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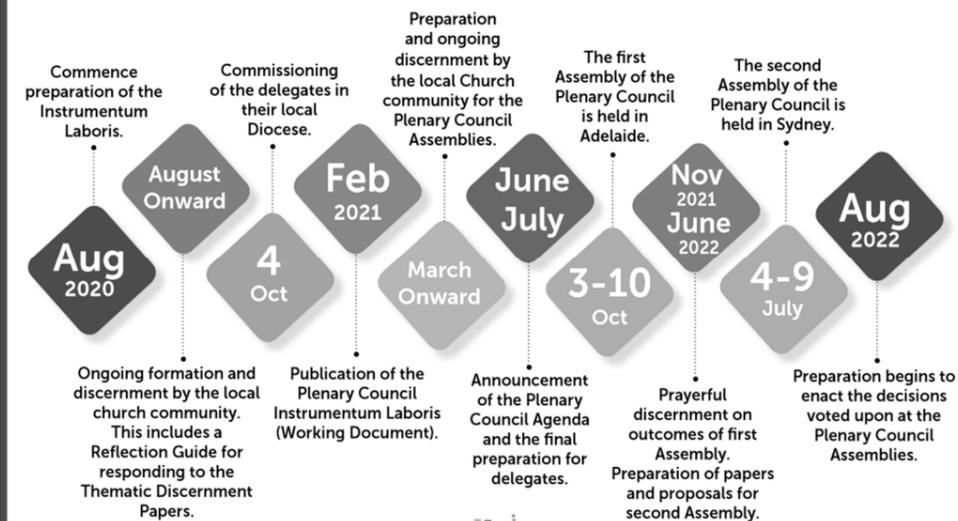
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THE PLENARY COUNCIL JOURNEY 2020 - 2022



Whilst every effort has been made to project accurate dates, changes may



Parishes of St Columba's and Our Lady Help of Christians

Communities of Ballarat North, Lexton, Miners Rest, Waubra, Wendouree

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au (select Parish)



Office: 306 Gregory St, Ballarat Nth **Phone:** 5331 1012
Email: ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ballaratnorthpastoral@ballarat.catholic.org.au
School Co-Principals: Bambi Afford & Shaun Mohr
School Phone: 5332 4894

Office: 480a Gillies Street, Wendouree **Phone:** 5339 2302
Email: wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au
P O Box 192, Wendouree
School Principal: Leigh Bradshaw
School Phone: 5339 4726

Parish Priest:

Fr Marcello Colasante

Staffing

St Columba's

Pastoral Associate:
Judith O'Sullivan
Tues-Friday 9:00am - 12:00pm

Our Safeguarding Officer:
Peter Marquand

Our Lady Help of Christians

Parish Co-ordinator and Safeguarding Officer:
Maree Roache

Wed-Friday 9:00am - 12:00pm

MASS TIMES

St Columba's

No Masses until further notice

Our Lady Help of Christians

No Masses until further notice

Readings for next weekend:

Ez 18:25-28
Ps 24:4-9. R. v.6
Phil 2:1-11
Mt 21:28-32

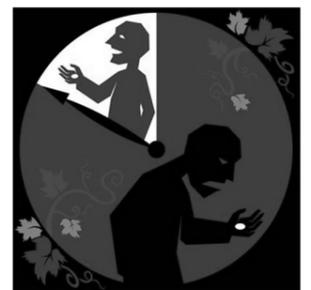


20th September 2020 ~ 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Focus on the Scriptures

On a first reading of this gospel story, the reader is probably struck by the unfairness of the situation. The landowner has employed day labourers at different times throughout the day to work in his vineyard. However, come the end of the day, the landowner pays all the day labourers the same amount. Not surprisingly, the labourers employed at daybreak to work the whole day are upset that those who have only worked the last hour of the day are paid the same amount. The landowner reminds them that he is paying them what they agreed at the start of the day, and yet the reader is left uncomfortable about the whole arrangement.

Of course, this is the purpose of Jesus' story! The key to the story is in the introduction. Most of the kingdom parables told by Jesus begin with a formulaic statement, 'The kingdom is like ...' and this one is no different. What follows is almost always a description of an everyday event that is turned on its head. In all of the kingdom parables recorded in the gospels, Jesus describes a world order in which people respond in unexpected and sometimes confusing ways. His message is that the kingdom, or reign, of God turns expectations upside down. In the kingdom, people who are treated badly in this world are held in great esteem; the balance of power is turned upside down; and the usual order of things is challenged. The landowner's final comment in the parable, 'the last will be first, and the first, last', is a perfect example of the challenging nature of Jesus' kingdom parables. In the kingdom, those who hold themselves to be first in this world will be brought down, and those who are treated as least in this world will be exalted.



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Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Norm Donehue, Damian Van Der Linden

Anniversaries: We remember: Steven Molloy, Mick McNamara, Kath Sullivan, Leonie Kelly, Francis Curran, Jack Clancy, Jack and Muriel Mugavin

We pray: Those in need of our prayers especially Saskiah Gallagher; Maria Antonelli, all the sick and all those struggling with the effects of Covid-19, teachers and students of all Victorian schools

Information from the Parish Social Profile from OLHC and St Columba's. This data comes from the 2016 Australian Census, and gives a snapshot of our communities.

