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**

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY (Year A)

Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th April, 2026

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Every year on the fourth Sunday of Easter we hear readings which identify God as a shepherd and us as the sheep of his flock. Jesus is the Good Shepherd, who leads us to good pastures. He knows us personally and he calls us each by name. It's encouraging to know that he will lead us to heaven. All we need to do is to follow him.

The early Christians loved this depiction of Jesus. In fact the oldest image we have of Jesus is a young man carrying a sheep on his shoulders. It recurs throughout the Roman catacombs.

Good Shepherd Sunday is also the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. We join the whole Church in asking Our Lord to send us good shepherds. We are fulfilling Jesus' advice: "*The harvest is plentiful, but labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.*" We pray that the Lord will send us priests and religious, especially from our own parish.

This weekend we welcome back Fr Cay. And we again welcome Fr Ted, who is celebrating Mass with the Glenthompson community. Please note amendments to the Monday and Friday schedules. On Monday I am joining other priests in Swan Hill for prayer and fellowship. On Friday Fr Cay is travelling to Bathurst to celebrate the priestly ordination of his friend, Deacon Ha Van Tran. At this time of year, we priests are filled with gratitude for our vocation, and perhaps for that reason we become a bit more intentional in supporting each other. Thank you too for your support of us. It is generous and demonstrative.

Godspeed, *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** - 0427 701 327
Coleraine: **Kevin Myers** - 0407 688 449

LET US PRAY

FOR THE SICK: Michael Callaway, Enzo Diano, Roma Doherty, Ian Ferguson, Margaret Norris, Quirinus Onderwater, Ted Perkins, Bernadette Rees.

FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED: Ann Beuglehole.

ANNIVERSARIES:

Hamilton: Brian Hodges, John Cogger, paul Betschart, Leslie Cordy, vera McNeil, David Sharrock, Helen Boyle, John Brabham, Maureen Blake, Trevor Stevens, Harry Brownlee, Maisie Goldstraw, Nola Trigger, Ron Priddle, Elvira Morganti, Margaret Allan, Tilly Eales, Doug Scott, Kerin Hurley, Patricia Pierce.

Casterton: Barry Humphries, Bessie Doyle, Cis Anderson, Alicia Dickson, Anne Scott, Joe McGrath, Joseph McGrath, Lorraine Gill, Aub Richardson, Carol Larkins, Pete Gill, Olive Gill, Rene Murrell, Alison Ford, Ella Densley, Alan Thompson, Irene Davidson, mary Gill, William O;Connell, Grace Doyle.

Coleraine: Jean Mitchell, Paddy Clynes, Aileen Hay, Leslie Hay.

Edenhope: Mary Ruth, John Reader, Andrew Reader.

SUNDAY 26th APRIL
Good Shepherd Sunday

8:30am Mass, Glenthompson
8:30am Mass, Penshurst
9am Lay-led Assembly, Dunkeld
9am Mass, Coleraine
9am Mass, Tarrayoukyan
10:30am Mass, Hamilton
11am Mass, Casterton
11:15am Lay-led Assembly, Edenhope
12pm Family Catechism, Hamilton

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

THIS WEEK'S ROSTER

Sacred Heart, Casterton (11am Mass - Cuppa after)

- *Reader:* Charlie Koch
- *Commentator:* Shane Kelly
- *Communion:* Margaret Davis & Cecily Condon.
- *Counters:* Mick O'Connell & Pauline D.

St Joseph's, Coleraine (9am Mass)

- *Reader*: John Kane

St Malachy's, Edenhope (11:15am Lay-led Assembly)

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

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

Reader: Rob Coates. **Prayers:** Don Adamson.

NEXT WEEK'S ROSTER 3rd May

Sacred Heart, Casterton (Mass 9am)

- *Reader: S McManus*
- *Commentator: K Hausler*
- *Communion: C Condon & M Davies*
- *Counters: M O'Connell & P Durbridge*

St Joseph's, Coleraine (9am L.L.A.)

- *Reader*: Kevin Myers Spec. Min: John K.
- Leaders: Dot N. & Marge F.

