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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

Links to online Masses in the Diocese

- **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/UCiHcYtTuk5DivKLWY1bvqg>
- **Sacred Heart Parish, Mildura:** Sunday Masses available on Sacred Heart Parish Mildura YouTube page <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x3WAtskilV8>
- **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>



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: NO MASS
(1st & 3rd Sunday, Lexton 5th Sunday)

Tuesday: NO MASS
Thursday: NO MASS
Friday: NO MASS

Readings for next weekend:

Acts 6:1-7
Ps 32:1-2, 4-5, 18-19. R. v.22
1 Pt 2:4-9
Jn 14:1-12



3 May 2020 ~ Fourth Sunday of Easter (A)

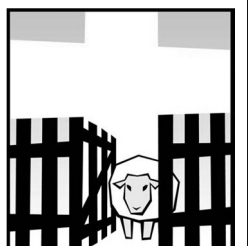
Focus on the Scriptures

Accompanied by the other apostles, Peter addresses a large crowd of Jewish people. He declares that God has made Jesus Lord and Christ. Lord (kýrios), a term of respect, was also the Greek word used as a substitution for YHWH, the personal name of God. Christ (christós) is the Greek translation for messiah, anointed one. The people who hear Peter are cut to the heart with remorse. They realise that they put to death the Holy One, God's anointed. Peter calls them to repentance (metánoia), a total change of heart, an interior disposition that will call for a new way of life. The Spirit is the promise of this change, and baptism is the rite that marks it.

The psalm opens with a metaphor that sets the tone of the entire song. It is the responsibility of the shepherd to find pastures that will provide enough grazing and abundant water for the entire flock, to lead them there without allowing any of the sheep to stray and be lost, to guard them from predators or dangers of any kind, and to attend to their every need. Such a characterisation of the Lord implies trust that God will discharge all of these responsibilities. The psalmist is confident of the Lord's protection. This image also suggests a host who prepares a lavish banquet. The psalmist has been under the loving guidance of the Lord and will remain there forever.

The author of 1 Peter discusses the implications of following Christ. First he exhorts the disciples to imitate Jesus' manner of suffering. He knows that it might take a special grace from God to be patient when one suffers for having done good, but he believes that the Christian calling requires just such a disposition. The innocent suffering of Christ is then described in terms that recall a passage from one of the Suffering Servant Songs of the prophet Isaiah. Finally, the image of the shepherd is used to indicate that Jesus is the shepherd and his Christian disciples are the flock. Although at times they wander away from him, they will be safe and will prosper only if they follow his lead.

In the gospel, Jesus uses several features from sheep herding to characterise the relationship between himself and his followers. First he identifies himself as the shepherd and contrasts the way he guides, guards and nurtures the sheep with the way others might regard the sheep only as potential objects of immediate ill-gotten profit. For their part, the sheep will recognise the sound of their shepherd's voice and will follow him. Jesus then uses the technical phrase 'I am' in his characterisation of himself as the gate. Those who go through this gate will be safe within the pen. As both shepherd and gate of the sheepfold, Jesus is concerned with the welfare of the sheep.
Dianne Bergant CSA



Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Marin Milicic, Frances Lanaghan, Joyce Rollason, Reg Haintz

Anniversaries: We remember: Doreen Davies, Michael Ryan, Mark Ryan, Catherine Anderson, Christopher Waight

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, teachers & all essential services staff

Good Shepherd Sunday & World Day of Prayer for Vocations - Fourth Sunday of Easter Year A May 3, 2020 World Day of Vocations. Pope Francis tells us, "Every vocation is born of that gaze of love with which the Lord came to meet us, perhaps even at a time when our boat was being battered by the storm. We will succeed in discovering and embracing our vocation once we open our hearts in gratitude and perceive the gaze of God in our lives" (message for World Day of Prayer for Vocations 2020). Let us pray for the young people in our community and in our families and circle of friends. May our prayers and presence reflect the gaze of love from the Lord to help them discover their vocation.

Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program – now open for new participants 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 5 weeks per subject. Study Cycle 4 begins May 24. Registrations open now until May 13. More information at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or email kim.butler@ballarat.catholic.org.au ph. 0407 523 424.

