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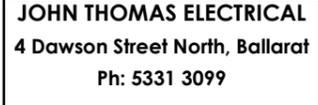
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**Child Safe Church** The Parishes of St Columba's & Our Lady Help of Christians (including Lexton, Miners Rest and Waubra) follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards as directed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

**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: 5.00 pm  
Tuesday: 10:00 am  
Wednesday: 10:00 am

**Mass times: OLHC**  
Sunday: 10:00 am  
Thursday: 10:00 am  
Friday: 10:00 am

**Readings for next weekend:**  
Jer 20:10-13  
Ps 68:8-10. 14. 17. 33-35. R. v.14  
Rom 5:12-15  
Mt 10:26-33

**14th June 2020 ~ Body and Blood of Christ Sunday (A)**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

Bread is staple food for much of the world's population. It is also a metaphor for the food that sustains the life of the human community. Being able to "put bread on the table" is the most basic of desires. Witness the haunting images of starving "migrant workers" walking away from cities locked down for fear of pandemic, walking to their homes in rural India where they may find life-restoring "roti"!

Bread means life. Jesus' claim to be "the living bread" is a unique expression paralleled by his earlier claim to be "living water". It teases the reader with the possibility of multiple meanings. It refers, at one level, to bread sustains "ordinary" life. At another level, it is the gift of God's life (zoë), the life that never ends. As we reflect on the symbolism of bread, we attend also to the plight of those without bread. While there is sufficient "bread" to satisfy the hunger of everyone on the planet, over two billion people are desperately hungry, including the desperate "migrant workers" of India.

Today's gospel passage belongs within a section of John's gospel generally called the Bread of Life Discourse. Some scholars suggest that the discourse as a whole is cast in the form of a synagogue homily. In this view, it is a rabbinic type exposition of Exodus 16:4 and Psalm 78:4-5 on the manna/bread that God rains from heaven. In John 6:51-58, there are allusions to Eucharist as both meal and sacrifice. Jesus is the manna or bread from heaven. Life comes from eating his flesh/body. It also comes from drinking his blood. For the ancient Israelites, the life was in the blood. Blood poured out is life poured out. To drink the wine/blood is to participate in the life of Christ poured out.

A simple analogy from my own context might help us to grasp something of the mystery that we call Eucharist. My home town, Ballarat, is the site of the Eureka rebellion. The Eureka flag is housed in a place of honour in the Museum of Australian Democracy at Eureka. At one level, this flag is fabric and thread. At another, it far transcends the materials from which it is crafted. These materials were transformed, possibly by women from my own parish, into a symbol of freedom for the Eureka rebels. In the process, they changed their purpose and meaning; so too with the bread and wine of our Eucharistic celebrations. They have become, in a very real though mysterious sense, the body and blood of Christ.

This Sunday, very few of us can actually participate in a Eucharistic celebration. We can take time to pray, to reflect on the Word and on the meaning of Eucharist. While we reflect on this mystery, we ground our faith in action designed to address the issue of global hunger and the circumstances that inhibit access to "bread" for all. The feast of the Body and Blood of Christ invites us to careful consumption of the world's resources so that all God's people and all God's creatures may have life.  
Veronica Lawson RSM



**Recently Deceased: We commend to God:** Teresa Scholten, Fr Noel Connolly SSC, Bp Basil Meeking (Chch)

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Betty Rodgers, Loreto Bourke, Maureen Costigan

**We pray:** Those in need of our prayers; John Madigan, our RCIA & RCIC candidates, all the sick and house-bound, Doctors, Nursing staff, teachers & all essential services staff

**Weekend Masses** have recommenced. Saturday Vigil at **5.00 pm** at **St Columba's** and Sunday morning at **10.00 am** at **Our Lady Help of Christians** for twenty attendees. For contact tracing purposes registration will be required. You will need to register for these Masses as well as the weekday Masses, Tuesday and Wednesday St Columba's & Thursday and Friday at OLHC all at 10:00am. Please either telephone or email the respective Parish Office to reserve your place.

**Personal Prayer** In addition, St Columba's church will be open 9.00 am — 5.00 pm Monday– Friday for personal prayer. Please follow social distancing at all times and use hand sanitizer as you enter and leave the Church.

