



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**

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd August, 2026 | Year A

HUMBLE OFFERINGS

In this week's Gospel, Jesus seeks a quiet place to rest with His apostles, only to find a waiting crowd. Rather than turning them away, Jesus looks on them with deep compassion, so he listens, teaches, heals, and even feeds them. He cares about us too, both spiritually and physically.

To feed the crowd, Jesus could have worked a miracle out of thin air; instead he asks the disciples to solve the problem. Faced with thousands of hungry people, the disciples see scarcity: five loaves and two fish. Jesus sees something he can work with. He asks the same of us whenever we feel overwhelmed. We bring him our problems, and he replies: "Do something. I'll help you." When we surrender our modest talents, time, and humble efforts, he blesses and multiplies them beyond measure.

Early Church mosaics of this miracle often depict only four loaves alongside two fish. Why? Because the fifth loaf is brought to the altar, to become the Eucharist. Every Sunday, the same Jesus meets us in our everyday lives. He doesn't demand wealth or perfection to perform miracles – just a willing heart. Whatever scarce "bread and fish" you carry this week, bring it to the altar and watch him transform your humble offering into something great, all in service of others.



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:

FOR THE SICK:

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

FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:

Balmoral: Dirk Agee, Dorothy Daffey.

Casterton: Veronica Humphries, Ivan Nolte, Jack Gartlan, Lorna Blair, Alice Norris, Jack Nylon, Herb George, Reg Gill, Robin Williams, Millie Pierlot, Thomas Nolan, Bill Killey, Jeannie McCann, Ken Davis.

Coleraine: Des Willis, Tom Kane, Kevin Kaine, Patrick Clynes.

Edenhope: John Gash, Margaret Gleeson, Phillis McCann, Veronica Butler, Phyllis Munn, Les Burns, Edmond Kealy, IReis Robertson, Rose Mahoney, Greg White, Reg Fitzgerald.

Hamilton: Ken Burton, Pat Healy, Adrian Lyon, Alice Hennessy, Jacob Sosinski, Sheree Soawyer, Eileen Pierce, Evelyn Wigan, Darren Templeton, Kevin Healy.

Harrow: Reginald Fitzgerald.

THIS WEEK'S ROSTER

St Patrick's, Balmoral 9am Mass)

- Reader: Gerard
- Intercessions: Hubert

Sacred Heart, Casterton (9am Mass)

- Reader: M O'Connell
- Commentator: Shane Kelly
- Communion: Riya, M Davis
- Counters: M Murphy, H Gorman

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

- Readers: Aileen Utber

St Malachy's, Edenhope (11.15am Mass)

- Reader: C McFarlane
- Intercessions: A Kealy

St Joseph's, Penshurst - No Liturgy

Leader:
Reader:
Prayers:

Grange - Maria Patience

NEXT WEEK'S ROSTER - 9th Aug

St Patrick's, Balmoral - No Liturgy

- Reader:
- Intercessions:

Sacred Heart (10am Lay-Led Assembly)

- Leader: H Gorman, C Condon
- Reader: M O'Connell
- Commentator: S Kelly
- Communion: Riya, M Davis
- Counters: H Gorman, P Durbidge

St Joseph's, Coleraine (9am Mass)

- Reader: Shane Whelan

St Malachy's, Edenhope (11.15am Mass)

- Reader: Riccardo F
- Intercessions: M Payne

St Joseph's, Penshurst (8.30am Mass)

- Reader: Rob Coates
- Prayers: Terry Pezzutti
- Gifts: Rob & Helen

St Michael's, Harrow (9am Mass)

