



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**

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (Year A)

Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th May, 2026

Do you love God? By the measure Jesus gives in today's Gospel, you love him when you receive his commandments and keep them. Love is more than feeling; it's a union of wills.

That sounds obscure, until you look at marriage. A husband and wife give themselves to one another so completely that they no longer live as individuals pursuing separate lives. A marriage weakens when one or both return to a "single" mindset: *my plans, my preferences, my way*. The union suffers when the wills are unaligned.

The spiritual life is no different. The honeymoon phase doesn't last forever. Lifelong commitment requires an act of the will: "I *choose* this, independent of what I feel." Our love of God is established on deliberate choice.

God has given us free will for exactly this. The freedom to choose makes us capable of love. It also enables us to veer off course. We try to be "holy" on our terms, busy with projects of our own making. St Augustine warns those who run towards the good but ignore God's direction: "**You run well, but off the path.**"

Jesus isn't looking for religious activity; he is looking for *alignment*. To love him is to prefer his will to our own: to walk the path he has chosen for us serenely and cheerfully. The deepest act of love is not emotion, but self-surrender. This is why motherhood is such a profound revelation of love. In the words of St Thérèse of Lisieux: "**The loveliest masterpiece of the heart of God is the heart of a mother.**"

May God bless all mothers in our parish, living and deceased. Their habitual sacrifices, often unnoticed, are a gentle but powerful witness to the strength and fidelity at the heart of Christian love.

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:

Tom Kelly. Our prayers and sympathies are with Marie and family.

Fr Jim Littleton. May God bless the MSC family in their loss.

ANNIVERSARIES:

Balmoral: Rose Blencowe, Carolyn Claridge, Marg Farrell, Shannon Appleton, Mervyn Grey.

Casterton: Robert Lambert, Brian Murphy, Nancy McCarthy, Dick Cooper, Fr Denis McCarthy, Michael O'Loughlin, Pat Bell, Kevin Lindsay, Bae Olle, Robert Lambert, Thomas Upton, Dorothy Hill, Edith Luers, Neville McNamara.

Coleraine: Mervyn Grey, Bill Hutchins, Frank Utber.

Edenhope: Flo Ryan, Andrew Ryan, Margaret McGennisken, Maud Ryan, Rose Cranage, Yvonne Burns, Janis Reader, Mary Smith, Brian Barrett, Anthony Brook.

Hamilton: Kathleen Lyons, Graeme Campbell, Carmel Scott, Paul Coleman, Joan Newell, Judy Mibus, Sheila Robers, Bill Bunney.

Harrow:

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

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

THIS WEEK'S ROSTER

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 & P Durbidge

St Joseph's, Coleraine (9am Mass)

- Reader: Shane Whelan:

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

NEXT WEEK'S ROSTER 17th May

St Patrick's, Balmoral (9am Mass)

- Reader:
- Intercessions:

Sacred Heart, Casterton (4pm Mass)

- Reader: Charlie Koch
- Commentator: K Brody
- Communion: Renju, M Davis
- Counters: P Durbride, M Murphy

St Joseph's, Coleraine (9am Mass)

- Reader: Kaye Wraith

St Malachy's, Edenhope (11.15am Mass)

- Reader: R Rokebrand
- Intercessions: C McCann

St Joseph's, Peshurst (8.30am Lay-led Assambly)

- Leader: Brendan Kelly
- Reader: Catherine Loria
- Prayers: Rob Coates

Grange -

St Mary's Hamilton	Opening & Welcome	Cuppa	Computer	Commentator	First Reading	Second Reading	Communion
This Sat. 6pm.	Karen Brewis	Ophiya & Sairah	Jacinta Ryan	Maureen Dunn	Angelina Juby	Sairah Joeman	K Brewis K Barker
This Sun. 10.30am	Frank Soulsby	Richard & Ursula	Peter Christopher	Frank Soulsby	Sherrie Hockey	Wendy Collins	T Irving P Wheaton F Soulsby
16/05 6pm	Pauline Kelly	Chris & Kathie Jansen	Pauline Kelly	Fiona-Marie	Maureen Dunn	Jacina Ryan	N & N Joseph
17/05 10.30am	Carolyn Stanhope	Della & Glenn	Carolyn Stanhope	Rohan Fitzgerald	Richard Murphy	Ursula Murphy	R Fitzgerald M Roberts M Cook

HAPPY
Mother's Day

All-loving God, we give you thanks and praise for mothers young and old.

May they be blessed with patience and tenderness to care for their families and themselves with great joy.

We pray for our own mothers who have nurtured and cared for us; may they continue to guide us in strong and gentle ways. We remember mothers who are separated from their children because of war, poverty or conflict.

