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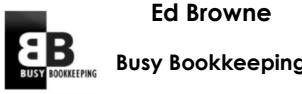
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**Child Safe Church** The Parishes of St Columba's & Our Lady Help of Christians (including Learmonth, Lexton, Miners Rest and Waubra) follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards 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](mailto:ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or [wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

### How can I participate in Mass online?

**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>

**5. Shalom world.org** shalomworld.org/dailymass or visit shalomworld.org/connectedtv to access the TV Channel

## 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](http://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 ballaratnorthandpastoral@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



### 5 April 2020 ~ Passion Sunday (A)

#### Focus on the Scriptures

This year, we are invited to hear Matthew's passion narrative through the lens of a global community threatened by a virus. The prospect of untimely death for many is an ever present reality. Even more abhorrent to most of us is the ongoing practice of capital punishment, particularly when a just person is put to death for specious reasons or to political ends. That's what confronts us in today's gospel, although the gospel writers pay little attention to the details of the suffering and death of Jesus: they are more interested in the meaning of these events.

The Romans execute Jesus outside Jerusalem when the city is filled with Jewish pilgrims, there for the Passover festival. For Jesus' friends and followers, every subsequent Passover is celebrated in the light of his death by crucifixion. They share their memories and reflect on the meaning of his death in the light of their sacred traditions. Every element of the Passover story, the ancient story of God's deliverance of their ancestors, resonates with echoes of the experience of Jesus who is now present to them in a new way. Little wonder, then, that the final events of Jesus' life were probably the first part of his story to be committed to writing.

Though Matthew draws much of his material from Mark, he fashions the tradition into a new narrative and adds several distinctive features. "To fulfil all righteousness" is Jesus' stated mission (3:15). He has declared "blessed" those who suffer for the sake of righteousness (justice or right relationship) (5:10). He now embodies his own teaching as the just or righteous one, the one in right relationship with God. The prayer on his lips as he faces death (Psalm 22) is that of the suffering just Israelite who is utterly faithful to his mission and whose trust in God never fails.

There are hints that Jesus' death is not the end, but is rather the inauguration of the new age of God's empire, a compassionate alternative to the brutality of Rome. In response to the high priest Caiaphas, Jesus points beyond death to his resurrected life "at the right hand of power...." Extraordinary signs follow his death: the tearing of the temple curtain; the trembling of the earth; the recognition by the Roman centurion and his companions that this man is of God; and finally, the opening of the graves and appearance of the dead in anticipation of the final resurrection. These signs offer the hope of reversal to all who have witnessed the events surrounding Jesus' death. They offer hope to the women who have followed him all the way from Galilee and "ministered to him". They offer hope to the male disciples who have deserted or denied him, to faithful disciples like Joseph of Arimathea, and even to his Roman executioners. They have the potential to bring hope to us all at this time, especially to those who are putting their lives on the line for others.

Veronica Lawson RSM



**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)

NO MASS

Tuesday: NO MASS

Thursday: NO MASS

Friday: NO MASS

**Readings for next weekend:**

Acts 10:34, 37-43

Ps 117:1-2, 16-17, 22-23. R.  
v.24

Col 3:1-4

Jn 20:1-9



**Responsorial Psalm:** My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

**Recently Deceased:** We commend to God: All who have died recently

**Anniversaries:** We remember: Adele Byrne, Rina Campana, John Beunen, Marion Goss, Kevin Simpson

**We pray:** Those in need of our prayers; for the Plenary Council process in Australia, our RCIA & RCIC candidates, all the sick and housebound. We give thanks for all Doctors and Nursing staff and the essential services staff who are still working during this difficult time.

**Sixth Sunday of Lent 2020** Dominic, 47, is a father of six from Papua New Guinea. In 2016, he became involved with Caritas Australia's partner, Centre



of Hope who runs a safe house and family anonymous programs and turned a difficult life and an unhappy relationship around. Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 to help support the Safe House project and help bring greater harmony to families in Papua New Guinea. Let's Go Further, Together. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or phoning 1800 024 413.

**Caritas Australia** Methods of making a donation • Cash donations (envelopes/boxes) these can be left at your parish office • Mail Cheque or Credit Card – parish office or mail to Caritas Australia, PO Box 178, Wendouree, 3355-EFT - Caritas Banking details Commonwealth Bank: BSB Number 062438 Account Number: 1000 4640 Account Name - PC-METSYD Reference: Parish name and ID. (ID is important as we have several parishes with the same name across Australia. Sending the Remittance Advice assists in this identification) • Online – [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au)

**Baptisms** unfortunately we are unable to proceed with any Baptisms until further notice. Please also note that the Baptism preparations sessions have also been cancelled. Contact the office for more information

**Planned Giving Envelopes** Due to the cancellation of Masses, should you wish to continue your Planned Giving contributions you are welcome to drop your envelopes into the office during office hours. Your generous contribution to the ongoing needs of the Parish at this time is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

**Keeping in Contact** Now that Masses and all gatherings at the parish have been suspended, we need to look at other ways of keeping in touch with each other. We are in the process of collating a master phone/email list that will enable us to contact parishioners, especially our most vulnerable. If you are aware that we do not have your current details please email or phone the parish office. Thank you.

**Notice sheet** for both parishes will still be uploaded onto our webpage each Friday, however if you would like a hard copy or copies to deliver to those around you, please contact the office to organize.

