



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**

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD (Year A)

Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th May, 2026

In his account of the Ascension of Jesus, St Luke describes the disciples looking on until "a cloud took him from their sight." A cloud only obscures; it does not erase. Like the sun behind a storm, Jesus remains stable and in control, watching us from just behind the veil.



When the angels asked, "Why are you standing there looking at the sky?" everything shifts: the time for watching had ended and the time for acting had begun. The Apostles took up the task, passing on the Gospel by giving their very lives. Now, it is our turn.

Through Baptism, we are empowered to be witnesses. Jesus stands apart from all other religious figures. While others say, "Follow my teachings," Jesus says, "Love me and become like me." He is either who he says he is (God) or he is mad; we cannot be indifferent to his claim or reduce him to good but merely human moral teacher.

The Apostles returned to Jerusalem with "great joy." This is the treasure we hold: the truth that frees people from addiction, misery, and darkness. This joy is the fire of the Holy Spirit burning in our hearts, pushing us to spread the flame.

Jesus will return in the same way he departed. He hasn't left us as orphans; he is simply waiting for us to finish our mission. Don't worry if you are weary. He has prepared a place for us beyond our wildest dreams. We have the whole of eternity to rest, relax, and enjoy the presence of God and those we love.

Fr John

LET US PRAY

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

FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED:

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

ANNIVERSARIES:

Balmoral: Gerard White, Lucille Pekin.

Casterton: Colin Humphries, Jessie O'Brien, Eileen Tierney, Margaret Hatley, Eileen Tierney, John Gorman, Charles Koch, Richard McCann, Catherine Doyle, Pat Pinnell, Alan Crossley, Peter Collins.

Coleraine: Marcia Willis, Les Treloar, Fr Con Healy, John O'Neil

Edenhope: Agnes Fitzgerald, Greta Rokebrand, Lin McCarthy, Cecile Close, Barbara Albers, Tom Gaynor, John Gleeson, Dick McCann, Gordon Gibbs, Charles Kealy, Dan West, Frances Farrelly.

Hamilton: Irene Pryor, Jack Murphy, Norma Soawyer, Nellie Rees, Beth Phillips, Kaye Griffin, Sharyn Aron.

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:* Geno
- *Intercessions:* Caryl

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 - Margaret Roberts

NEXT WEEK'S ROSTER 24th May

St Patrick's, Balmoral (No Mass)

- *Reader:*
- *Intercessions:*

Sacred Heart, Casterton (11am Mass)

- *Reader:* K Hauler
- *Commentator:* S McManus
- *Communion:* M egger & M Baulch
- *Counters:* Monica Murphy & Helen Gorman

St Joseph's, Coleraine (9am Mass)

- *Reader:* Dot Norris

St Malachy's, Edenhope (11.15am Lay-led Assambly)

- *Reader:* A Kealy
- *Intercessions:* M Payne *Leader:* C. Heenan

St Joseph's, Peshurst (8.30am Mass)

- *Lector:* Brendan Kelly
- *Prayers:* Terry Pezutti
- *Gifts:* Anita & Rob

Grange -

St Mary's Hamilton	Opening & Welcome	Cuppa	Computer	Commentator	First Reading	Second Reading	Communion
This Sat. 6pm.	Pauline Kelly	Chris & Kathie Jansen	Pauline Kelly	Fiona-Marie	Maureen Dunn	Jacina Ryan	N & N Joseph
This Sun. 10.30am	Carolyn Stanhope	Della & Glenn	Carolyn Stanhope	Sherrie Hockey	Richard Murphy	Ursula Murphy	M Roberts M Cook A Wheaton
23/05 6pm	Karen Brewis	Vanessa Storan	Jacinta Ryan	Chris Jansen	Karen Brewis	Jack Bell	A Mason P Fitzgerald
24/05 10.30am	John Hockey	Anne & Des	Richard Murphy	Ursula Murphy	Wendy Collins	Selina Perera	T Hurley J Nenke T Irving

PRAYER

God of all creation,
whose mighty power raised Jesus from the dead,
be present to this community of disciples
who you have called to the hope
of a glorious inheritance among the saints.

Strengthen us in the power of the Spirit
to go and make disciple of all nations,
to obey everthing that Jesus ha commanded us,
and to know that he is with us always
until the end of the age,
interceding before you on our behalf,
living the reigning with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

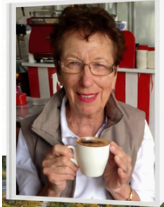
AMEN.



MONDAY 18 th MAY Seventh Week of Easter	TUESDAY 19 th MAY Seventh Week of Easter	WEDNESDAY 20 th MAY Seventh Week of Easter
9.30am Mass, Hamilton. 5pm Confessions, Hamilton	4pm Holy Hour, Hamilton 5:15pm Mass, Hamilton	9:30am Mass, Hamilton 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 27 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 28th 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 5.35% p.a.* on 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.

PARISH PILGRIM STATUE

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

This week: Noreen Shepherd's
2 Mannett Street, Hamilton
Rosary Daily at 3.30 pm
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

ANCIENT TEXTS FOR OUR TROUBLED TIMES

A free three-part online educational series featuring Professor Amy-Jill Levine, hosted by Bat Kol International at 11:30pm on 2nd June, 4th August, and 1st September.



Each one-hour session will explore the interpretive complexities of the New Testament, assisting Christians to preach and teach the Gospels. Bat Kol International's vision is to promote and support Christians studying the Word of God within its Jewish Milieu, using Jewish Sources. For information and registration details, go to <https://batkolinternational.org/>

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: "There are two ways to get enough. One is to continue to accumulate more and more. The other is to desire less." (G.K. Chesterton)

REFRESHMENTS AFTER MASS

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 8:30am Mass on 2nd and 4th Sundays



Hamilton:

After 6pm and 10:30 Mass every weekend



THURSDAY 21st MAY Seventh Week of Easter	FRIDAY 22nd MAY Seventh Week of Easter	SATURDAY 23rd MAY Seventh Week of Easter
<p>7:30am Men's Prayer Group, St Mary's Presbytery, Hamilton 10am Mass, Casterton 4pm Holy Hour, Hamilton 5:15pm Mass, Hamilton</p> <p><i>"Post-Ascension, our Redeemer's visible presence has passed into the sacraments."</i></p> <p>Pope St Leo the Great </p>	<p>9:30am Mass, Hamilton 12pm Parish Team Meeting, Hamilton 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>"Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours."</i></p> <p>St Teresa of Avila </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

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

RESPONSORIAL

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

R/. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord..

All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth.

'God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise.

'God is king of all the earth,
sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:17-23

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians

God made him sit at his right hand in heaven

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named not only in this age but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 28:19. 20

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.
I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 28:16-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

'Go and make disciples of all nations'

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

SUNDAY 24 th MAY Pentecost Sunday	WE ARE A CHILD SAFE PARISH	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY
<p>8:30am Mass, Glenthompson 8:30am Mass, Peshurst 9am Mass, Coleraine 9am Lay-led Assembly, Dunkeld 9am Mass, Tarrayoukyan 10:30am Mass, Hamilton 11am Mass, Casterton 11:15am Lay-led Assembly, 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>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>