May they feel the loving embrace of God, who wipes away every tear. We pray for women who are not mothers, but still love and shape us with motherly care and compassion. We remember mothers, grandmothers, and great-grandmothers who are no longer with us, but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love.

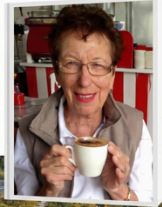
AMEN.



MONDAY 11 th MAY Sixth Week of Easter	TUESDAY 12 th MAY Sixth Week of Easter	WEDNESDAY 13 th MAY Our Lady of Fatima
9.30am Mass, Hamilton. 5pm Confessions, Hamilton	2pm Bereavement Team Meeting, Hamilton 4pm Holy Hour, Hamilton 5-15pm Mass, Hamilton	9:30am Mass, Hamilton 10:30am Mass, Casterton 5pm Rosary, Hamilton 7pm Rosary, Hamilton

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



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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

Our parish pilgrim statue encourages families to set aside a special week to host a public Rosary and honour Our Lady's request at Fatima to pray for lasting 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

"For it was you who created my being, knit me together in my mother's womb. I thank you for the wonder of my being, for the wonders of all your creation."



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

Casterton:

After 11am Mass on 4th Sundays.

Balmoral:

After 9am Mass on 1st and 3rd Sundays.

Dunkeld:

After 8:30 Mass on 1st and 3rd Sundays.



Glenthompson:

After 9am Mass on 2nd and 4th Sundays.

Hamilton:

After 6pm and 10:30 Mass every weekend.



THURSDAY 14th MAY St Matthias, Apostle	FRIDAY 15th MAY Sixth Week of Easter	SATURDAY 16th MAY Sixth Week of Easter
<p>10:00am Mass, Casterton (Please note new day & time) 7:30am Men's Prayer Group, St Mary's Presbytery, Hamilton 4pm Holy Hour, Hamilton 5:15pm Mass, Hamilton</p> <p><i>"Every mother is like Moses. She does not enter the Promised Land. She prepares a world she will not see."</i></p> <p>Pope St Paul VI </p>	<p>10am Funeral Mass, Tom Kelly RIP, Hamilton 2pm Mass, Glenelg House, Casterton 5pm Confessions, Hamilton 6pm Catechism Study, Hamilton</p>	<p>9:30am Mass, Hamilton 10am Confessions, Hamilton 5pm Confessions, Hamilton 6pm Mass, Hamilton</p> <p><i>"To be a mother is to nourish and protect true humanity."</i></p> <p>St Edith Stein </p>

FIRST READING

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

They laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

RESPONSORIAL

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

R/. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Cry out with joy to God all the earth,
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise.
Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds!'

'Before you all the earth shall bow;
shall sing to you, sing to your name!
Come and see the works of God,
tremendous his deeds among men.

He turned the sea into dry land,
they passed through the river dry-shod.
Let our joy then be in him;
he rules for ever by his might.

Come and hear, all who fear God.
I will tell what he did for my soul:
Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer
nor withhold his love from me.



SECOND READING

1 Peter 4:13-16

A reading from the first Letter of St Peter

It is a blessing for you when they insult you

If you can have some share in the sufferings of Christ, be glad, because you will enjoy a much greater gladness when his glory is revealed. It is a blessing for you when they insult you for bearing the name of Christ, because it means that you have the Spirit of glory, the Spirit of God resting on you. None of you should ever deserve to suffer for being a murderer, a thief, a criminal or an informer; but if anyone of you should suffer for being a Christian, then he is not to be ashamed of it; he should thank God that he has been called one.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 14:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

'I will not leave you orphans'

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If you love me you will keep my commandments.

I shall ask the Father,
and he will give you another Advocate
to be with you for ever,
that Spirit of truth

whom the world can never receive
since it neither sees nor knows him;
but you know him,
because he is with you, he is in you.

I will not leave you orphans;
I will come back to you.

In a short time the world will no longer see me;
but you will see me,
because I live and you will live.

On that day
you will understand that I am in my Father
and you in me and I in you.

Anybody who receives my commandments
and keeps them

will be one who loves me;

and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father,
and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

<p>SUNDAY 17th MAY The Ascension of the Lord</p>	<p>WE ARE A CHILD SAFE PARISH</p>	<p>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY</p>
<p>8:30am Mass, Dunkeld 8:30am Lay-led Assembly, Peshurst 9am Mass, Balmoral 9am Mass, Coleraine 10:30am Mass, Hamilton 11:15am Mass, Edenhope 4pm Mass, Casterton</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>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>