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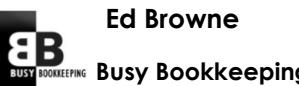
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Child Safe Church The Parishes of St Columba's & Our Lady Help of Christians (including Lexton, Miners Rest and Waubra) follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards as directed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

31st May 2020 ~ Ascension Sunday (A)

Focus on the Scriptures

Pentecost Sunday is often called the birthday of the Church. The earth itself features powerfully in the imagery associated with this feast: harvest, mountain, earthquake, thunder, fire. For the ancient Israelites, Pentecost (meaning 'fiftieth') was a harvest festival celebrated fifty days after the opening of the harvest. When the Jerusalem Temple was built, this harvest festival was transformed into a pilgrimage feast to celebrate the covenant that Israel had made with God on Mt Sinai. Several decades after the death of Jesus, the early Christians reflected on their origins and chose this feast to mark the birth of God's new covenant with God's people. In today's first reading (Acts 2:1-11), Luke tells the new Pentecost story in symbolic language that evokes the story of Moses and the people of Israel receiving God's Law on Mt. Sinai. Just as God's presence to Israel was marked by earthquake and thunder and fire, so God's Spirit enveloping the people of the new covenant in the upper room appears in a mighty rush of wind and tongues of fire. Luke's account also evokes early rabbinic teaching that the voice of God on Sinai divided into seventy tongues and all the nations received God's Law in their own tongue.

For the teaching at the heart of the new covenant, we turn to the gospel reading from John 20:19-23. The resurrected Christ appears to the disciples who are huddled behind locked doors. He offers the simple greeting: "Peace be with you," the greeting we have been in the practice of offering each other with a simple gesture at every Eucharistic celebration until Covid-19 challenged us to find other ways of communicating the peace of Christ. Jesus sends his disciples on a mission of peace in continuity with his own God-inspired mission. He breathes on them the gift of the Holy Spirit and tells them that God will forgive those whom they forgive, and will "retain" or "seize hold of" the transgressions of those whose sins or transgressions they "retain". To seize hold of wrong-doing is to expose it and deal with it. Sometimes it is best to forgive and simply allow everyone to move on. In other situations, an easy amnesty only exacerbates the problem.

Much of the enduring conflict in our world derives from the inability of ordinary people and of both church and civic leaders to know how to deal with transgression. The Holy Spirit is the unique source of our capacity to deal with the perpetrators of violence. The Holy Spirit is likewise the source of our power to forgive, of our power to refrain from vengeance and our power to ensure restoration and healing. In our times, the earth itself cries out for forgiveness, for restoration and for healing. As we celebrate this feast of the Holy Spirit in a time of pandemic, we might consider engaging in a "values inventory" by looking at how much of our personal and collective resources we invest in the things that make for peace.



Readings for next weekend:

Ex 34:4-6, 8-9

Dn 3:52-56, R. v.52

2 Cor 13:11-13

Jn 3:16-18



Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Peter Driscoll, Paul Gleeson

Anniversaries: We remember: Vincent Haintz, Eileen Dean, Lang Dean, Max Franklin

We pray: Those in need of our prayers; 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.

From June 1st twenty (20)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 the Parish Office is essential where your name and contact details will be asked for. These limits will be strictly enforced, and to enable as many people a 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 this weekend for the Feast of Pentecost. Saturday Vigil at **5.00 pm** at **St Columba's** and Sunday morning at **10.00 am** at **Our Lady Help of Christians** for ten attendees, hence registration will be required. The following weekend **6th/7th June**, Trinity Sunday, the number that can attend will increase to **20**. You will need to register for these Masses as above.

Personal Prayer In addition, St Columba's church will be open 9.00 am — 5.00 pm every day for personal prayer. Please follow social distancing at all times and follow the guidelines for hand sanitation. Please sign in as you enter the church and sign out when you leave and use the hand sanitizer provided.

"Dancing at the Vatican" Australian Premiere

In May 2017, Pope Francis became the first world leader to recognise the devastating plight of those living with and affected by Huntington's disease. "Dancing at the Vatican" tells the story of a seemingly impossible, cross-continental journey made by some extraordinarily brave families bound by the same devastating disease. Special online screenings in Australia on June 12 and August 14. Tickets: <https://tinyurl.com/dancingatthevaticanaustralia>. Learn More at <https://www.dancingatthevatican.com>. Contact: kelly.atkins@monash.edu

Music in Liturgy The Royal School of Church Music Australia (RSCM) is having a Zoom session for liturgical musicians. Peter Catt (Dean, St John's Cathedral Brisbane) will be chatting to Graeme Morton about *Music in Liturgy* on Saturday, June 6 at 10.00am. This is a free event, but requires prior registration here - <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=z3fjtrOdy0aRovrZYFuxXNEwIXshKIROtUHZ6Zdo0idUREtIMUIFRDQ5SVc3MFZQjhOV1EwWTJNWC4u>

Positions available - Diocesan Pastoral Development Coordinator and Ballarat East Parish Coordinator go to the Diocesan website for more information www.ballarat.catholic.org.au.

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2nd Collection (Env, DD, CC etc) \$ 635.00

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.
And kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And you will renew the face of the earth.

Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit
you have taught the hearts of your faithful.
In the same Spirit
help us to relish what is right
and always rejoice in your consolation.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

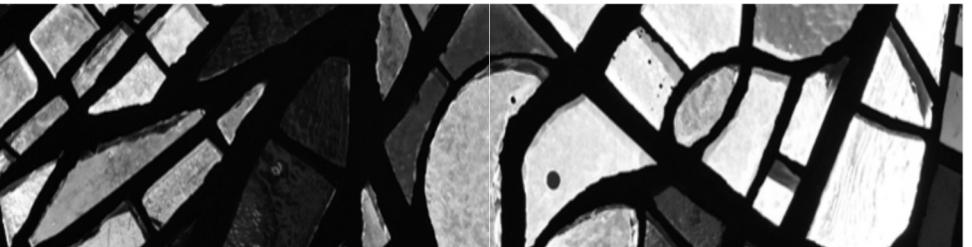


Readings for Pentecost Year A

First Reading A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

When Pentecost day came round, the apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely' they said 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome – Jews and proselytes alike – Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'



Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

1. Bless the Lord, my soul!

Lord God, how great you are,

How many are your works, O Lord!

The earth is full of your riches. (R.)

2. You take back your spirit, they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.

You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth. (R.)

3. May the glory of the Lord last for ever!

May the Lord rejoice in his works!

May my thoughts be pleasing to him.

I find my joy in the Lord. (R.)

Second Reading A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord' unless he is under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose.

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

Gospel A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

In the evening of the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you', and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me,
so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive,

they are forgiven:

for those whose sins you retain,
they are retained.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



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