**Plenary Council ~ Assemblies set for 2021 and 2022** The two assemblies for the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia will now take place in October 2021 and April 2022, following the disruption of the original schedule due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference last week decided to postpone the opening assembly by 12 months, with it now to be held in October 2021. Adelaide remains the venue for the first assembly. The second assembly will be in Sydney in April 2022

**Plenary Council Discernment Papers released** Six Discernment and Writing Groups, one each for the six national themes for discernment that emerged from the Council's Listening and Dialogue phase, were tasked with writing papers to bring some major themes and issues into focus. The papers were released on Pentecost Sunday and are available to read at the Plenary Council website <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/continuing-the-journey-of-discernment/>

**Position available - Diocesan Pastoral Development Coordinator** The Diocesan Pastoral Development Coordinator will develop and facilitate diocesan initiatives, programmes and activities to strengthen and support Diocesan and Parish life. Position information available from the diocesan website [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)

**Diocese of Ballarat Catholic Education Limited** A new DOBCEL video has been launched introducing Board directors and outlining the functions and responsibilities of the DOBCEL Board. View the video at the DOBCEL website <https://www.dobcel.org.au/introducing-dobcel/>

**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. The next cycle begins July 12. Study is 5 weeks. Registrations open now until July 8. More information at [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) or email [kim.butler@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:kim.butler@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or ph. 0407 523 424.

**Church denounces malicious emails claiming to be from Catholic sources** The Catholic Church has denounced a number of malicious emails being sent to random recipients claiming to be from Catholic parishes, dioceses and other organisations. See the media release from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference on the diocesan website [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)

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**Position Available — Ballarat East Parish Coordinator**

Applications are currently being sought for the position of Parish Coordinator. This is a part-time position that ensures the effective operation of the parish office by providing office coordination, reception and administrative assistance. A copy of the position description and application form are available on the St Alipius' Parish website [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au). Applications close Friday, June 26, 2020.

**Baptism Preparation** sessions for Parents for children aged up to 7 years wishing to have their child/children Baptized are recommencing soon. Register your interest by phoning Judith at St Columba's Parish Office or Maree at OLHC. First session will be on Tuesday 30th June at 11 am.



**ACU Centre for Liturgy Presents: Rev Prof Mark R. Francis CSV "The Challenge of Intercultural Liturgy in the Era of Pope Francis" (free online public lecture)** The Australian Catholic University (ACU) Centre for Liturgy will host the President of the Catholic Theological Union, Rev Prof Mark R. Francis CSV, in a free online public lecture broadcast live from Chicago, USA on Monday July 20 from 10.00am - 11.30am (AEST) via Zoom: "The Challenge of Intercultural Liturgy in the Era of Pope Francis." Registration is essential by July 15, 2020 at <https://www.acu.edu.au/about-acu/institutes-academies-and-centres/acu-centre-for-liturgy/pastoral-training/event-registration-july-2020>

**St Vincent Pallotti Scholarship Trust** Scholarships are offered to enable lay people to further their understanding and skills in leadership/ministry or a specialised activity, such as promoting faith enhancement, social justice and pastoral care. More information and applications forms are available at <https://pallottine.org.au/scholarships/st-vincent-pallotti-scholarship-for-lay-ministry.html>. Closing Date July 31, 2020.

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**Readings for Body and Blood of Christ Year A**

**First Reading** Dt 8:2-3. 14-16

*A reading from the book of Deuteronomy*

Moses said to the people: 'Remember how the Lord your God led you for forty years in the wilderness, to humble you, to test you and know your inmost heart – whether you would keep his commandments or not. He humbled you, he made you feel hunger, he fed you with manna which neither you nor your fathers had known, to make you understand that man does not live on bread alone but that man lives on everything that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

'Do not then forget the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery: who guided you through this vast and dreadful wilderness, a land of fiery serpents, scorpions, thirst; who in this waterless place brought you water from the hardest rock; who in this wilderness fed you with manna that your fathers had not known.'



**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 147:12-15. 19-20. R. v.12

(R.) Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.

1. O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!

Zion, praise your God!

He has strengthened the bars of your gates,

he has blessed the children within you. (R.)

2. He has established peace on your borders,

he feeds you with finest wheat.

He sends out his word to the earth

and swiftly runs his command. (R.)

3. He makes his word known to Jacob,

to Israel his laws and decrees.

He has not dealt thus with other nations;

he has not taught them his decrees. (R.)

**Second Reading** 1 Cor 10:16-17

*A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians*

The blessing-cup that we bless is a communion with the blood of Christ, and the bread that we break is a communion with the body of Christ. The fact that there is only one loaf means that, though there are many of us, we form a single body because we all have a share in this one loaf.

**Gospel** Jn 6:51-58

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to John*

Jesus said to the Jews 'I am the living bread which has come down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world.'

Then the Jews started arguing with one another: 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' they said. Jesus replied:

'I tell you most solemnly, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you will not have life in you. Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood has eternal life, and I shall raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in him. As I, who am sent by the living Father, myself draw life from the Father, so whoever eats me will

draw life from me. This is the bread come down from heaven;

not like the bread our ancestors ate: they are dead,

but anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.'

The Gospel of the Lord

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