scripture says:

*He will put you in his angels' charge,  
and they will support you on their hands  
in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'*

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says:

*You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'*

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these' he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says:

*You must worship the Lord your God,  
and serve him alone.'*

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

<p><b>SUNDAY 1<sup>st</sup> MARCH</b> Second Sunday of Lent</p>	<p><b>WE ARE A CHILD SAFE PARISH</b></p>	<p><b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY</b></p>
<p>8:30am Mass, Dunkeld 9am Lay-led, Coleraine 9am Mass, Balmoral 9am Mass, Casterton 10:30am Mass, Hamilton 11:15am Mass, Edenhope 12pm Family Catechesis, Hamilton</p>	<p>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 <b>John Hockey - 0439 319 823.</b></p> 	<p>St Mary MacKillop Parish recognises the Traditional Custodians of parish lands: the Eastern Maar people, the Gunditjmara people, and the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagalk Nations. The parish acknowledges their deep and continuing connection to the land, water and community.</p>