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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/UCiHcYtCTuk5DivKLWY1bvag>
- Sacred Heart Parish, Mildura:** Sunday Masses available on Sacred Heart Parish Mildura YouTube page <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x3WAtskllV8>
- 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

10 May 2020 ~ Fifth Sunday of Easter (A)

Focus on the Scriptures

"Take from my heart all painful anxiety" is a gospel inspired prayer. It is the prayer of Catherine McAuley, the first Sister of Mercy. Like Jesus, Catherine knew in her being that a troubled heart is an ever present possibility. When we don't have any serious concerns in the present, we are often anxious about the future. There is a difference, of course, between having concerns and having a troubled heart. The difference lies in how we deal with the inevitable problems and challenges that come our way. If ever there was a time in most of our lives when there are real concerns and potential for troubled hearts, it is right now as we deal with the global Coronavirus pandemic and its impact on so many aspects of life.

Freedom from anxiety is the constant message of the gospels. "Do not let your hearts be troubled" is Jesus' word to his friends in John's gospel. The verb, here in passive mood ("be troubled"), is used of Jesus' spirit when he finds his friend Mary and her companions weeping over the death of Lazarus (11:33). It means literally to shake or to stir up. Jesus is really shaken by grief in that situation. As he faces his own death, he does not want his friends to be troubled of heart or spirit. He speaks here from his own experience.

Jesus shows the way to an untroubled heart: "Believe in God, believe also in me." The faith of the disciples is to be grounded in his care for them both in the present and into the future: "I go to prepare a place for you... I will come again and will take you to myself". In this context, Jesus makes three claims: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." The prologue to the gospel, which functions as an overture to the gospel, has introduced the notion of the glorified Jesus as "full of grace and truth" and the bringer of "grace and truth" (1:14, 17). He is the life that is the light of all (1:4), the bread of life, even the resurrection and the life. His claim to be "the way" was foreshadowed in the parable of the gate: "I am the gate for the sheep."

If the disciples know Jesus, then they also know the way to God whom Jesus images in tender parental terms as "Father". If Philip does not believe in their mutual indwelling, then maybe he can believe on account of the "works" of Jesus, works that are also the works of God. Those who believe have the power to do these and even greater works. This seems extraordinary, but is really a matter of believing with untroubled hearts that the power comes from God. Let us not underestimate the power of prayer at this time of distress. Praying for those who put their lives at risk to protect others is a powerful means of dealing with troubled hearts.

Veronica Lawson RSM



Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Gerard Sullivan

Anniversaries: We remember: Margaret Sherman, Kathleen Clohesy

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

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



2020 - It's the fifth anniversary of Laudato Si' Pope Francis invites you to celebrate Laudato Si' Week which takes place May 16-24. Go to <https://laudatosiweek.org/> for more information.

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/>

Update to Joan Chittister Melbourne Event Due to the current travel restrictions the evening with Sr Joan Chittister on September 8, 2020 has been postponed and will be rescheduled to a date in 2021. Sr Joan considers Australia her first priority when international travel commences. As soon as we have a firm date, we will contact everyone. Your tickets will be valid for that event. If you do not want to hold them or give them to someone else. To have your ticket refunded please contact rsvp@garrattpublishing.com.au

COVID 19 Fee Relief for School Families The Catholic Education Office Ballarat have provided information for families experiencing difficulty paying school fees during the COVID-19 crisis. See the video on their website <https://ceob.edu.au/>

Offices please be aware that both offices will be closed on Friday due to training. The bulletin will be published on Thursday afternoon. Thankyou.

Prayer during the coronavirus pandemic(Adapted from the USCCB) Mary, Help of Christians, we fly to you today as your beloved children. We ask you to intercede for us with your Son, as you did at the wedding in Cana. Pray for us, loving Mother, and gain for our nation and world, and for all our families and loved ones, the protection of God's holy angels, that we may be spared the worst of this illness. For those already afflicted, we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance. Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful, wipe away their tears and help them to trust. In this time of trial and testing, teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind. Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts. We come to you with confidence, knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother, health of the sick and cause of our joy. Shelter us under the mantle of your protection, keep us in the embrace of your arms, help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus. Amen

Collections at St Columba's

1st Collection:	\$	2nd Collection (Env, DD, CC etc)	\$ 774.00
Easter Offerings:	\$	Caritas Project Compassion (to date)	\$ 1,187.10

We thank you for your generous support

A prayer for Mothers Day

Loving God, thank you for mums and children
and for all the joy of family life.

Be with those who are grieving because they have no mother;
be close to those who are struggling because they have no children;
be near to those who are sad because they are far apart
from those they love.

Let your love be present in every home, and help your church to have eyes
to see and ears to hear the needs of all who come.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen



Readings for the Fifth Sunday of Easter Year A

First Reading Acts 6:1-7 A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 32:1-2, 4-5, 18-19. R. v.22

(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.
- Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp,
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. (R.)
2. For the word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.

The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love. (R.)

3. The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Pt 2:4-9 A reading from the first letter of St Peter

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

Gospel Jn 14:1-12 A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"?

Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason.

'I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord

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*I am
the Way,
the Truth
and the
Life*
John 14:6

Collections at OLHC

1st Collection	\$ 50.00	2nd Collection (Env, DD, CC etc)	\$ 1,415.00
Easter Offerings	\$ 30.00	Caritas Project Compassion (to date)	\$ 828.70

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