



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' **Glenhompson**
St Mary's **Hamilton**
St Michael's **Harrow**
St Joseph's **Penshurst**
St Joseph's **Tarrayoukyan**

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (Year A)

Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd May, 2026

JESUS SAID TO THEM, "I AM YOUR GPS"

It is easy to get lost. We see it all around us. So many people losing their way. Each of us has many things in our life that are trying to pull us away from the path, to distract us, to bog us down, to turn us around. This is one of the reasons why Jesus came to earth: to lead us; to shepherd us. Jesus calls himself "the Way." We could also call him "a shortcut," "the direct line," "a straight path," or even "a freeway."

In modern parlance, Jesus is our true GPS – God's Positioning System. Most of us trust our mobile phones to lead us where we want to go, but sometimes they let us down: the battery is flat, we run out of data, or we go through a spot where there is no coverage.

Our phones fail us often, but still we trust them. We find it harder to trust Jesus, the only GPS that never fails, the only one who can get us to our most important destination in life. If we look for him he will find us, and once we find him, we won't let him go. We'll keep our eyes on him and we won't get lost.



Thank you to those volunteers who assist with the annual Mass count during the month of May. This data is used for long-term pastoral planning in the diocese, and it also contributes to the Holy See's Statistical Yearbook of the Church (*Annuario Statisticum Ecclesiae*).

Please note that I am away from the parish on Tuesday and Wednesday, so there are no Masses in Hamilton on those days.

Godspeed,

Fr John

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: **Eryn McDonald.** Our prayers and sympathies are with the McDonald and Cottier families.

ANNIVERSARIES:

Balmoral: Cath Howman, Ivan Grey, Keith Daffey, Rose Blencowe.

Hamilton: Bernice Turner, Irene Donne, Mary Tedesco, Bernadette Blohm, Cath Howman, Lucielle Selman, Tess Ely, Troy Wareham, Mary Ross, Shane Rhook.

Casterton: Thelma McGinty, Mary Fitzgerald, Mary O'Connell, Mich Smith, Iris Kermeen, Tom & Grace Doyle, Patricia Pitkin, Annie McCathy, Mary Balkin, Olly O'Connell, Andrew Larkins, Bill McGinty, Rodger Buckle, Ella Gurry, Sr Patricia McArlein RSM.

Coleraine: Mona Foley, Edna Crawley, Joseph Fox, Ivan Shaw, Norman Brown.

Edenhope: Margaret Heffernan, June Conlan, Tommy Moore, Cath Reader, Phillip Carey, Frank Sagasser, Edward Cranage, Fr Sproules, Luke Dubois.

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

THIS WEEK'S ROSTER

St Patrick's, Balmoral (9am Mass)

- Reader: Michele
- Intercessions: Sabrina

Sacred Heart, Casterton (9am Mass)

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

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

- Reader: Kevin Myers
- Communion: John Kane
- Leaders: Dot Norris & Marge Ferguson

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

- Reader: E Musser
- Intercessions: G Kirby

St Joseph's, Peshurst (No Mass)

- Reader:
- Prayers:

Grange - Frank Soulsby

NEXT WEEK'S ROSTER 10th May

St Patrick's, Balmoral (No Mass)

- Reader:
- Intercessions:

Sacred Heart, Casterton (10am Lay-led Assembly)

- Leader: J Donegan & H Gorman
- Reader: P Gorman
- Commentator: Kathy Brody
- Communion: K Mitchell
- Counters: J Donegan & PDurbidge

St Joseph's, Coleraine (9am Mass)

- Reader: Shane Whelan
- Communion:

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

- Reader: G Clarke
- Intercessions: Ricardo F

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

- Reader: Don Adamson
- Prayers: Theresa Fitzgerald
- Gifts: Helen & Theresa

Grange - Margaret Roberts

| St Mary's Hamilton | Opening & Welcome | Cuppa | Computer | Commentator | First Reading | Second Reading | Communion |
|--------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| This Sat. 6pm | Chris Jansen | Annette & Peter | Chris Jansen | Volunteer | Terrielynn | Fiona-Marie | J Ryan & P Kelly |
| This Sun. 10.30am | John Hockey | Sherrie & John | Carolyn Stanhope | Frank Soulsby | Helen Tripovich | Wendy Collins | R Murphy U Murphy F Soulsby |
| Next Sat. 6pm. | Karen Brewis | Ophiya & Sairah | Jacinta Ryan | Maureen Dunn | Angelina Jubby | Sairah Joeman | K Brewis K Barker |
| Next Sun. 10.30am | Frank Soulsby | Richard & Ursula | Peter Christopher | Frank Soulsby | Sherrie Hockey | Jacob Nenke | T Irving T Hurley F Soulsby |

In your house O God,
there are many dwelling places,
and your Son has gone to prepare a place for us,
that where Christ is, there we may be also.
Do not let our hearts be troubled,
but fill our lives in deeds of service.
Make us follow this Jesus with joy,
the way, the truth, and the life.
Praying as always through
Jesus the Christ. AMEN.



