



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 **Tarrayoukian**

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th July, 2026 | Year A Lectionary Readings

PARABLE OF THE SOWER

Today, Jesus speaks to us through the Parable of the Sower. Because we understand earthly images better than abstract concepts, he uses the familiar language of seeds and soil to reveal profound spiritual truths.

Jesus is the Sower, generously scattering the perfect, free seed of his Word and Sacraments. We are the soil, and he entirely respects our freedom to choose how we respond. To make his grace fruitful, we must actively prepare our hearts.

Is your heart hardened by the world? Soften it through regular confession and holy communion. Is it rocky or choked by worldly thorns? Dig out the distractions blocking God's light.

True spiritual growth requires continuous, daily effort. We must nurture this divine seed constantly: watering it with prayer, protecting it from temptation, and allowing its roots to run deep. This week, let us tend our soil to yield a rich, beautiful harvest for the Lord.

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 FAITHFUL DEPARTED:

Gavin Larkins, Noel Murphy.

FOR THE SICK:

Michael Callaway, Enzo Diano, Roma Doherty, Ian Ferguson, Quirinus Onderwater, Bernadette Rees, Loui Brown, Andy Gordon.

FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:

Balmoral:

Casterton: Archibald Brown, Amy & Jack Durbidge, Eddie Farrell, Mollie Donegan, Kath Astbury, John Egerton, James Gorman, Murray Martin, Alan Richardson, Stanley Brooker, Brenda O'Connell, William O'Conner, Emma Lucas, Kath Carey, Nancy Condon, Archie & Christina Brown, Bev Goodes, Alan Richardson, James Gorman, Judy Tait, Graeme Henty-Anderson, Harold Simkin, Kay Luers, John Egerton, Des Currie.

Coleraine: Win Fidler, Francis Utber, Bert Hughes, Rose Delvin.

Edenhope: Velma Reader, Mary Kealy, Bernice Mulraney, Muriel Mahney, John McDonnell, Pauline Egger.

Hamilton: Carmel Ross, Jean Clark, Anna Kozicki, Peter Last, Mary Taylor, Ursula Sosinski, Elizabeth Kranz, Ray Corbett, Angela O'Neil, Florence Price, Kathleen Munro, Roger Edge, Dorothy McMahon.

THIS WEEK'S ROSTER - 12th JULY

St Patrick's, Balmoral

- Reader:
- Intercessions:

Sacred Heart, Casterton (10am Lay-led)

- Reader: Michael O'Connell.
- Commentator: J. Donegan.
- Communion: M. Davis & C. Condon.
- Counters: H. Gorman & P. Durbidge.

St Joseph's, Coleraine (9am Mass)

- Reader: Kaye Wraith

St Malachy's, Edenhope (11.15am Mass)

- Reader: R Rokebrand
- Intercessions:

St Joseph's, Penshurst (8.30am Mass)

- Reader: Don Adamson
- Prayers: Rob Coates
- Gifts: Rob & Helen

Grange - John Hockey

NEXT WEEK'S ROSTER

St Patrick's, Balmoral (9am Mass)

- Reader: Michele
- Intercessions: Caryl

Sacred Heart, Casterton (4pm Mass)

- Reader: Michael O'Connell
- Commentator: John Donegan
- Communion: K Mitchell, C Condon
- Counters: J Donegan, M Murphy

St Joseph's, Coleraine (9am Mass)

- Readers: Dot Norris

St Malachy's, Edenhope (11.15am Mass)

- Reader: C McCann
- Intercessions: H Surman

St Joseph's, Penshurst (8.30am Lay-Led Mass)

Leader: Brendan Kelly

Reader: Catherine Loria

Prayers: Theresa Fitzgerald

Grange - Maria Patience

St Mary's Hamilton	Opening & Welcome	Cuppa	Computer	Commentator	First Reading	Second Reading	Communion
Sat 11/07	Karen Brewis	Annette & Peter		Karen Brewis	Annette Mason	Chris Jansen	P & M Dunn
Sun 12/07	John Hockey	Richard & Ursula	Carolyn Stanhope	Frank Soulsby	Carmel Schlaghecke	Sherrie Hockey	M Cook T Hurley M Roberts
Sat 18/07	Pauline Kelly	Ophiya & Sairah	Pauline Kelly	Karen Brewis	Maureen Dunn	Sairah Joeman	K Brewis K Barker
Sun 19/07	Frank Soulsby	Sherrie & John	Peter Christopher	Frank Soulsby	Helen Tripovich	Trish Irving	J Nenke F Soulsby R Fitzgerald

PRAYER

God Sower of the seed,
we marvel at how your word accomplishes
the purpose for which you sent it forth:
how few of the seed you sow take root,
yet how spectacular their abundant yield.

