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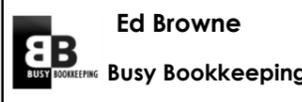
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Child Safe Church The Parishes of St Columba's & Our Lady Help of Christians (including Lexton, Miners Rest and Waubra) follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards as directed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



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

Staffing

St Columba's

Pastoral Associate:

Judith O'Sullivan

Mon-Friday 9:00am -12:00pm

Our Safeguarding Officer:

Peter Marquand

Our Lady Help of Christians

Parish Co-ordinator and

Safeguarding Officer:

Maree Roache

Wed-Friday 9:00am—1:00pm

MASS TIMES

St Columba's

Saturday Vigil: 5.00 pm

Tuesday: No Mass

Wednesday: 10:00 am

Our Lady Help of Christians

Sunday: 10:00 am

Thursday: 10:00 am

Friday: 10:00 am

Readings for next weekend:

2 Kgs 4:8-11, 14-16

Ps 88:2-3, 16-19. R. v.2

Rom 6:3-4, 8-11

Mt 10:37-42



21st June 2020 ~ 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Focus on the Scriptures

Many of those who once looked through the barbed-wire fences of Australia's detention centres carry personal stories of fear of persecution. One such story, the story of Najaf Mazari, is beautifully narrated by Najaf and Robert Hillman in their joint work, *The Rugmaker of Mazar-e-Sharif*. Najaf is an Afghani Hazara who suffered persecution and torture at the hands of the Taliban. He escaped to Australia via Indonesia in 2002. After some time in detention, he established a rug making business in suburban Melbourne. He was reunited with his wife Hakeema and daughter Maria in 2008 and became an Australian citizen in June 2014.

Some first century Christian groups, including Matthew's community, were a bit like the Afghani Hazaras and Syrian or Iraqi Christians in that they are persecuted simply on account of who they are vis-à-vis those who seek exclusive political and cultural power. They have every reason to fear bodily harm and even death, as suffered by Jesus and his followers. Jesus himself experienced fear in the face of his impending suffering and political execution. Yet Jesus tells his disciples, not once but three times, not to fear those who kill the body.

How are these words to be understood? To return to the story of Najaf: the Taliban had power to destroy his body, but no power over his spirit. A man of deep faith, supported by a family who sacrificed their own comfort and placed their trust in God (Allah), he survived against the most incredible odds. Even if he had died in the effort to find freedom, his faith in the fullness of life with God would remain, in contrast with the bullying power of the Taliban who could kill the body but not an indomitable spirit.

Trust in God is at the heart of Jesus' response to suffering. The disciples are sent to proclaim in the marketplace or from the "housetops" the gospel they have received in the security of the household. If they proclaim the gospel and acknowledge Jesus, he will in turn "acknowledge" them before God "in heaven". They can expect rejection and humiliation. This is not to deter them from their mission. They are not to give up the struggle or capitulate in the face of persecution. Like all of God's creatures, including the sparrows, they are precious in God's eyes and will not be abandoned. On the contrary, even the hairs on their heads are numbered by God. Trust in God is the appropriate response to suffering endured for the sake of God's empire as opposed to the empire of Rome. Trust in God does not take away the pain. As we move into this most extraordinary of Ordinary Times, we join with asylum seekers, refugees, the unemployed and the underemployed, with African American communities and especially, in this context, with the First Peoples of this country, for the justice that is their right. They are precious in God's eyes. They are precious in our eyes and must not be abandoned.

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: John Madigan, Geoff Nott, Dorothy Williams

Anniversaries: We remember: Sal O'Donoghue, Dot Keys, William Constable, Kath Leonard, Theo Wilkes, John Rieniets

We pray: Those in need of our prayers; our RCIA & RCIC candidates, all the sick and housebound

Weekend Masses have recommenced as follows Saturday Vigil at **5.00 pm** at **St Columba's** and Sunday morning at **10.00 am** at **Our Lady Help of Christians** for **20** attendees. For contact tracing purposes registration will be required. You will need to register for these Masses as well as Mass during the week; Tuesday and Wednesday St Columba's & Thursday and Friday at OLHC all at 10:00am. Please either telephone or email the respective Parish Office **during office hours** to reserve your place. From next weekend **June 27th/28th** numbers will increase to **50**. As contact details ie: name and phone number will still be required, it will be appreciated that if you intend coming to Mass, that contact be made with the respective Parish Office prior to doing so.

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/>

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 or email kim.butler@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 0407 523 424.

St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat - Alpha Online Alpha is a parish tool for evangelisation, based on hospitality, sharing and open conversation. The same Alpha content is run all over the world by Christians of all traditions and provides a common expression of proclamation, service and witness. Millions of people have tried Alpha all around the world in 112 languages. St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Ballarat offers the opportunity to join the Alpha program online every Wednesday from July 1 - September 9, 2020 from 7.00pm - 8.00pm. Please register your interest with Jess at alpha.jess@icloud.com

Catholic Education Ballarat - We are so glad to have you back! A special message from our Principals to our students and their families to say welcome back to school and thank you, is available to view on the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

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 1st Collection: \$ 256.70 2nd Collection (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,733.00
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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. 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 11am.



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 <https://pallottine.org.au/scholarships/st-vincent-pallotti-scholarship-for-lay-ministry.html>. Closing Date July 31, 2020.

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

Readings for Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time A

First Reading Jer 20:10-13

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

Jeremiah said:
 'I hear so many disparaging me,
 "Terror from every side! Denounce him! Let us denounce him!" All those who used to be my friends watched for my downfall, "Perhaps he will be seduced into error. Then we will master him and take our revenge!" But the Lord is at my side, a mighty hero; my opponents will stumble, mastered, confounded by their failure; everlasting, unforgettable disgrace will be theirs.

But you, Lord of Hosts, you who probe with justice, who scrutinise the loins and heart, let me see the vengeance you will take on them, for I have committed my cause to you. Sing to the Lord, praise the Lord, for he has delivered the soul of the needy from the hands of evil men.'

The word of the Lord



Responsorial Psalm Ps 68:8-10. 14. 17. 33-35. R. v.14

(R.) Lord, in your great love, answer me.

1. It is for you that I suffer taunts, that shame covers my face, that I have become a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my own mother's sons. I burn with zeal for your house and taunts against you fall on me. (R.)
2. This is my prayer to you, my prayer for your favour. In your great love, answer me, O God, with your help that never fails: Lord, answer, for your love is kind; in your compassion, turn towards me. (R.)
3. The poor when they see it will be glad and God-seeking hearts will revive; for the Lord listens to the needy and does not spurn his servants in their chains. Let the heavens and the earth give him praise, the sea and all its living creatures. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 5:12-15

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Mt 10:26-33

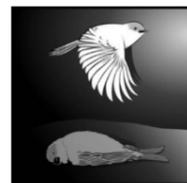
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the house-tops.

'Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows.

'So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But the one who disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord



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