Grange - John Hockey

St Mary's Hamilton	Opening & Welcome	Cuppa	Computer	Commentator	First Reading	Second Reading	Communion
Sat 01/08	Karen Brewis	Chris & Kathie	Jacinta Ryan	Karen Brewis	Fiona-Marie	Pauline Kelly	K Barker P Kelly
Sun 02/08	John Hockey	Della & Glenn	Carolyn Stanhope	Frank Soulsby	Sherrie Hockey	Wendy Collins	F Soulsby T Hurley M Cook
Sat 08/08	Pauline Kelly	Trish Soawyer	Pauline Kelly	Fion-Marie	Maureen Dunn	Jet Storan	P&M Dunn
Sun 09/08	Frank Soulsby	Anne & Des	Peter Christopher	Frank Soulsby	Helen Tripovich	Trish Irving	F Soulsby T Irving M Roberts

PRAYER

Loving God

as a mother tenderly gathers her children
and as a father joyfully welcomes his own,
so in the compassion of Jesus
you nurture and nourish us,
feed us and heal us.

Let the bread Jesus multiplied then in the wilderness
be broken and shared among us now.

May the communion we experience with each other
in this holy meal, compel us to seek communion
with everyone in loving service toward all.

Praying as always, through Jesus the Christ. Amen.

We welcome in
Baptism at
St Patrick's, Balmoral:



**Charlotte
Alexandra
Plush**

Daughter of
Janet & William.

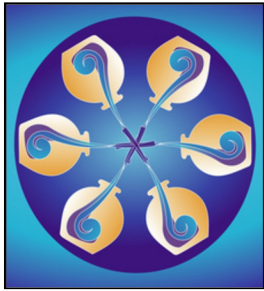
MONDAY 3 rd AUGUST St Dominic, Priest	TUESDAY 4 th AUGUST St Jean-Marie Vianney, Priest	WEDNESDAY 5 th AUGUST Eighteenth Week in Ordinary Time
9.30am Mass, Hamilton 5pm Reconciliation, Hamilton  <i>"Contemplate, and give to others the fruits of contemplation."</i> – Dominican motto.	10am Zone Meeting, Warrnambool 4pm Adoration, Hamilton 5:15pm Mass, Hamilton  <i>"I look at Him; He looks at me."</i> – St Jean-Marie Vianney's famous description of Eucharistic Adoration.	9:30am Mass, Hamilton 10am Rosary & Litany, Casterton 5pm Rosary, Hamilton

RETREAT DAY IN HAMILTON

Next Sunday, 11:30am to 5pm, MacKillop Centre

NO COST - Funded by the Ballarat Diocesan Foundation

Discover how food, conversation, and companionship can be pathways to God. Led by experienced Spiritual Director Anna Schlooz, this unique retreat invites you to prayerfully explore Gospel meal stories where Jesus gathered with friends and strangers alike.



Inspired by St Ignatius' *Rules for Eating*, participants will engage in contemplative prayer and explore the sacredness of everyday experiences. The retreat also incorporates creative prayer, inviting you to create simple artworks. Anna brings a rich background in arts education and Ignatian spirituality to guide you in your prayer. Material and meals are provided; please bring your own journal and Bible. Register your interest at ecomyriad@gmail.com by Monday 3rd August.

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
Contact Marie Cook: 0417 321 378

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: Noreen Shepherd
2 Mannett Street
Rosary daily at 3.30 pm



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



ST VINNIES WINTER APPEAL

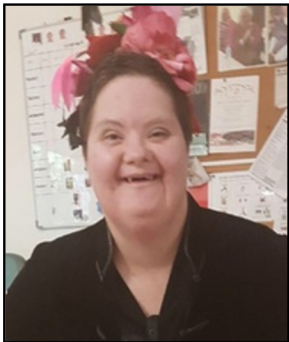
After all Masses this weekend

In addition to financial donations, offerings of non-perishable food items are always welcome – eg: sandwich spreads, tinned foods (fruit, baked beans, spaghetti), and easily prepared packet food. Thank you for your generosity and support for those in need in our local community.



