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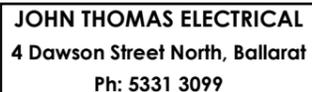
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Child Safe Church The Parishes of St Columba's & Our Lady Help of Christians (including Lexton, Miners Rest and Waubra) follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards as directed 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/UCiHcYtCTuk5DivKLWY1bvqg>
- **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
Mon—Friday 9:00am -12:00pm

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

Tuesday: 10:00am

Wednesday: 10:00am

Mass times: OLHC

Saturday Vigil: NO MASS

Sunday: NO MASS

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

NO MASS

Thursday: 10:00am

Friday: 10:00am

Readings for next weekend:

Acts 2:1-11

Ps 103:1. 24. 29-31. 34. R. v.30

1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13

Jn 20:19-23



24th May 2020 ~ Ascension Sunday (A)

Focus on the Scriptures

The feast of the Ascension is really a kind of liminal moment in the Easter season. It is a time between times, a moment when we have left one place in our journey but have not yet arrived at a second. The glory of the Risen Christ has already been revealed in us, but not yet totally. The feast itself celebrates the exaltation of Jesus. Today we stand awestruck, watching Jesus ascend into the clouds of heaven, there to be enthroned at the right hand of God. Today we are overwhelmed by the reality of the divinity of the one whom we have known in his humanity. Like the conquering creator-god, he has overcome his enemy (death) and now reigns over his new creation (the church).

Christ who ascended into heaven in his body carries on what he began on earth through his new body, the church. He teaches through its apostles and evangelists. He ministers through its prophets and pastors. In and through the church, Jesus continues to heal and to comfort; to forgive and to include. We have not been left alone; we have his power, the same power with which he performed marvels when he walked the earth. We have not been left alone; we have each other. Together we make up the new body of Christ. Together we await the fullness of this body. It is this new body that stands in between the times, secure in what we have, confident of what we will be given.



Dianne Bergant CSA

Responsorial Psalm Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6

(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

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

Anniversaries: We remember: Joyce Keynton, Claire Carroll, Anton Kors, Nancy Colasante

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

With the easing of some restrictions how will St Columba's and Our Lady Help of Christians reopen? Cautiously and with great care to ensure that the government regulations are respected and enforced which means limiting the number of people who are able to attend, keeping them at the appropriate distance from each other, keeping a record of all who attend (for contact tracing) ensuring that the necessary cleaning is undertaken.

To ensure that we can uphold all of these requirements, we will proceed very slowly initially, aware that there will be many desiring to join in the celebration of the Eucharist, far more than can be accommodated.

10 @ 10 Ten people will be able to celebrate Mass on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in the foyer of the church at St Columba's and Thursdays and Fridays in the church at Wendouree all at 10am with Fr Marcello. Registering via St Columba's Parish Office 5331 1012 for both locations is essential where your name and contact details will be asked for. These limits will be strictly enforced and to enable as many people as possible to have the opportunity to attend, you will not be able to attend more than once a week. Please use your discretion and remain at home if you are in the vulnerable category or unwell. There will be hand sanitizer in the foyer for you to use as you enter and leave the church. The church will be cleaned and sanitized regularly.

Weekend Masses will commence next weekend for the Feast of Pentecost. Details to be advised in due course. In addition, St Columba's church will be open 9am—5pm every day for personal prayer. Please follow social distancing at all times and follow the guidelines on the door. Thank you

Word of Encouragement As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect Australians' lives, including their worship, the Catholic bishops will entrust the country to the care of Mary Help of Christians on her feast day next week. They have penned a "Word of Encouragement" to the Catholic people of Australia in light of the pandemic <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/news/fx-articles.cfm?loadref=102&id=2807&categoryid=101>



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/>

SWAG With the suspension of Sunday Masses around the country, we will not be sending your print bulk order of the Winter edition of The Swag. We will however be offering parishioners free online access to a Page Turner and a PDF of the Winter 2020 edition. Go to www.theswag.org.au and on the home page click on the yellow box.

Stewardship Envelopes Should you wish to maintain your contributions you are most welcome to 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. Continuing your generous contributions at this difficult time is greatly appreciated. Thank you

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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/>

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Australia will be observed from May 24-31, 2020 in the week between Ascension and Pentecost. This year's theme, "They showed us unusual kindness" (Acts 28:2), calls us to move from shared prayer to shared action and remembers the historic shipwreck of Paul on the island of Malta. It calls us to a greater generosity to those in need. Resources are now available at the website The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

National Reconciliation Week 2020: May 27 – June 3 The theme for #NRW2020 – In this together – is now resonating in ways that could not have been foreseen when this was announced last year, but it reminds us whether in a crisis or in reconciliation, we are all #InThisTogether. For resources and further information, go to <https://www.reconciliation.org.au/national-reconciliation-week/> CFID=12862572&CFTOKEN=e6a4ca29bffd552d-D8E105CE-F113-49B7-19FBF3A050E3AA2A

Readings for the Ascension of the Lord Year A

First Reading A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'



Responsorial Psalm Ps 46:2-3. 6-9.

(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

1. All peoples, clap your hands, cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, great king over all the earth. (R.)
2. God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise, sing praise to our king, sing praise. (R.)
3. God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. (R.)



Second Reading A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

Gospel A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

The Gospel of the Lord

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