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Child Safe Church The Parishes of St Columba's & Our Lady Help of Christians (including Learmonth, 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

How can I participate in Mass online?

- 1. St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne—Mass is available daily.** <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>
- 2. Pope Francis' daily Mass** <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope-francis/mass-casa-santa-marta.pagelist.html>
- 3. Mass for You at Home** <http://www.mfyah.com/video.html> or <https://10play.com.au/mass-for-you-at-home>
- 4. Bishop Robert Barron** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcMjLgeWNwqL2LBGS-iPb1A> or <https://www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass/>

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)
Presbytery: Phone 5332 4324

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
Visiting Priest: Fr Gary Jones
Staff at St Columba's
Pastoral Associate: Judith O'Sullivan
Wed—Friday 9:00am -1:00pm
Staff at OLHC
Parish Co-ordinator: Maree Roache
Wed- Friday 9:00am—1:00pm
Safeguarding Officers
St Columba's: Peter Marquand
OLHC: Maree Roache
Mass times: St Columba's
Saturday Vigil: NO MASS
Sunday: NO MASS
Wednesday: NO MASS
Mass times: OLHC
Saturday Vigil: NO MASS
Sunday: 8:30 am NO MASS
(1st & 3rd Sunday, Lexton 5th Sunday)
Tuesday: NO MASS
Thursday: NO MASS
Friday: NO MASS
Readings for next weekend:
Ez 37:12-14
Ps 129. R. v.7
Rom 8:8-11
Jn 11:1-45

22 March 2020 ~ The Fourth Sunday in Lent (A)

Focus on the Scriptures
Humans see and judge by appearances, but God looks into the heart, and there finds the real person. God's standards are not superficial, as are so many of the standards of the world. It is not age, beauty or physical strength that is important; it is not social position or religious role that is preferred. God chooses whom God chooses. God saw in David, the insignificant shepherd, the potential for being the chief shepherd of his people. The man who was born blind became the one through whom others would see the mighty works of God. Yet, neither young David nor the man in the gospel made the initial step; each simply responded with openness to God's choice of him.

By what criteria do we judge others? Do we consider some people too insignificant for greatness? Are we overly concerned with status? Do we categorise people according to the disease or physical limitation that they must endure? Do we sometimes blame them for their disability? Do our eyes perceive life in accord with the standards of a materialistic, body-orientated, pleasure-seeking society? Or do we look into the other's heart, as God does?

As with the other scrutiny Sundays, catechumens and long-standing members alike are exhorted to make a choice. Jesus is the one who gives sight to blind eyes and religious insight to those open to receive it. However, there is a price to pay. Will it be the standards of the world, or the power of God in Jesus Christ?



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Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want
Gospel Acclamation: Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Brian Troy
Anniversaries: We remember: Annie Sullivan, John McNamara, Connie Vincent
We pray: Those in need of our prayers; for the Plenary Council process in Australia (Listening and Discernment Phase) and our RCIA & RCIC candidates; all the sick and housebound



Fourth Sunday in Lent 2020 Thirty-two-year-old Sakun lives in a village in central east India. She developed polio as a child and has difficulty walking. After joining a Caritas Australia-funded program, Sakun has learned new skills and gained important mobility. She is more resilient, more confident and more independent. Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 to help uplift vulnerable communities and support the rights of indigenous peoples around the world. Let's Go Further, Together. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413



Stewardship Program Your contributions in support of our parish is sincerely appreciated. Envelopes for those who contribute this way sets are available for collection in the foyer. Thank you!

Centenary of the Brigidine Sisters involvement in education in Horsham Celebrations will be held in Horsham from June 5-8, 2020 (long weekend). Register your interest now by emailing 100@stbc.vic.edu.au.

Congratulations to Jackson Lewis O'Hagan, son of Brett and Katelin who will be Baptized at St Columba's Parish on Sunday morning. May he grow in faith with the loving support of his parents, godparents and our parish community.



Diocesan Religious Education Resource Centre Closure The Resource Centre has served parishes and schools in the diocese for over forty years and has been a valued repository of books, magazines, CDs and DVDs. Borrowings from the Centre will be available until March 27th, after which it will be closed for a month while the collection is moved to a temporary storage area on site. From April 27th, the Centre will be open Tuesday mornings only from 9.30am – 1.00pm. Enquiries or urgent borrowings can be directed to resources@ceob.edu.au or ph. 5337 7135. Towards the end of the year resources will be disseminated to parishes and schools.

The Churches will be left open during the day for personal prayer time.

Resources for prayers at home: <https://www.cam.org.au/Guidance-for-Parishes-COVID-19>

Mass online—see links on back page

Thursday 19th March 2020

Dear Friends, Earlier today I sent out copies of the letter from the Victorian bishops regarding the suspension of liturgies as part of the efforts to contain the spread of the coronavirus. The following are some notes providing further details for our diocese of Ballarat.