Make us good soil, ready to receive what you sow,
that we may hear the word and understand it,
bear fruit and yield a hundredfold.

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



JULY 2026: FOR RESPECT FOR HUMAN LIFE.

Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognising it as a gift from God.

MONDAY 13 th JULY Fifteenth Week in Ordinary Time	TUESDAY 14 th JULY Fifteenth Week in Ordinary Time	WEDNESDAY 15 th JULY St Bonaventure, Bishop, Doctor
9.30am Mass, Hamilton 10.00am Requiem Mass, Noel Murphy, Casterton. 5pm Reconciliation, Hamilton	4pm Adoration, Hamilton 5.15pm Mass, Hamilton	9:30am Mass, Hamilton 10am Rosary & Litany, Casterton 5pm Rosary, Hamilton

CHOSEN 2026

National Catholic Conference for Young Australians

Chosen is a four-day Catholic Conference for young Australians who are open to encountering God in a real and personal way. Hosted by Jesus Youth Australia, the conference brings together teens (16+), young adults (18-35) and young couples (married up to 5 years) from across the country.

Over four days, 19-22 November at La Trobe University, Bundoora, you'll experience worship, talks, prayer, Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, workshops and more.

More info <https://chosenconference.org.au/> or contact Emil Mary Tom. Ph: 0406256263. E-mail: emilmarytom@gmail.com



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* Interest rates subject to change.
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PLATINUM JUBILEE

On Wednesday 22nd July, Fr Damien Heath celebrates the 70th Anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. The parish will celebrate this significant milestone – and the extraordinary gift

Fr Damien is to all of us – on **Sunday 26th July**. You are warmly invited to 11am Mass at Sacred Heart Church in Casterton, followed by a celebration in the adjacent church hall.

PARISH PILGRIM STATUE

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

*This week: Marg Callaway
29 McPherson Street
Rosary Daily at 3.30 pm
All welcome*

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



ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP CONTRIBUTION

As we approach the end of the financial year, a reminder that our parish relies on your donations via our stewardship program to continue operating. If you have not yet contributed for this year, and are able to do so, EFT details are **St Mary MacKillop Parish**

BSB: **083-663** Acc: **01 715 7303**
or to **23 Dinwoodie Street, Hamilton, VIC 3300.**

With Thanks! John Hockey Parish Manager.

THURSDAY 16 th JULY Our Lady of Mount Carmel	FRIDAY 17 th JULY Fifteenth Week in Ordinary Time	SATURDAY 18 th JULY Fifteenth Week in Ordinary Time
7:30am Men's Prayer Group , St Mary's Presbytery, Hamilton 9:30am Mass , Penshurst 10am Mass , Casterton 2pm Anointing , Eventide, Hamilton 2pm Mass , Glenelg House, Casterton 4pm Adoration , Hamilton 5:15pm Mass , Hamilton	9:30am Mass , Hamilton 11:30am Funeral , Garvin Larkins, RIP. Casterton 5pm Reconciliation , Hamilton	9:30am Mass , Hamilton 10am Reconciliation , Hamilton 5pm Reconciliation , Hamilton 6pm Mass , Hamilton

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:10-11

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

The rain makes the earth fruitful

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

RESPONSORIAL

Psalms 64:10-14 R. Lk 8:8

R/. The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

You care for the earth, give it water,
you fill it with riches.
Your river in heaven brims over
to provide its grain.

And thus you provide for the earth;
you drench its furrows,
you level it, soften it with showers,
you bless its growth.

You crown the year with your goodness.
Abundance flows in your steps,
in the pastures of the wilderness it flows.

The hills are girded with joy,
the meadows covered with flocks,
the valleys are decked with wheat.
They shout for joy, yes, they sing.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:18-23

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

Buried with him through baptism, we shall walk in a new life

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower;
all who come to him will live for ever.

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:1-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

A sower went out to sow

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled:

You will listen and listen again, but not understand,
see and see again, but not perceive.

For the heart of this nation has grown coarse,
their ears are dull of hearing,
and they have shut their eyes,
for fear they should see with their eyes,
hear with their ears,
understand with their heart,
and be converted
and be healed by me.

'But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.

'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'

SUNDAY 12 th JULY Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	WE ARE A CHILD SAFE PARISH	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY
8:30am Mass, Glenthompson 8:30am Mass, Penshurst 9am Mass, Coleraine 9am Mass, Harrow 10am Lay-led, Casterton 10:30am Mass, Hamilton 11:15 Mass, 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 .  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 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.