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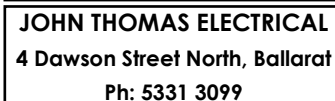
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Child Safe Church The Parishes of St Columba's & Our Lady Help of Christians (including Lexton, Miners Rest and Waubra) follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards as directed by the Ballarat Diocesan Office. You can download our Code of Conduct and Child Safety Policy from the Parish website or on the foyer notice board. If you have any concerns whatsoever—please contact the Parish Office, Fr. Marcello or one of the Safe Guarding Officers at ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au or wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au

COVID Safe Plan

- If you are feeling unwell or have any symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough or sore throat) please do not attend Mass.
- You no longer need to preregister for Masses. Please ensure you arrive 10 minutes before Mass to register your attendance.
- Contact tracing is required for all Masses. Please use the QR code on the door or sign the register in the foyer (please add your phone number if you are a visitor).
- Ensure that you maintain appropriate physical distancing at all times (1.5 metres).
- A face mask is optional whilst visiting the Church (you should carry it with you as per State Government guidelines)
- Please use the hand sanitiser available upon entering the Church.
- Please do not touch any surfaces unnecessarily.
- Once Mass has concluded, please leave the Church immediately afterwards to allow for cleaning of all surfaces.

We appreciate your assistance. In helping stop the spread of the virus.



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

Wed-Friday 9:00am –1:00pm

Our Safeguarding Officer:
Peter Marquand

Our Lady Help of Christians

Parish Co-ordinator and
Safeguarding Officer:
Maree Roache

Wed-Friday 9:00am—1:00pm

MASS TIMES (This week)

St Columba's

Saturday 5:00 pm
Wednesday 10:00 am

Our Lady Help of Christians

Waubra 1st & 3rd Sunday 8.30 am
Beaufort 2nd & 4th Sunday 8.30 am
Lexton 5th Sunday 8.30 am

Wendouree

Sunday 10:00 am
Thursday 11:00 am (Kelaston)
Friday 10:00 am

Readings for Next Weekend:

Acts 4:8-12
Ps 117:1. 8-9. 21-23. 26. 28-29.
R. v.22
1 Jn 3:1-2
Jn 10:11-18



18th April 2021 ~ Third Sunday of Easter (B)

Focus on the Scriptures

The Gospel, Luke 24:35-48, takes us to the penultimate scene of Luke's account of Jesus' risen life (just prior to his departure from the earth at Bethany). It is Easter Sunday evening. The two disciples who have encountered the risen Lord on their journey to Emmaus have returned and shared their marvellous story. Now the disciples who have remained in Jerusalem are to meet the risen Lord themselves.

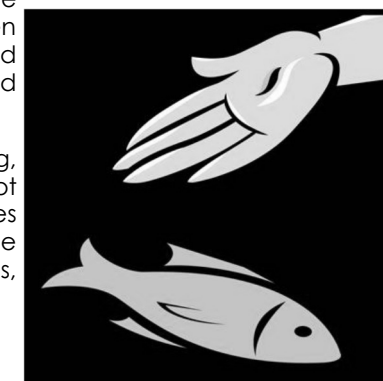
In the way typical of the resurrection appearances across all four Gospels, the risen Lord meets the disciples exactly where they are emotionally: fearful, agitated, slow to believe, thinking that what they are seeing is a ghost. Jesus takes considerable pains to overcome their disbelief by making clear the full physical reality of his presence. He urges them to see and touch him, and eats a piece of fish before their eyes (vv. 38-42). Luke dramatizes here – perhaps in an overly realistic way – what Paul also insists upon, writing to the Corinthians (1 Cor 15:35-49): you cannot believe in the resurrection without believing that it involved – both for Jesus and for believers after him – full bodily existence.

But simply recognising the risen Lord is not enough. As the scene moves to a second stage (vv. 43-49), Jesus repeats for those present the scriptural catechesis concerning the Messiah given to the two disciples on the road (24:25-27). Full faith in the resurrection comes about when people grasp that all that has happened to him – his suffering, his death and now his resurrection – fulfils all that had been written about the Messiah (literally 'about me') in the Scriptures (v. 44).

All this involved a very considerable transformation of conventional expectation about the Messiah – especially, as stated in the final sentence, that the Messiah would suffer and that his central role would not be the restoration of the fortunes of Israel but the reconciliation of the entire world with God. The disciples have now been made 'witnesses' of all this. Soon, empowered with the Spirit, they will be sent out to spread this joyful message to the nations.

