



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**

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th August, 2026 | Year A

TAKE UP YOUR CROSS

In last Sunday's Gospel, Jesus called Peter the rock on which he would build his Church. This Sunday, he calls him Satan. What went wrong?

Peter was quite prepared to believe that Jesus was the Christ. What he could not accept was rejection, suffering and the Cross. "This must not happen" he protests.

We can sympathise. Nobody looks for suffering. We want to be happy. But Jesus insists that suffering is a necessary condition for every Christian disciple.

They say that Michelangelo could look at a block of marble and see the statue already hidden within it. His task was to remove everything that did not belong.

God looks at us like that. He sees in us the image of his Son. But there is a lot that doesn't belong: pride, selfishness, resentment, attachment to our own plans. So the Christian life involves a chiselling away.

The Cross does not mean that suffering is good in itself, nor that Christians should seek misery. It means that suffering, when it comes, has a purpose. United to Christ, even the things we would never have chosen become instruments of grace.

Peter wanted Christ without the Cross. Jesus tells him — and he tells us — there is no other way. The Cross is not the end. It is the prelude to Easter.

CHANGES TO WEEKDAY SCHEDULE

I am away this week, departing Sunday and returning Saturday. During my absence, Fr Cay and Fr Vuong will be available for the usual parish ministry. However, Fr Gregory Tait is also on leave, so our priests will also be providing on-call cover for the Portland parish.

Please check the weekday schedule carefully over the next month or so, as there will be some changes to the usual timetable.

God bless,

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 Priests: **Fr Cay Trinh** - cay.trinh@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Fr Vuong Nguyen, CSsR - vuong.nguyen@redemptorists.org

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Casterton: **Brenda Bath** - 0427 701 327

Coleraine: **Kevin Myers** - 0407 688 449

LET US PRAY

FOR THE DEPARTED:

Brendan O'Connell.

FOR THE SICK:

Loui Brown, Michael Callaway, Ian Ferguson, Quirinus Onderwater, Jaibu Philip, Bernadette Rees.

FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:

Balmoral: Nell White, Delores Rosenau.

Casterton: Isabel Kelly, Harry Hannaford, Patricia Winch, Catherine Vise, Meta Fitzgerald, Belle Kelly, Muriel Reilley, Gerald McArlein, Irene O'Connell, Syd Smith, Peter Mullan, Marjorie Gilmore.

Coleraine: Nancy Kaine, Ellen McIntosh.

Edenhope: Eileen Peterson, Val Bull, Kim Jago, Reg Pahl, Thomas Bull, Esme Upton, Gerry Dwyer, Jack McDonnell.

Hamilton: Fr Pete Wood MSC, Fedor Kozicki, Joshua Quinsey, Patrick O'Leary, Franciska bruni, Frederick Guy, Winifred Burrell, Gayle Harris, Mary Penington, Basil Jeffreys, John Burow.

THIS WEEK'S ROSTER

St Patrick's, Balmoral - No Service

- Reader:
- Intercessions:

Sacred Heart, Casterton (9am Mass)

- Reader: Riya
- Commentator: K Hausler
- Communion:
- Counters:

St Joseph's, Coleraine (9am Ecumenical Service)

- Readers:

St Malachy's, Edenhope (11.15am Mass)

- Reader: Ricardo F
- Intercessions:

St Joseph's, Penshurst - No Service

- Leader:
- Reader:
- Prayers:

St Michael's, Harrow (4pm Mass)

Grange - Frank Soulsby

NEXT WEEK'S ROSTER (6TH Sept)

St Patrick's, Balmoral (9am Mass)

- Reader: Gerard
- Intercessions: Bernie

Sacred Heart (10.30am Mass)

- Reader: Rita McInerney
- Commentator: S Kelly
- Communion:
- Counters:

St Joseph's, Coleraine (9am Mass)

- Reader: Dot Norris

St Malachy's, Edenhope (11.15 Mass)

- Reader: C McCann
- Intercessions: C McFarlane

St Joseph's, Penshurst No Service

- Reader:
- Prayers:
- Gifts:

Grange - Frank Soulsby

St Mary's Hamilton	Opening & Welcome	Cuppa	Computer	Commentator	First Reading	Second Reading	Communion
Sat 29/08	Pauline Kelly	Vanessa Storan	Pauline Kelly	Terrielynn Groves	Jacinta Ryan	Jet Storen	K Barker P Murphy
Sun 30/08	Frank Soulsby	Della & Glenn	Peter Christopher	Frank Soulsby	Jacob Nenke	Carmel Schlaghecke	F Soulsby M Roberts P Wheaton
Sat 05/09	Chris Jansen	Trish Soawyer	Chris Jansen	Fion-Marie	Terrielynn	Jack Bell	P & M Dunn
Sun 06/09	John Hockey	Sherrie & John	Carolyn Stanhope	Frank Soulsby	Ursula Murphy	Selena Perera	R Murphy J Nenke M Cook

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: Dan McOwan's
165 Hensley Park Road
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

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



SEPTEMBER 2026: FOR THE CARE OF WATER

Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water -- a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

MONDAY 31 st AUGUST Twenty-second Week, Ordinary Time	TUESDAY 1 st SEPTEMBER Twenty-second Week, Ordinary Time	WEDNESDAY 2 nd SEPTEMBER Twenty-second Week, Ordinary Time
9:30am Mass, Hamilton 5pm Reconciliation, Hamilton	4pm Adoration, Hamilton 5:15pm Mass, Hamilton	9:30am Mass, Hamilton 10am Mass, Casterton 5pm Rosary, Hamilton



AUSTRALIAN BISHOPS SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT



For Social Justice Sunday, the Australian Catholic Bishops have issued ***Living the Gospel in Times of Social Division***. Against a background of growing polarisation and hostility — particularly online — the bishops call us to resist the temptation to treat those who differ from us as enemies. Instead, the Gospel asks us to recognise the dignity of every human life, to listen generously, seek encounter rather than division, and bring compassion and hope where there is fear and anger.