Employment—OLHC	Parish 2016	Parish 2011	Diocese 2016	Aust. 2016
Managers and professionals 1	24.2%	24.3%	34%	34.1%
Workers in 'blue collar' occupations 2	38.4%	39.6%	31.9%	29.6%
Men employed or seeking work 3	61.3%	62.7%	66.6%	69.7%
Women employed or seeing work 3	51.5%	51.5%	58.3%	60.6%
Unemployed at time of Census 4	5.4%	5.1%	4.6%	5.8%
Youth unemployed at time of Census 5	10.6%	10.2%	9.5%	12.2%
Employment—St Columba's	Parish 2016	Parish 2011	Diocese 2016	Aust. 2016
Managers and professionals 1	37.4%	33.8%	34%	34.1%
Workers in 'blue collar' occupations 2	25.3%	28.0%	31.9%	29.6%
Men employed or seeking work 3	72.8%	72.7%	66.6%	69.7%
Women employed or seeing work 3	63.4%	63.3%	58.3%	60.6%
Unemployed at time of Census 4	5.4%	3.3%	4.6%	5.8%
Youth unemployed at time of Census 5	11.9%	9.4%	9.5%	12.2%

Notes:
 1. This group includes, for example, farmers and farm managers, sales, marketing and production managers, education and health service managers, retail managers, school principals and school teachers, medical practitioners, nurses, scientists, arts and media professionals, accountants, engineers and IT professionals. 2. This group includes, for example, toolmakers, technicians, electricians, carpenters, plumbers, bakers and chefs, veterinary nurses, hairdressers, machinery operators, drivers, cleaners and labourers. 3. The percentage of Catholics aged 15+ who are in the labour force (i.e. employed or seeking employment).
 4. The percentage of Catholics aged 15+ who are in the labour force and were unemployed at the time of the Census. 5. The percentage of Catholics aged 15-24 who are in the labour force and were unemployed at the time of the Census.

Centacare support offering Centacare's family and relationship team are offering support during COVID-19. View the flyer for programs on offer and contact details at https://mcusercontent.com/fe8dff0912e9e1b378f7db433/files/c7d47726-0da8-4a94-8f27-f73ed3eb922b/Programs_brochure_COVID.pdf

Diocesan e-News Upgrade Due to the upgrade of the diocesan website, diocesan e-News has also been updated. If you did not receive e-News in your inbox last week, please re-subscribe at <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/news-events/e-news/>

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Churches, worship, sacraments and the easing of restrictions Bishop Paul has communicated to the people of the Ballarat Diocese informing us that together with the other bishops of Victoria, he has been making representations to government for an easing of the restrictions in relation to places of worship. He has proposed that places of worship should at least be treated in the same way as other places where people can gather socially. In the coming week, bishops and other religious leaders will have further meetings with government. It is hoped these meetings will bear fruit so that we will be able to gather again in our churches. We do need to safeguard the community's health, yet we have shown that we can observe the necessary precautions for physical health at the same time as we celebrate the liturgy, which contributes so much to the spiritual and mental health of the community. Bishop Paul prays particularly that we will soon be able to share the Eucharist, source and summit of the Christian life, **but at this time it is not possible for us to gather for Mass.**

It is still possible for parishes to live-stream Mass, however this can only involve up to five people. The provisions do not allow us to gather in our churches to celebrate Mass as we would dearly wish to.

Funerals will be able to have up to 20 people gathered, plus those required to conduct the funeral.

Weddings will be able to have up to 10 people gathered (including the couple and two witnesses), plus the celebrant.

Baptisms cannot be celebrated until there is a further easing of restrictions. For those seeking to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation, this can be done by contacting the priest directly to make an appointment.

Anointing of the Sick remains possible in Hospitals and Aged Care facilities. Priests are permitted to visit these institutions when a person's condition has been designated 'end of life.'

Until there is greater clarity regarding 'religious gatherings' and 'private worship,' the doors of our churches in Ballarat will remain closed, but the mission of Christ that we have been given to serve, reach out, care for each other and pray continues.

Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission Mental Health Webinar

The Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission is hosting a zoom webinar for anyone who wants to know more about mental health in Australia and to empower participants to understand mental health, the supports available here in Australia and provide an opportunity to reach out, encourage hope and bring fullness of life to those we love and care for. The Zoom webinar will be held on Sunday, October 4, 2020 from 2.00pm – 3.00pm. For more information, registration details go to the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/social-justice/>

Readings for Twenty fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time A

First Reading Is 55:6-9 A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.



Responsorial Psalm Ps 144:2-3. 8-9. 17-18. R. v.18

(R.) The Lord is near to all who call him.

1. I will bless you day after day and praise your name for ever. the Lord is great, highly to be praised, his greatness cannot be measured. (R.)
2. 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. (R.)
3. 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. (R.)

Second Reading Phil 1:20-24. 27 A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake. Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

Gospel Mt 20:1-16 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

The Gospel of the Lord

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