PRAY WITH THE POPE

Each month, Pope Leo produces a short video and invites the faithful to pray with him. To view this month's video, visit www.popesprayer.va

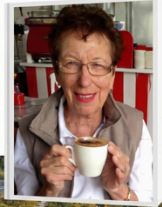
May 2026: *That Everyone Might Have Food*

Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

| MONDAY 4 th MAY Fifth Week of Easter | TUESDAY 5 th MAY Fifth Week of Easter | WEDNESDAY 6 th MAY Fifth Week of Easter |
|---|---|--|
| <p>9:30am Mass, Hamilton 5pm Confessions, Hamilton</p> <p><i>Without the Way, there is no going; without the Truth, there is no knowing; without the Life, there is no living.</i> Bl Thomas à Kempis</p>  | <p>4pm Holy Hour, Hamilton 5:15pm Mass, Hamilton</p> <p><i>Food for thought:</i> PEACE STARTS WITH A SMILE!</p>  | <p>9:30am Mass, Hamilton 10:30am Mass, Casterton 5pm Rosary, Hamilton 7pm Rosary, Hamilton</p> |

ONLINE FAITH FORMATION

The Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) offers online study at low cost (\$50usd) through our partner, Dayton University. The next Cycle, which begins 1st June, offers 30 subjects across a five-week period. Subjects include Bereavement Ministry, Bible Basics, Christology, Church History, Praying With Children, Survey of Catholic Doctrine, and The Mass. There's sure to be something that fits your interests.



"At age 80, I registered at VLCFF.UDayton.edu. The process was easy and each course has a facilitator to respond to your every concern. Now I've completed 8 e-courses!"

Jeannette Keegan
Australia



Registrations are open now until 26th May. Scan the QR code, call 5337 7121, or email fran.peterkin@ballarat.catholic.org.au



SAVE WITH CDF COMMUNITY FUND

It's in everyone's best interest

When you open a savings or term investment account with CDF Community Fund, you not only get a great return on your savings, but you will also help build new parishes for growing communities, classrooms for students, hospitals for the sick, aged care homes for the elderly, and social service facilities for the poor and vulnerable. With competitive interest rates across a range of accounts, including 4.30% p.a.* on 3-, 6- and 12-month Term Investments, it's a way to save while doing good.

Open an account today – *it's in everyone's best interest*. Scan the QR code, speak to us on 1800 134 135, or visit

www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund



* Interest rates subject to change. View current rates on the CDF website.



OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH PILGRIM STATUE

Because not everyone can travel to Portugal, the Blessed Mother "travels" to us! Our parish pilgrim statue encourages families to set aside a special week for public prayer and private reflection. When the statue enters a home, it serves as a visual reminder of Our Lady's message: Pray and fast for peace!

This week: 4pm daily Rosary at Marg Callaway's: 29 MacPherson Street, Hamilton. All welcome.

If you would like to join the roster of hosts and bring the statue into your home for a week, please contact Chris Jensen: 0407 719 530

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, this Thursday 7th May
Contact Marie Cook: 0417 321 378



COME AND SEE CATECHISM STUDY

Share fish and chips while exploring the *Catechism*. All are welcome: believers, non-believers, the curious and the cautious. No strings attached.

6pm-7:30pm Fridays, Hamilton

CUPPA & REFRESHMENTS

Every weekend:

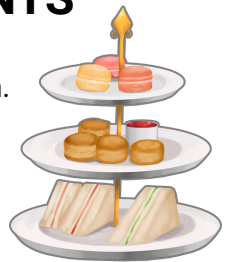
After 6pm and 10:30 Mass in Hamilton.

On second and fourth Sundays:

After 9am Mass in Glenthompson.

On fourth Sundays:

After 11am Mass in Casterton.



| THURSDAY 7 th MAY Fifth Week of Easter | FRIDAY 8 th MAY Fifth Week of Easter | SATURDAY 9 th MAY Fifth Week of Easter |
|--|--|---|
| <p>7:30am Men's Prayer Group, St Mary's Presbytery, Hamilton</p> <p>10am Funeral – Eryn McDonald RIP, Hamilton</p> <p>4pm Holy Hour, Hamilton</p> <p>5:15pm Mass, Hamilton</p> | <p>9:30am Mass Hamilton</p> <p>10am Anointing, Eventide</p> <p>12pm Hamilton Team Meeting, Hamilton</p> <p>5pm Confessions, Hamilton</p> <p>6pm Catechism Study, Hamilton</p> | <p>9:30am Mass, Hamilton</p> <p>10am Confessions, Hamilton</p> <p>5pm Confessions, Hamilton</p> <p>6pm Mass, Hamilton</p> <p><i>Trust the past to God's mercy, the present to His love, and the future to His providence.</i></p> <p>St Augustine </p> |

FIRST READING

Acts 6:1-7

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

They elected seven men full of the Holy Spirit

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

RESPONSORIAL

Psalms 32(33):1-2,4-5,18-19

R/. Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you..

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.
Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp,
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs.

For the word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love.

The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine.

SECOND READING

1 Peter 2:4-9

A reading from the first Letter of St Peter

Christ is the living stone, chosen by God and precious to him

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God,

may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 14:6

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;
no one comes to the Father, except through me.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 14:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life'

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am going now to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?'

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason. I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

| SUNDAY 10 th MAY Sixth Sunday of Easter | WE ARE A CHILD SAFE PARISH | ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY |
|--|--|--|
| <p>8:30am Mass, Glentompson 8:30am Mass, Penshurst 9am Mass, Coleraine 9am Mass, Harrow 10am Lay-led Assembly, Casterton 10:30am Mass, Hamilton 11:15am Mass, Edenhope</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 John Hockey - 0439 319 823.</p>  <p>ACSL AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC SAFEGUARDING LTD A safe Church for everyone</p> | <p>St Mary MacKillop Parish recognises the Traditional Custodians of parish lands: the Eastern Maar people, the Gunditjmarra 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> |