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

- *Reader: E Musser*
- *Intercessions: G Kirby*

Grange - Frank Soulsby

St Mary's Hamilton	Opening & Welcome	Cuppa	Computer	Commentator	First Reading	Second Reading	Communion
This Sat. 6pm	Pauline Kelly	Trish Soawyer	Pauline Kelly	Fiona-Marie	Chris Jansen	Jacinta Ryan	N & N Joseph
This Sun. 10.30am	Caroly Stanhope	Bridget & Maria	Carolyn Stanhope	Wendy Collins	Carmel Schlaghecke	Rohan Fitzgerald	M Cook P Wheaton A Wheaton
Next Sat. 6pm.	Karen Brewis	Annette & Peter	Pauline Oliver-Snell	Karen Brewis	Terrielynn Groves	Fiona-Marie	J Ryan & P Kelly
Next Sun. 10.30am	John Hockey	Sherrie & John	Carolyn Stanhope	Frank Soulsby	Helen Tripovich	Selina Perera	R Murphy U Murphy F Soulsby

O God, whose goodness and mercy
shall follow us all the days of our life,
you have made Jesus, whom you raised
from the dead, the gate through which we,
the sheep of your flock,
may enter the sheepfold of abundant life.

Pour forth upon us the gift of the Holy Spirit,
so that amidst the corruption of this age
and over the voices of those
intent on leading us astray,
we may learn to recognize the voice of Christ,
the good shepherd,
who came that we may have life,
life in all its fullness.

Praying as always through
Jesus the Christ. AMEN.

FIVE FIRST FRIDAYS

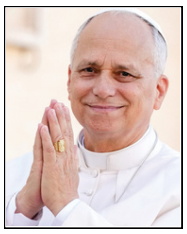
The First Friday devotion honours the Sacred Heart of Jesus and stems from His revelations to St Margaret Mary Alacoque. By receiving Holy Communion on nine consecutive First Fridays in a spirit of reparation, we deepen our love of God, we are promised the grace of final perseverance, and our heart is more closely aligned with the Lord's.

NINE FIRST SATURDAYS

The First Saturday devotion was requested by Our Lady of Fatima to offer reparation to God and to pray for world peace. To fulfill this devotion, for nine consecutive first Saturdays the faithful are invited to go to Confession, receive Holy Communion, pray five decades of the Rosary, and spend fifteen minutes in mental prayer.

MONDAY 27th APRIL Fourth Week of Easter	TUESDAY 28th APRIL St Peter Chanel, Priest, Martyr	WEDNESDAY 29th APRIL St Catherine of Siena, Doctor
~~**9:30am Mass**, Hamilton~~ ~~**5pm Confessions**, Hamilton~~ *I am like a traveller who, after a long journey, sees the end in sight.* St Peter Chanel, speaking days before his martydom 	**1:30pm Anointing Mass**, Lakeside Living, Edenhope **4pm Holy Hour**, Hamilton **5:15pm Mass**, Hamilton	**9:30am Mass**, Hamilton **10:30am Mass**, Casterton ~~5pm Rosary, Hamilton~~ **7pm Rosary**, Hamilton *Knowledge of yourself is the mother of humility.* St Catherine of Siena

POPE'S MESSAGE FOR WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS



Brothers, sisters and dear young people!

On this Good Shepherd Sunday, I invite you to reflect on the interior dimension of vocation — the discovery of God's free gift blossoming in the depths of your hearts.

Jesus is the "Good Shepherd" (ὁ ποιμὴν ὁ καλός — literally beautiful, noble, exemplary), whose gaze reveals that life is truly beautiful when one follows him. This beauty is not seen through the eyes, but discerned through silence and prayer. Only the one who pauses, listens, and returns the Shepherd's gaze can say with confidence: "I trust him; life with him can truly be beautiful. I want to walk this path of beauty."

Vocation is never an imposition or a one-size-fits-all model; it is an adventure of love. I urge you to return within yourselves, for truth dwells in the inner person. Amidst the deafening noise of the world, we must create space for interior silence to hear what the Lord desires for our happiness.