The bishops see the present climate not simply as a social problem but as an opportunity for Christian witness: our parishes can be places of genuine belonging and unity, and Catholics can help build a more peaceful, cohesive Australia — a “civilisation of love.” *Scan the QR code to obtain the statement.*

PRAYER

You created every person in your image and call us to live as one human family. In a world marked by division, fear and misunderstanding, fill our hearts with the self-giving love of Christ.

Teach us to see one another not as strangers or opponents, but as sisters and brothers, worthy of dignity, respect and compassion.

Give us the courage to build bridges where there is distrust, to seek encounter where there is separation, and to work for justice with humility and mercy.

Help us to listen with open hearts, speak with kindness, and walk together in the way of peace.

May your Holy Spirit guide us to welcome the stranger, stand beside those on the margins, reject all forms of hatred and racism, and become instruments of reconciliation in our communities.

Through the example of St Maximilian Kolbe and all the saints, strengthen us to live the Gospel through sacrifice, generosity and love, so that your light may shine through us and bring hope to our nation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

RENEWING THE OLD ST MARY'S CHURCH

As wallpaper glue is carefully removed from the old sanctuary walls of Old St Mary's, Hamilton parishioners can admire the faux-marble paintwork which once flanked the high altar.

Plans are underway to restore and renew the beautiful Wardell-designed interior. We want to recover what we can of the church's Gothic Revival heritage, while preparing it to serve generations to come.

👉 Read the full details on our website:
www.westernborder.church/renovation



SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

With Fr Vuong joining us for the next year, we have an opportunity to ensure that all three priests regularly visit the different communities across our parish. A new Sunday roster more evenly spreads Fr John, Fr Cay and Fr Vuong across our ten Mass centres.

Changes have been made to Casterton Mass times. Mass will now begin at 10:30am on the third, fourth and fifth Sundays of the month, providing a consistent schedule for the Sacred Heart community. Discussions will continue with the Casterton community about arrangements for the first Sunday of the month.

Harrow's Mass time is also standardised: 9am on the second Sunday and the fifth Sunday.

These changes come into effect in September.

THURSDAY 3 rd SEPTEMBER St Gregory the Great, Pope	FRIDAY 4 th SEPTEMBER Twenty-second Week, Ordinary Time	SATURDAY 5 th SEPTEMBER St Teresa of Calcutta
7:30am Men's Prayer Group , St Mary's Presbytery, Hamilton 10am Mass , Casterton 10:30am Anointing Mass , Portland 2pm Anointing , Grange 4pm Adoration , Hamilton 5:15pm Mass , Hamilton	9:30am Mass , Hamilton 9:30am Mass , Penshurst 10am First Friday Mass , Casterton 2pm Mass , Wannon Hostel 5pm Reconciliation , Hamilton	9:30am Mass , Hamilton 5pm Reconciliation , Hamilton 6pm Mass , Hamilton <i>"If you judge people, you have no time to love them."</i> – Mother Teresa 

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The word of the Lord has meant insult for me

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced; you have overpowered me: you were the stronger. I am a daily laughing-stock, everybody's butt.

Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!' The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long.

I used to say, 'I will not think about him, I will not speak in his name any more.' Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones. The effort to restrain it wearied me, I could not bear it.

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

RESPONSORIAL

Psalms 62(63):2-6,8-9

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf Eph 1:17, 18

R/. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God

O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water.

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise.

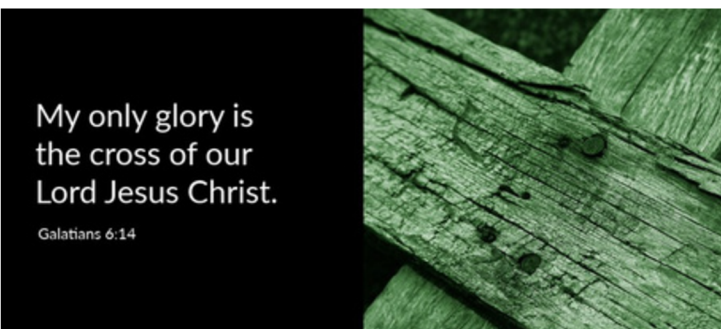
So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy.

For you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our heart,
that we might see how great is the hope
to which we are called.

Alleluia!



GOSPEL

Matthew 16:13-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

'Get behind me, Satan!'

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said 'this must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

SUNDAY 6 th SEPTEMBER Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time	WE ARE A CHILD SAFE PARISH	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY
8:30am Mass, Dunkeld 9am Mass, Casterton 9am Ecumenical Service, Coleraine 10:30am Mass, Hamilton 11:15am Mass, Edenhope 4pm Mass, Harrow	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. 	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.