As we already learned in the First Reading, coming to see 'how it all fits together' – not only in respect to Jesus but also in our own lives – is so much part of arriving at that 'knowledge of salvation' (Luke 1:77) which the Scriptures, especially the Gospel of Luke, aim to convey.

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Responsorial Psalm: (R) Lord, let your face shine on us

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us: make our hearts burn with love when you speak. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Polly Borg, Sr Monica Butler RSM

Anniversaries: We remember: Margaret Meerbach, Peter Taffe, Therese Head, Stephen Head, Helen McMahon-Martino, Marjorie Kirkpatrick, marin Milicic, Eileen McLoughlan

We pray: Those in need of our prayers; all the sick in our Parishes especially Jan Mullaly and Pat Hogan. For the success of the Plenary Council.

OLHC Baptisms: Welcome into the life of the Catholic Church through Baptism Maeve Williams, and Jed and Harper Walsh. May these children and their families continue to flourish in our faith community.

Diocesan Liturgical Commission Membership is currently seeking new members from all areas of the diocese. Membership is for an initial term of three (3) years with the option of two further terms (3 years per term). The Commission meets five times per year in Ballarat. Video linking facilities are available for meetings. All members of the Commission must hold a current Working with Children check or VIT (Victorian Institute of Teaching) registration. The Charter of the Liturgical Commission is available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/liturgy-sacraments/diocesan-liturgical-commission/>. Expressions of interest can be forwarded to liturgy@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Celebrating 60 years of Catholic Education in Wendouree - Save the Date Our Lady Help of Christians School, Wendouree will celebrate 60 years of Catholic Education in Wendouree on Friday, October 15, 2021. Register for event updates on the OLHC Wendouree school website www.olhcwendouree.catholic.edu.au or by contact the school office, ph. 5339 4726.

Palms Australia Share your skills to help develop the capacity of overseas organisations and the abilities of their people. Low-income communities seek sustainable solutions to poverty, not through money or gifts, but by building self-reliance. All trades and professions are called to assist this mission. Enquire now to properly prepare for a placement in 2022. Join our online Info Zoom on 2 May, visit palms.org.au, or call Palms now on 02 9560 5333

Praying with Pope Francis The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) is an international movement that is more than 170 years old. Each month, the Pope puts forward a prayer intention and asks Catholics around the world to join him in prayer. These intentions cover all sorts of areas of life, encouraging faith, renewing hope and calling us to loving service. Praying each month 'The Pope Video' forms part of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network. This video, published to Facebook and YouTube, includes a personal message from the Pope as he asks us to pray for each monthly intention. You can find it at www.thepopevideo.org. Pope's intention for April: April universal intention for evangelisation – Fundamental Rights: We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.

Aid to the Church in Need Australia In many places religious sisters are the custodians of the faith, but often these communities struggle just to live. Across the course of a year ACN supports more than 18,000 religious sisters in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America. Could you help support a religious sister? Visit www.aidtochurch.org/sisters

OLHC Sacramental Program. The Confirmation program for baptised children over the age of 8 (Year 3 and above) commences with a Parent Information session on Tuesday, April 27th at 7:00 pm in OLHC Church. The program will be presented over 2 workshops on Tuesday evenings, with the Confirmation ceremony on Sunday May 23rd at the 10:00 am Mass. Enquiries to Maree or email: Wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au or by phone (5339 2302)

Collections at St Columba's

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1st Collection: \$ 377.00 2nd Collection (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$1,131.10

We pray for women and families impacted by violence Catholic Social Services Victoria have provided a number of resources to assist with the prevention of the devastating impact of violence against women and families. They have developed a poster with some key telephone numbers that can be placed in your parish or school office should someone seek help — on a noticeboard to catch someone's eye, or sent around electronically to increase awareness of options and what services are available to assist someone if they are facing issues of domestic violence. Go to <https://www.css.org.au/Article-View/Article/23892/Pope-Francis-prayer-intention-for-February-for-women-who-are-victims-of-violence#.YD7lcWgzaCg>

Contact tracing please ensure you sign in using the QR code if you have a phone app to do so. To assist us in managing the numbers in the Church please also sign in at the registration desk. It is a state government requirement that we keep all records for 28 days, after which time they are destroyed. We thank you for your assistance.