Every vocation begins with the awareness of being profoundly loved by God. This awareness must be reciprocal, nurtured through prayer, the Word, and the Sacraments. To my young friends: I encourage you to make time for Eucharistic adoration. In the intimacy of His friendship, you will discover how to give of yourselves — be it through marriage, the priesthood, the permanent diaconate, or consecrated life.

St Joseph is an example of complete trust in God's designs. He trusted even when everything around him seemed shrouded in darkness and uncertainty, when events appeared to diverge from his own plans. He trusted and abandoned himself to God, certain about the goodness and fidelity of the Lord.

It is necessary to cultivate firm and steadfast trust in God's promises, without ever yielding to despair. Pray every day, and meditate on the Word. Pause, listen and entrust yourselves. May the Virgin Mary, an expert in prayerful listening, accompany you on this journey!

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY APPEAL

The Bishops of Victoria have established an annual Good Shepherd Sunday Appeal and invite donations that will support the education of Corpus Christi College seminarians at Catholic Theological College, Melbourne.

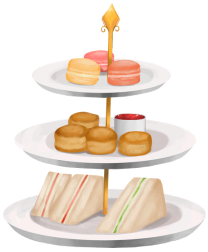
Corpus Christi College is the regional seminary of Victoria and Tasmania. It is a thriving community of domestic and international students, discerning their call to a life of mission and service as Catholic priests. To give, please complete the online donation form at tinyurl.com/good-shepherd-sunday-appeal/. Donations are tax deductible.

HAMILTON LADIES
LUNCH & BOOK EXCHANGE

Looking for good food and great company? Join a small group of parish ladies who meet at the Botanical Motel on the first Thursday of each month. We enjoy a shared meal, a friendly chat about life, and a casual book exchange. Whether you're a lifelong reader or just looking for a chat, new members are warmly welcome!

Next meeting: **12:30pm, next Thursday 7th April**
Contact Marie Cook: 0417 321 378

CUPPA AFTER MASS



Please note that tea, coffee and other refreshments will be served after this **Sunday's 11am Mass in Casterton**. The Casterton community extends this hospitality every month on the fourth Sunday. Refreshments are also served after all weekend Masses in Hamilton and Glenthompson.

THURSDAY 30th APRIL Fourth Week of Easter	FRIDAY 1st MAY St Joseph the Worker	SATURDAY 2nd MAY St Athanasius, Bishop, Doctor
7:30am Men's Prayer Group, St Mary's Presbytery, Hamilton **4pm Holy Hour**, Hamilton **5:15pm Mass**, Hamilton	**9am St Joseph's School Liturgy**, Penshurst ~~9:30am Mass, Hamilton~~ **11am Mass**, Casterton **2pm Anointing**, Wannon Hostel, Coleraine **5:15pm Mass**, Hamilton **6pm Catholic Enquiry**, Hamilton	**9:30am Mass**, Hamilton **10am Confessions,** Hamilton **5pm Confessions**, Hamilton **6pm Mass**, Hamilton *The Son of God became man so that men and women might become God.* St Athanasius

FIRST READING

Acts 2:14, 36-41

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

'God has made him both Lord and Christ'

On the day of Pentecost, Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.'

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

RESPONSORIAL

Psalm 22(23)

R/. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit.

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort.

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever.

SECOND READING

1 Peter 2:20-25

A reading from the first Letter of St Peter

You have come back to the shepherd of your souls

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty.

This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 10:1-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

'I am the gate of the sheepfold'

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them. So Jesus spoke to them again:

I tell you most solemnly, I am the gate of the sheepfold.
All others who have come are thieves and brigands;
but the sheep took no notice of them.
I am the gate.
Anyone who enters through me will be safe:
he will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture.
The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.
I have come so that they may have life
and have it to the full.'

SUNDAY 3rd MAY Fifth Sunday of Easter	WE ARE A CHILD SAFE PARISH	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY
8:30am Mass, Dunkeld **9am Lay-led Assembly**, Coleraine **9am Mass**, Balmoral **9am Mass,** Casterton **10:30am Mass**, Hamilton **11:15am Mass**, Edenhope **12pm Family Catechism**, Hamilton **12:15pm Leadership Team Meeting**, Edenhope	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**. ACSL AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC SAFEGUARDING LTD *A safe Church for everyone*	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.