**Channel 7 to broadcast St Mary's Cathedral Easter services** Catholics around Australia will be able to watch Easter services live on national television from St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney. In a 7News special, the top-rating network will stream The Lord's Passion at 3pm on Good Friday and Easter Sunday Mass from 10.30am across the country on Channel 7 and on Prime 7 in regional areas, and live-streamed on 7plus. Both liturgies will be broadcast commercial free and in their entirety. Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP welcomed the partnership, saying he was grateful to the network for recognising the importance to Catholics in the commemoration of Good Friday and the celebration of Easter Sunday Mass. Those wanting to view the liturgies online can visit <https://7plus.com.au/> online.



#### Collections at St Columba's

2nd Collection (Direct debits)

#### We thank you for your generous support

\$ 1534

**Plenary Council** From October 4 till October 11 this year, people from all around the country will gather in Adelaide for the Fifth Plenary Council of the Catholic Church in Australia. This will be the first of two assemblies of the Council. The second will be in Sydney from June 28 till July 3 next year. These assemblies will draw together the fruits of many gatherings of church communities over the past two years. In 2018 we considered the general question, "What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?" From our diocese of Ballarat, 93 groups and 227 individuals sent in responses to this question. The responses from all around Australia were gathered by a team from the National Centre for Pastoral Research led by Dr Trudy Dantis and presented in a 298 page report entitled "Listen to what the Spirit is saying". In May 2019, the Pastoral Research team met with the group of bishops, priests and laity who are coordinating the Plenary Council process. They prayed over and discussed the responses to the first general question and from these responses they framed more specific questions involving six themes for further consideration. How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is missionary and evangelising; inclusive, participatory and synodal; prayerful and Eucharistic; humble, healing and merciful? How are we called to be a joyful, hope-filled, servant community, one that is open to conversion, renewal and reform? Over the past few months, groups of people around our diocese have been meeting to reflect together and pray about these themes. At the same time, six national discernment and writing groups have been preparing papers on each of the themes. I am a member of the group working on the "prayerful and Eucharistic" theme. It is a fairly large working group, with thirteen members. There are seven lay people, two religious sisters, two priests and two bishops, drawn from Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia. We have been meeting mainly by video conference. Meeting by "Zoom" is a new experience for me but it is proving to be an effective as well as economical way of working together with people from across the country. There have been two face-to-face meetings. Our task is to prepare a paper on the question of how God is calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is prayerful and Eucharistic. Appropriately, the group is itself prayerful in each meeting. For the face-to-face meetings we have also celebrated the Eucharist as part of our time together. In February, we completed a draft of our paper. In March and April there will be further work on the papers on all six themes. Then a comprehensive paper will be prepared, to be considered at the meeting of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference in May. From that meeting, a proposed agenda for the Plenary Council will be sent to Rome for approval. I thank all those people in our diocese who have been involved in the Plenary Council process so far and I encourage you to continue to contribute in prayer and in reflecting together in the months ahead.  
+ Bishop Paul Bird CSsR

**Plenary Council Delegates** the Plenary website has named Bishop Paul Bird, Fr Kevin Maloney VG, Felicity Knobel (St Patrick's Cathedral Parish) and Marie Shaddock from Ouyen Parish) as the delegates for the Ballarat Diocese. As well as these there are two other delegates from the Diocese. Fr Kevin Lenehan in view as his role as Master of Catholic Theological College in Melbourne and Mons. Glynn Murphy under the heading of Military Ordinariate. There are 267 delegates in total.



**Holy Communion to the homebound** is now suspended until further notice. Please contact the office if you have any questions or concerns.

**Resources for prayers at home** <https://www.cam.org.au/Guidance-for-Parishes-COVID-19> [https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/\\_uploads/parish/files/LiturgyHelp.pdf](https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/_uploads/parish/files/LiturgyHelp.pdf)

**Holy Week** please check the website for prayers at Home for Holy Week.

#### Links to online Masses in the Diocese (Other links on back page)

- St Mary Mackillop Parish, Western Border: Check the Western Border Catholic Parish facebook page for links to daily masses on YouTube <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=western%20border%20catholic%20parish>
- St Joseph's Parish Warrnambool: Check the St Joseph's Warrnambool facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/stjosephswarrnambool> for links to Masses on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiHcYtCTuk5DivKLWY1bvqq>
- Sacred Heart Parish, Mildura: Sunday Masses available on Sacred Heart Parish Mildura YouTube page <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x3WAtsklV8>
- St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Ballarat: Mass livestreamed daily at 11.30am can be viewed on Patrick's Cathedral facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/patricks.cathedral.9>

**Our Diocesan Community & eNews** The latest edition of ODC and eNews is now available to read online at [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) under "News and Events"

**"Way of the Cross" at Waubra** has been cancelled due to COVID-19. As the community is unable to gather, the Booklet has been prepared so that community members can pray privately as a sign of our Christian community. Copies are available upon request. Please email or phone the OLHC parish.

#### Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program – Registrations now open

Low-cost online study and formation for lay workers in parish and other ministries; employed or volunteers. Sacraments, Scripture, Youth Ministry, Liturgy, Leadership and more. Study over 3 weeks in the Cycle 3 only. Study begins April 19. Registrations open now until April 8. More info at [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) or email [kim.butler@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:kim.butler@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or ph. 0407 523 424.



**Chrism Mass 2020** Please note that the Mass of the Oils has been postponed to Monday, September 21, 2020 at 6.30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat.

#### Collections at OLHC

2nd Collection (Direct debits)

#### We thank you for your generous support

\$ 1605