Year of the Family Pope Francis launched the "Amoris Laetitia Family Year" on March 19, the 5th anniversary of the publication of his Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris laetitia*, a document on the beauty and joy of love in the family. The year will conclude on June 26, 2022 on the occasion of the 10th World Meeting of Families in Rome with the Holy Father. The launch was a virtual event entitled, "Our Daily Love", organised by the Vatican Dicastery for the Laity, the Family and Life, the Diocese of Rome and the Pontifical John Paul II Theological Institute, all based in Rome. The event is available to view online at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UckI4OUXU7_LBguDrPZQKsng

Assisted Promotion of Writings/Speeches on Liturgy by Pope Francis During a recent Zoom meeting of the National Liturgical Council, the Chair of the Council, Mrs Clare Schwantes, invited the Council members to reflect upon some recent writings/speeches on the liturgy by Pope Francis, in addition to some excerpts from a recent book entitled Pope Francis and the Liturgy: The Call to Holiness and Mission by Kevin Irwin (2020). It was agreed during the meeting that convenient access to these resources would be valuable for parishes and other communities resuming regular public liturgical celebrations as a way of renewing understanding and participation during celebrations of the Eucharist and the sacraments.

Third Sunday of Easter Year B

First Reading Acts 3:13-15. 17-19

Peter calls the people to reform.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 4:2. 4. 7. 9. R. v.7

(R.) Lord, let your face shine on us.

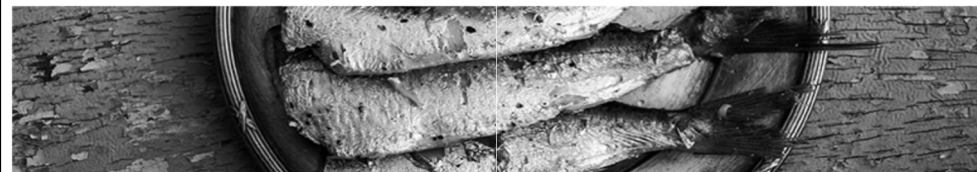
Second Reading 1 Jn 2:1-5

To know Jesus, keep his commandments.

Gospel Lk 24:35-48

Jesus appears to the disciples gathered together.

For the full readings please see the Ballarat North website in the Resources section



Year of St Joseph Monthly Reflections Each month during the year of St Joseph, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference will publish a reflection on the various aspects of St Joseph's life and character. Robert Falzon reflects on how St Joseph may have responded to his astonishing call to be the foster-father of Jesus and spouse of Mary. What does it mean for fathers and husbands in today's world? <https://catholic.org.au/yearofstjoseph>

Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Virtual Learning Program Our partners, Dayton University offer low-cost online study and formation for employed or volunteer lay workers in parish and other ministries. Study subjects over 3 and 5 week cycles. Study Cycle 3 begins April 11. This cycle is mostly 3 week courses. Registrations are now open for new and returning participants. For more information go to www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or email djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7121.

Good Shepherd Sunday: Word Day of Vocations - April 25 (Fourth Sunday of Easter) Next Sunday is the World Day of Vocations: Pope Francis tells us: "There can be no greater joy than to risk one's life for the Lord! I would like to say this especially to you, the young. Do not be deaf to the Lord's call. If he calls you to follow this path, do not pull your oars into the boat, but trust him. Let us pray for the young people in our community, and in our families and circle of friends. May our prayers help them to be open to the Lord's call to consecrated life or priesthood."

Pope Francis – Message for 2021 World Day of Vocations. Saint Joseph: "The Dream of Vocation 'God looks on the heart (cf. 1 Sam 16:7), and in Saint Joseph he recognized the heart of a father, able to give and generate life in the midst of daily routines. Vocations have this same goal: To beget and renew lives every day. The Lord desires to shape the hearts of fathers and mothers: Hearts that are open, capable of great initiatives, generous in self-giving, compassionate in comforting anxieties and steadfast in strengthening hopes. The priesthood and the consecrated life greatly need these qualities nowadays, in times marked by fragility but also by the sufferings due to the pandemic, which has spawned uncertainties and fears about the future and the very meaning of life. Saint Joseph comes to meet us in his gentle way, as one of 'the saints next door.' At the same time, his strong witness can guide us on the journey.'"

A prayer request We remember to pray for all our young people in our Diocese and their future. They are the present, future and hope of the Church. God has a plan and hope for all of them to live out their vocational call whatever that may be - marriage, the single life and also amongst them are some who would make a good priest or religious. Holy Hours with prayer before the Blessed Sacrament are good opportunities for the parish to gather in silence to listen, discern and pray for the future of our young people. Let us support them and those entrusted to their formation especially parents, educators and role models, with our prayers.

Enquiry Day for prospective Seminarians at Corpus Christi College - May 22, 2021 An Enquiry Day for any young man who is interested to know more about a Diocesan Priestly vocation will be held at Corpus Christi College Carlton for all dioceses in the province. If you know of anyone who may be interested, please email Edward.moloney@cam.org.au or james.kerr@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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