

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' **Glenthompson**
St Mary's **Hamilton**
St Michael's **Harrow**
St Joseph's **Penshurst**
St Joseph's **Tarrayoukyan**

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 7th October and Sunday 8th November, 2026 | Year A

KEEP YOUR LAMP LIT

When English artist William Holman Hunt painted *The Light of the World* in 1853, it was an instant classic. It has been reproduced and reinterpreted many times, and it is popular to this day. No doubt you recognise it.

Jesus stands in the darkness, holding a lantern and knocking at a door. The door has no handle on the outside, and the step is overgrown with weeds. It can only be opened from within, and it has not been opened for a long time. The message is clear: Jesus wants to enter our lives, but he will not force his way in.

Hunt was depicting a scripture verse from the Book of Revelation: "*Look, I am standing at the door, knocking. If one of you hears me calling and opens the door, I will come in to share his meal, side by side with him.*" (3:20)



The parable in today's Gospel also features lamps. Although the story is different, the lesson is similar. God's grace is not something we earn by good behaviour. It is a gift, freely given. But we must respond to that gift. St Augustine put it succinctly: **"God who created you without you, will not save you without you."** Just as we must open the door of our hearts to Jesus, so we must tend the light of faith we received at Baptism, and be ready for the Master's return.

Fr Cay, Fr Vuong and I will be away from the parish on Tuesday and Wednesday, attending meetings in Ballarat. As always, please check the bulletin for changes to the weekday Mass schedule.

God bless, *Fr John*

LET US PRAY

RECENTLY DEPARTED:
Michael Stewart
Alan Ward

FOR THE SICK:
Loui Brown,
Michael Callaway,
Helen Haines,
Mandy Malseed,
Quirinus Onderwater,
Bernadette Rees.

FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:

Harrow: Keith Rowe, James Kirby.

Casterton: Ellie Smith, Jessie Gartlan, Gerald O'Connell, Ernie Hurley, Noel Balkin, Cathy Reilley, Phyllis Murrell, Helen Gow, Brian Flynn, Margaret Egerton, Flora Murphy, Mark Upton, Phyllis Murrell, Bernie Gill, Eran Hurley, Ellie Upton, Kevin Gould, Peter Humphries.

Coleraine: Catherine McDonnell, Harold Pretlove, Roy Fitzgerald.

Edenhope: Joseph Rokebrand, John Brown, Catherine Ruth, Jess Garlan, Brian Flynn, Matt Flynn, Maureen Clarke, Patty Carter, Therese Bade, Gail Mahney.

Hamilton: Thelma McDonald, Shirley Thomas ,Doreen Atkinson, Mary Pierce, William Kearney, Elizabeth Ryan, Rita Taylor, Noel Payne, Alexander McIntosh, Emma Mayer.

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

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

THIS WEEK'S ROSTER 8 Nov

St Patrick's, Balmoral - No Service
- ***Reader*:**
- ***Intercessions*:**

Sacred Heart, Casterton (10.30am Lay-led Assembly)
- **Leaders**: K Brody & R McInnerey
- ***Commentator***: S Kelly
- **Reader:** P Gorman
- ***Communion***: K Mitchell & Riya
- ***Counters***: J Donegan & P Durbidge

St Joseph's, Coleraine (9am Mass)
- **Readers**: Kevin Myers

St Malachy's, Edenhope (11.15am
- ***Reader*:** Riccardo
- ***Intercessions:*** *M Payne*

St Joseph's, Penshurst (8.30 Mass)
- **Lector**: Don Adamson
- **Prayers** :Terry Pezzutti
- **Gifts:** Eileen & Helen

Grange - Maria Patience

NEXT WEEK'S ROSTER 15th Nov

St Patrick's, Balmoral (9am Mass)
- ***Reader****: Michele*
- ***Intercessions****: Gerard*

Sacred Heart (10.30am Mass)
- ***Reader: Charlie Koch***
- **Commentator**: K Brody
- ***Communion***: K Renji & M Davis
- ***Counters***: P Durbidge & M Murphy

St Joseph's, Coleraine (9am Mass)
Reader: John Kane

St Malachy's, Edenhope (11.15 Mass)
- **Reader:** C McCann
- ***Intercessions***:C McFarlane

St Joseph's, Penshurst - (8.30am Lay-led Assembly)
- **Leader:** Brendan Kelly
- **Lector:** Catherine Loria
- ***Prayers***: Rob Coates

Grange - Margaret Roberts

St Mary's Hamilton	Opening & Welcome	Cuppa	Computer	Commentator	First Reading	Second Reading	Communion
Sat 7/11	Fr John	Ophiya & Sairah	Pauline Oliver-Snell	Fiona-Marie	Sairah Joeman	Angelina Juby	T Groves Volunteer
Sun 8/11	Carolyn Stanhope	Anne & Des	Carolyn Stanhope	Richard Murphy	Helen Tripovich	Della Gogoll	Volunteer M Roberts R Fitzgerald
14/11	Pauline Kelly	Chris & Kathie	Pauline Kelly	Fiona-Marie	Jack Bell	Maureen Dun	P & M Dunn
15/11	John Hockey	Sherrie & John	Peter Christopher	Frank Sousby	Della Gogoll	Felicity Jones	M cook T Hurley F Soulsby

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.