ACCESSIBILITY UPGRADES – ST MARY'S CHURCH HAMILTON

You may notice some recent upgrades to accessibility at St Mary's Church, Hamilton. This includes better accessibility at the front of the church as well as the path leading to the Maryknoll carpark. These improvements were funded from the bequest of our late parishioner Diane Ryan.



Additionally, and long overdue, we have refurbished one part of the church toilets near the MacKillop Centre to provide a unisex accessible toilet with baby change facility.

5 CLARENDON ST, HAMILTON

For the last 18 years, the former Hamilton presbytery, located at 5 Clarendon St, has been rented to Western District Health Service (WDHS) who used it for short term accommodation for their staff. WDHS have recently decided to end their lease which has prompted the parish finance committee to look at the best direction for this property. The committee has recommended that the property be sold with the sale proceeds being either invested in the CDF (Term Deposit) or used for other parish property developments. Further information and feedback on this proposal can be provided by contacting John Hockey (Parish Manager) on 0439 319 823.

THURSDAY 6 th AUGUST The Transfiguration of the Lord	FRIDAY 7 th AUGUST Eighteenth Week in Ordinary Time	SATURDAY 8 th AUGUST St Mary of the Cross (MacKillop)
7:30am Men's Prayer Group, St Mary's Presbytery, Hamilton 10am Mass, Casterton 10:30am Anointing, Eventide 4pm Adoration, Hamilton 5:15pm Mass, Hamilton	9:30am Mass, Hamilton 10am First Friday Mass, Casterton 5pm Reconciliation, Hamilton  "I will establish peace in their homes." – From the First Friday promises	9:30am Mass, Hamilton 10am Reconciliation, Hamilton 5pm Reconciliation, Hamilton 6pm Mass, Hamilton "Remember we are but travellers here." – St Mary MacKillop 

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:1-3

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Come and eat

Thus says the Lord: Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money, come! Buy corn without money, and eat, and, at no cost, wine and milk. Why spend money on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy. Pay attention, come to me; listen, and your soul will live. With you I will make an everlasting covenant out of the favours promised to David.

RESPONSORIAL

Psalms 144(145):8-9,15-18

R/. The hand of the Lord feeds us;
he answers all our needs.

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures.
The eyes of all creatures look to you
and you give them their food in due time.
You open wide your hand,
grant the desires of all who live.
The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:35,37-39

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

No created thing can ever come between us
and the love of God made visible in Christ

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.
For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 4:4

Alleluia, alleluia!
No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Alleluia!

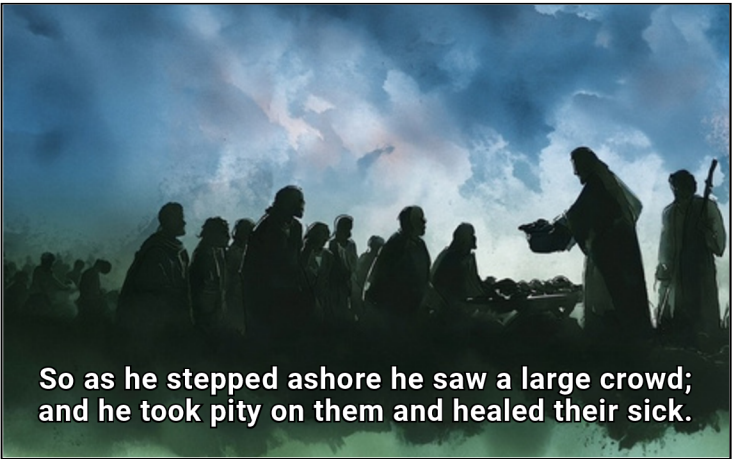
GOSPEL

Matthew 14:13-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

The feeding of the five thousand

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick.
When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining; twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.



So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd;
and he took pity on them and healed their sick.

SUNDAY 9th AUGUST Nineteenth 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 Assembly, Casterton 10:30am Mass, Hamilton 11:15 Mass, Edenhope 11:30am One Day Retreat, Hamilton	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.