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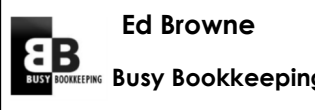
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Child Safe Church The Parishes of St Columba's & Our Lady Help of Christians (including Learmonth, Lexton, Miners Rest and Waubra) follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards as 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 or 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 (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

12th April 2020 ~ Easter Sunday (A)

Focus on the Scriptures

Easter invites us to celebrate life in its fullest sense. It is anything but easy to celebrate life, however, when tens of thousands in the Earth community are facing death, when hundreds of thousands are ill and countless others are struggling to put food on their tables. Resurrection faith calls us to be fearless in our support of those most deeply affected.

A faith-filled man and two faith-filled women prepare Jesus for burial. These three people are fearless in the face of possible reprisals for their support of a "political criminal". Joseph of Arimathea cares for Jesus out of his personal wealth, providing a clean linen cloth and his own newly rock-carved tomb. With his own hands, he performs the burial ritual, lays Jesus' body in the tomb, and rolls the stone into place. The women disciples who witness the closing of the tomb are both named Mary. One is from Magdala, centre of a fish-salting industry in Galilee and the other is the mother of two male disciples. These women have contributed their goods and services to Jesus on the journey from Galilee to Jerusalem.

The women set out at dawn "to see the tomb" This seems strange until we realise that they are functioning as witnesses, this time to the dramatic opening of the tomb and the appearance of God's interpretive messenger. "Seeing" is a metaphor for insight. In the earthquake phenomenon and the allusion to lightning, there are echoes of other great moments of God's appearing to Israel, such as the encounter with Moses and the giving of the Law on Mt Sinai.

The two Marys are the first to learn the news of Jesus' resurrection and the first commissioned to proclaim it. The women "see" the place where he was laid. They obey the angel's command not to be afraid but to go quickly to inform the scattered disciples that the resurrected Jesus has gone before them to Galilee, the place of mission, where they too will "see" him. Resurrection life energises these faith-filled women disciples/apostles and negates the death-dealing power of the Roman Empire. Ironically, the Roman tomb guards become "as though dead".

As the women hurry away from the tomb, Jesus comes to meet them on the path or the road. He addresses them with a familiar greeting of joy, Chairete. This is the first appearance of the resurrected One and it draws from the women a profoundly reverential response: taking hold of him, they fall down in worship. Jesus reiterates the commission already delivered by the angel: not to be afraid and to let the men know what has happened. The male disciples will later be commissioned on the mountain top (Matthew 28:16-20). All are commissioned, first the women, then the men. Those "on the mountain top" must not succumb to the temptation of remaining there. They must join those on the road or the path in fearlessly bringing life to Earth's afflicted.



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: NO MASS

(1st & 3rd Sunday, Lexton 5th Sunday)

NO MASS

Tuesday: NO MASS

Thursday: NO MASS

Friday: NO MASS

Readings for next weekend:

Acts 2:42-47

Ps 117:2-4, 13-15, 22-24. R. v.11

Pt 1:3-9

Jn 20:19-31



Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Corrina Burns,

Anniversaries: We remember: Brenden Love, Bill Eddy, Monica Eddy, Eleanor Eddy, Jack Moran

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



Easter This will be an Easter as we have never known it. We come to this holiest of weeks in the Church year unable to gather as a community to celebrate, fortunately there are many resources being provided to assist us with prayer in our families or on our own and viewing Masses on line and on the television—see links below. Know that you are in our thoughts and prayers at this time.

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.

Holy Week resources <https://litedliturgybrisbane.weebly.com/>.

<https://www.liturgybrisbane.net.au/prepare/sunday-readings-and-family-prayer/>

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/UCiHcYtCTuk5DivKLWY1bvqg>

· **Sacred Heart Parish, Mildura:** Sunday Masses available on Sacred Heart Parish Mildura YouTube page <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x3WAtsklIV8>

· **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>

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

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.

Our Diocesan Community & eNews The latest edition of ODC and eNews is now available to read online at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au under "News and Events"

Baptisms unfortunately we are unable to proceed with any Baptisms we had booked in until further notice. Please also note that the Baptism preparations sessions have also been cancelled.

Stewardship Envelopes In this unchartered world of COVID—19 Pandemic it is most uncertain when Places of Worship will reopen to the public for Liturgical celebrations. Should you wish to maintain your contributions you are most welcome hand your envelopes into the office during office hours. Alternatively if you are comfortable with Internet Banking we can provide you with the appropriate bank account details for contributions to be made in this way. Your generous contribution to the ongoing needs of the Parish at this difficult time is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Good Friday Collection Pope Francis has approved the proposal that the Collection for the Holy Land, for the year 2020, take place on Sunday, 13 September, near the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

Staying Connected 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 it into letterboxes of those around you, please contact the office to arrange.

PROJECT COMPASSION **Easter Sunday 2020** Happy Easter from all at Caritas Australia! Thank you for supporting us this year as we demonstrate how love and compassion for our global community can transform lives. You will be helping to empower the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and share their strengths with their communities to lift themselves out of poverty. When we Go Further Together in love and compassion, the whole world thrives. Thank you for supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion 2020 Lenten appeal. www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion #projectcompassion 1800 024 413

Parents searching for activities and lesson ideas for their children will find the website a great resource: <https://www.caritas.org.au/learn/for-parents-activities-ideas>

Collections at St Columba's	We thank you for your generous support	
2nd Collection (Credit Card, Direct debits & EFT)	\$	475.00

Be opened.... To New Life—a prayer for Easter

Risen Jesus,

You are the light that the darkness cannot extinguish.

You are the peace the world cannot give.

Surround us with your peaceful Spirit

so that we may become bearers of peace

And light for others.

May we live a new life in you.

We ask this prayer in your holy name,

For you are the Light of the world.

Amen

www.lentprogram.com © Evangelisation Brisbane 2020

Mercy Connect Ballarat/Bendigo Co-ordinator Mercy Connect is a program within Mercy Works which recruits, trains and supports volunteers to mentor refugee students and their families as they settle in Australia. We are seeking a Co-ordinator of our Ballarat/Bendigo Mercy Connect Education project. The role involves connecting all volunteers with students from refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds in existing and potentially new primary and secondary schools across Ballarat/Bendigo. It also includes recruiting and training new volunteers. While providing assistance in the educational setting, the primary focus is one of mentoring and providing ongoing support and training. The Co-ordinator is required to liaise with schools in providing volunteers appropriate to the situation. A key focus will be expanding the project within the Bendigo region. It is a two day a week position and based in Bendigo. For further information <https://www.mercyworks.org.au/job-opportunities/>

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 or email kim.butler@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 0407 523 424.

Easter Message from Bishop Paul Bird CSsR Bishop Paul has recorded an Easter message for the people of the diocese. The message can be viewed on the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Collections at OLHC	We thank you for your generous support	
2nd Collection (Credit Card, Direct debits & EFT)	\$	115.00