The Pilgrim Fatima Statue of Our Lady
Now in recess until next Easter
Available for Private Home Adoration
Contact Chris Jansen
0407 719 530 to arrange.



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**

NOVEMBER 2026: FOR THE PROPER USE OF WEALTH

Let us pray for the proper use of wealth, that we do not succumb to the temptation of selfishness, but instead use it in the service of the common good and in solidarity with those who have less.

MONDAY 9th NOVEMBER Dedication of the Lateran Basilica	**TUESDAY 10th NOVEMBER** St Leo the Great, Pope, Doctor	**WEDNESDAY 11th NOVEMBER** St Martin of Tours, Bishop
~~9.30am Mass, Hamilton~~ **11am Funeral, Michael Stewart RIP**, Hamilton **5pm Reconciliation**, Hamilton	**5pm Priests' Jubilee Mass**, St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat ~~5pm Reconciliation, Hamilton~~ ~~5:30pm Mass, Hamilton~~	~~9:30am Mass, Hamilton~~ **10am Rosary & Litany**, Casterton **5pm Reconciliation**, Hamilton **5pm Rosary**, Hamilton

ELECTION STATEMENT

Ahead of the 2026 Victorian election, the Bishops of Victoria have issued an election statement, *Faith In Action* — not to direct your vote, but to help you to step back from the media cycle and weigh your choices against the measures of Catholic social teaching. The bishops are clear that there is no "Catholic party," nor a single required way to vote. To read the bishops' statement, please scan the QR code or visit www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/faith-in-action/



PRIESTS' JUBILEE MASS

5pm, this Tuesday at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat
***Celebrants:* Bishop Mark Freeman & Jubiliarians**
***Homilist:* Fr Damien Heath**

Celebrating Fr Dan Arundell and Fr Damien Heath – 70 years; Fr Denis Ryan – 40 years; Fr Marcello Colasante – 25 years. All are welcome!

FAMILY FUN DAY



The Tins in the Bin project, based in Coleraine, collects food from supermarkets to be distributed through St Vinnies and the Salvos. The project is holding a Family Fun Day & Money Raiser on **Saturday 21st November, from 11am to 4pm at the Coleraine Tourist Centre** (The Old Railway Station). There will be lots of activities, entertainment and food available. This is a small, community based project and very worthy of our support. Thank You, Frank McInerney.

PRAYER

Your Wisdom, O God, comes in search of all who will listen to her voice. Let us hear and heed the word that warns us to increase the store of oil for our lamps, that they may not flicker and go out while we await the Bridegroom's return, but that they may be burning brightly and we may be ready to run out to meet Christ and enter with him into the wedding feast. Praying as always through Jesus the Christ.

AMEN



CHRIST THE KING
Feast of Nations Tasting Festival

Our parish will celebrate the Feast of Christ the King (21st/22nd November) with a *Feast of Nations Tasting Festival* after the 6pm and 10:30am Masses in Hamilton.

Parish families are invited to share a favourite national dish by preparing a batch of bite-sized portions. More info: **www.westernborder.church/feast-of-nations**

CHRISTIAN CHURCHES OF HAMILTON
CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

8pm Friday 11th December
at the Botanical Gardens



JOIN THE COMBINED CHOIR

Come along, lend your voice, and spread the joy of the Christmas season.

- *When:* Every Wednesday at 7:30 pm
- *Where:* St Andrew's Presbyterian Church
- *Who:* All voices and experience levels welcome

THURSDAY 12th NOVEMBER St Josaphat, Bishop, Martyr	**FRIDAY 13th NOVEMBER** Thirty-second Week in Ordinary Time	**SATURDAY 14th NOVEMBER** Thirty-second Week in Ordinary Time
7:30am Men's Prayer Group, St Mary's Presbytery, Hamilton **10am Mass & Rosary**, Casterton **2pm Anointing**, The Birches **5pm Reconciliation**, Hamilton **5:30pm Mass**, Hamilton	**9:30am Mass**, Hamilton **9:30am Mass**, Penshurst **12pm Team Meeting**, Hamilton **5pm Reconciliation**, Hamilton	**9:30am Mass**, Hamilton **5pm Reconciliation**, Hamilton **6pm Mass**, Hamilton

FIRST READING

Wisdom 6:12-16

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

Wisdom is found by those who look for it.

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim. By those who love her she is readily seen, and found by those who look for her. Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes herself known to them. Watch for her early and you will have no trouble; you will find her sitting at your gates. Even to think about her is understanding fully grown; be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you. She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her and graciously shows herself to them as they go, in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

RESPONSORIAL

Ps 62:2-8. R. v.2

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.

On my bed I remember you.
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.



SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

A reading from the first Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

Those who died as Christians,
God will bring to life with Jesus.

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 24:42. 44

Alleluia, alleluia!

Be watchful and ready:
you know not when the Son of Man is coming.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 25:1-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Look, the bridegroom comes. Go out to meet him.

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five of them were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

SUNDAY 15th NOVEMBER Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time	**WE ARE A CHILD SAFE PARISH**	**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**
8:30am Mass, Dunkeld **9am Mass**, Balmoral Cemetery **9am Mass**, Coleraine **10:30am Mass**, Casterton **10:30am Mass**, Hamilton **11:15am 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**. 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.