Message from Pope Francis to Pray the Rosary in May Pope Francis has asked Catholics to make a special effort to pray the Rosary during May and has composed two new prayers asking for Our Lady's intercession to help end the COVID-19 pandemic. You can find them at the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Matthew's Beatitudes and Catherine McAuley in Dialogue with Earth's Distress Veronica Lawson RSM recently held a webinar exploring the Beatitudes and Catherine McAuley at this time of the Earth's distress. Watch the video here <https://vimeo.com/404735366>

With Jesus in the Desert: A retreat for a time of isolation The staff of Jesuit Communications have prepared a 14-day retreat. More information at <https://www.pray.com.au/with-jesus-in-the-desert-a-retreat-for-a-time-of-isolation/>

Pentecost Pilgrimage Catholics are invited to join others worldwide on a spiritual pilgrimage to Pentecost. Register for free to receive a series of talks which are uploaded twice a week from speakers around the world, including from Australia Archbishop Porteous (Hobart), Fr Ken Barker MGL, Founder and Moderator of the Missionaries of God's Love, Robert Falzon, Cofounder of menALIVE, and Daniel Ang, Director of Parish 2020, Sydney Archdiocese. Go to <https://www.pentecostpilgrimage.com/>

Heart to Heart e-Seminars Archbishop Chris Prowse, Canberra-Goulburn Diocese, is presenting these 30 minute e-seminars over four weeks, leading you into a deeper relationship with Christ during this time of isolation <https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/hearttoheart/>

Caritas Online Concert – May Australian singer, songwriter and musician, Gary Pinto will lead a free online concert for Project Compassion. Gary wrote a song for Project Compassion titled "Walk With Me" this year and wanted to do more to help so he is bringing Australian and international musicians together in support of Caritas Australia. Through this free concert, he is urging thousands of school children, teachers, churches and families across Australia during this challenging time, to stand in solidarity with those most vulnerable to COVID-19. You can find more details on the concert and view the great artist line-up at [caritas.org.au/loungeroomsessions] caritas.org.au/loungeroomsessions. To view the concert, supporters will need to register at [livemusic2u.com/loungeroomsessions/]

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Easter Offerings:	\$ 43.00	Caritas Project Compassion (to date)	\$ 1,177.10

From the Bishop's office As you may recall, last month I advised that Fr Matt Thomas would be moving from Swan Hill to Mildura. This appointment created a vacancy for the position of Parish Priest in Swan Hill, caring for Holy Family Parish, Northeast Mallee. I write to advise that I have appointed Fr James Kerr to be the new Parish Priest of Holy Family Parish, Northeast Mallee. While these appointments have been made, the moves will be postponed until the current coronavirus restrictions on public gatherings for liturgy are lifted. At that stage, Fr Matt will move to Mildura and Fr James will move to Swan Hill. I thank Fr Matt and Fr James for their dedicated ministry in their current parishes and I pray for blessings upon them in their new appointments.

A prayer for our uncertain times

May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake

May we who have no risk factors remember those most vulnerable

May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health and making their rent

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close remember those who have no options

May we who have to cancel our trips remember those who have no safe place to go

May we who settle in for quarantine at home remember those who have no home

As fear grips our country, let us choose love and during this time when we may not be able to physically wrap our arms around each other, let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbour.

Amen.

Readings for the Fourth Sunday of Easter Year A

First Reading Acts 2:14. 36-41 A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.'

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 22:1-6. R. v.1

(R.) *The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

1.The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. (R.)

2.He guides me along the right path;

he is true to his name.

If I should walk in the valley of darkness

no evil would I fear.

You are there with your crook and your staff;

with these you give me comfort. (R.)

3.You have prepared a banquet for me

in the sight of my foes.

My head you have anointed with oil;

my cup is overflowing. (R.)

4.Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me

all the days of my life.

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell

for ever and ever. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Pt 2:20-25 A reading from the first letter of St Peter

This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls

Gospel Jn 10:1-10 A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:

'I tell you most solemnly, I am the gate of the sheepfold.

All others who have come are thieves and brigands;

but the sheep took no notice of them.

I am the gate.

Anyone who enters through me will be safe:

he will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture.

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.

I have come so that they may have life

and have it to the full.'

The Gospel of the Lord



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