Given the seriousness of the current pandemic, we recognise the need to follow public safety provisions. The government restriction limiting indoor gatherings to 100 people applies to church congregations as well as to other groups. However, this does not rule out people visiting churches for personal prayer. To encourage such visits, I ask that, as far as possible, churches remain open to signal our continuing readiness to serve the community and as an invitation to people to take some quiet, prayerful moments in the midst of this stressful time.

While there will be no publicly advertised liturgies until further notice, the faithful are still able to gather in small groups, keeping some physical distance between participants. This might be, for example, for small gatherings for morning or evening prayer.

Priests and Extraordinary Ministers of Communion will still be able to take Communion to the sick and elderly when requested, unless they themselves are at risk of transmitting the virus. All ministers should follow precautions recommended by health authorities when visiting people's homes, aged care facilities and hospitals.

In the coming days, we will add some resources to our diocesan website to help us in our prayer in this very unusual situation. I will also provide some particular notes regarding Holy Week and Easter and how we might celebrate these special days in these exceptional circumstances.

As we do our part to respond to the worldwide health emergency, it is good to add prayer to all the other steps we are taking. Earlier this week, a parishioner asked if I could compose a short prayer that would touch on some of the needs we see in the current crisis. On this feast of St Joseph, I offer the following: *We pray for all those affected by the coronavirus pandemic in Australia and around the world. We pray for those who have died and for families who are grieving. We pray for those who are sick and for doctors and nurses and all who are caring for them, May Mary and Joseph and all the saints pray for us that we may have health of body and peace of heart and a spirit of kindness to one another.*

+ Paul Bird CSsR
Bishop of Ballarat

Wednesday 18 March 2020 Prayerful greetings to the people of God across Victoria

This morning, the Prime Minister announced that non-essential indoor gatherings will be limited to 100 people, and outdoor events of more than 500 people will be disallowed, effective today. Given the seriousness of COVID-19, we support this measure as being responsible and sensible, and we encourage everyone to follow public safety guidelines respectfully. The Bishops of the Province of Victoria have given this prayerful and considered reflection, and have determined the following actions: Immediate suspension of public liturgies, celebrations of the Mass, until further notice. All other gatherings are suspended. For clarification of any concerns, please contact your local diocesan authority. We are very aware that this restriction will be particularly difficult for families who are planning liturgies such as funerals, weddings and baptisms. At this time, so long as appropriate precautions are able to be put in place (such as distancing between participants), it may be possible for these liturgies to proceed with a carefully limited congregation. Deferring these liturgies may also be an option that is offered to families. In light of this, all Catholics in Victoria are dispensed from their Sunday obligation until further notice (canon 1248). We encourage you to continue active participation in the life of the Church, through activities such as time in personal and family prayer, reflecting on the Scriptures, making a spiritual communion, or participating in a Mass online (<http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand> or <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/>)

We encourage our priests to continue to celebrate Mass for the spiritual good of God's people, the intentions of the faithful and the alleviation of the present crisis. We assure our people that the Mass is being offered for you in our parishes and that while you are not physically present, you still participate spiritually and that you are close to the hearts of your pastors in the Eucharist. Mass or www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass. We urge the clergy to make themselves available to visit individuals, especially those who are unwell and vulnerable. This includes viaticum and all the opportunities for healing through the Anointing of the Sick and Reconciliation. Again, we encourage you to regularly consult your local websites for further details of local arrangements. Tomorrow further pastoral guidelines will be shared in the Dioceses of Melbourne, Ballarat, Sale and Sandhurst. Clergy and religious should consult with their Ordinary if any questions remain uncertain.

All of this is happening during the Season of Lent, a time of preparation for the Easter mysteries. While we are invited to be self-sacrificial at this time, we must remember the words of Jesus upon appearing before his disciples after his resurrection: Again and again he said 'peace be with you.' (Jn 20:19) Let us not panic, nor be anxious, nor reduce ourselves to caring only for ourselves. This is a time to be sensible, practical, prayerful, and to share Christ's peace with those who are struggling to feel calm and safe. + Victorian Bishops

Collections at St Columba's	We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For the support of the Clergy in the Diocese) \$ 690.40		
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish) \$ 2,184.50	Average for this financial year	\$ 1,751.00

Collections at OLHC	We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese) \$ 525.80	Loose money (2nd collection)	\$ 147.90
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish) \$ 1,017.50	Weekly Average this Financial Year	\$ 1,507.41

SC	28 & 29 March	Sat 6pm	Sunday 10am	What's not now coming up:	OLHC	Sat 6:00 pm	Sun 10:00 am	What's coming up
WELCOMER				Sorry, but in light of the current situation we have decided to cancel the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All weekend Masses Wednesday morning Mass Stations of the Cross on Fridays Men's group Sew'n'so Monday Lenten Prayer group Reconciliation for Lent Mass with Anointing 	LEADER of SONG		Upcoming:	
COMMENTATOR			MINISTER of the WORD					
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD			MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST					
SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD			SACRISTAN					
GIFTS			Counters					
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST			Rural Communities 8:30 am					
OVERHEADS			Minister of Word:					
SACRISTAN			Minister of Eucharist :					
			Church Cleaning:					