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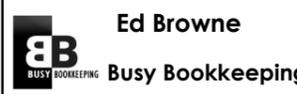
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**Child Safe Church** The Parishes of St Columba's & Our Lady Help of Christians (including Lexton, Miners Rest and Waubra) follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards as directed 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](http://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: 10:00 am

Wednesday: 10:00 am

**Our Lady Help of Christians**

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

Sunday: 10:00 am

Thursday: 10:00 am

Friday: 10:00 am

**Readings for next weekend:**

Is 55:10-11

Ps 64:10-14. R. Lk 8:8

Rom 8:18-23

Mt 13:1-23



**5th July 2020 ~ 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

When we hear the term, yoke, we tend to think about the yoke that is used to harness oxen together or the yoke that someone might carry on their shoulder to balance a heavy load. This yoke across the shoulder was adopted into tailoring and so the shoulder piece set into a shirt is also called a yoke. However, in the Jewish tradition there is a completely different meaning to the term. The yoke of a rabbi was his particular interpretation of Torah (the Law); his particular teaching. Disciples who followed a particular rabbi sought to take on his yoke; his particular interpretation. The yoke of any rabbi was best identified by asking him, 'Which is the greatest commandment?' A rabbi's answer to this question revealed his interpretation of Torah. When Jesus is asked that question, he answers, 'Love God and love your neighbour,' and goes on to say that all of the rest of the Law and the prophets flows on from these two commandments. This is the yoke – the interpretation of Torah – that Jesus taught.

In today's gospel, Jesus calls to him all those who labour and are overburdened. It is the Pharisaic interpretation of the Law that burdens these people. Trying to maintain the Law was burdensome and complicated for the everyday person. Jesus says, 'Shoulder my yoke and learn from me ... my yoke is easy.' The yoke of Jesus was easy: Love God and love your neighbour. Compared to the 613 *mitzvot* (commands) set out in the Torah and strictly maintained by the Pharisees, the yoke of Jesus was incredibly easy to understand and adopt. So simple, in fact, that it required a child-like simplicity to accept this yoke.



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**Responsorial Psalm:** (R.) Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy people. Praise God who called you out of darkness and into his marvellous light. Alleluia!

**Recently Deceased:** We commend to God: Peter McCartney

**Anniversaries:** We remember: John Bond, Helena Macklin, Gina Ryan, James Chol, Keith Davies, Ray (Buck) Jeffrey

**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.

The state government has held back on the easing of restrictions, so please disregard what we said last weekend about an increase in numbers. We are to remain at 20 for all Masses until at least the 19th July. As contact details ie: name and phone number are still required, it will be appreciated that if you intend coming to Mass, that contact be made during office hours with the respective Parish Office prior to doing so. If you leave a message please ensure you leave your contact number. Please follow social distancing at all times and use hand sanitizer as you enter and leave the Church.

St Columba's is also open for private prayer 9am –5pm Monday—Friday, please use hand sanitizer as you enter and leave the church. Thank you.

**A message from Fr Robert McCulloch** On 4 July 2020, I am celebrating the 50th anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood by Archbishop Knox in St Patrick's Cathedral Melbourne. I had planned to be in Australia in August and was going to celebrate Mass at St Columba's but the present pandemic has postponed that.

I made three major decisions about my life as a Columban missionary priest. In 1964, to give up a Commonwealth government full university scholarship and go to the Columban seminary. In 1977, after three happy years of missionary work in the Philippines and completing liturgical studies in Rome and church history studies in Washington DC, to volunteer to go to one of the new missions the Columbans were opening in Pakistan and Taiwan. And in 2011, to accept the invitation of the Columban Superior-General to go to Rome as the Society's Procurator-General. They were all good decisions with no regrets.

When I volunteered in 1977 for one of the new missions, I hoped greatly and prayed intensely that I would be appointed to Pakistan. It happened, by the kind grace of God, and there I spent 34 years of my life as a priest and missionary. Firstly in the far north-east where Kashmir and Pakistan and India meet. And then from 1983 in the southern province of Sindh on the fringe of the Thar Desert for primary evangelization among Hindu semi-nomadic tribal people and in Karachi to teach Liturgy, Church History and Latin at the theology seminary. Hospital developments, home-based palliative care, health care for people who are incredibly poor and greatly oppressed, and several education centres to assist Catholic young men overcome religious and social discrimination continue to flourish under competent lay administration and management and through generous benefactor support. The translation of the Catechism of the Catholic Church into Urdu and the ongoing Urdu translation of the Roman Missal are another aspect of my missionary life in Pakistan.

Rome is Rome. Since 2011, I have been able to develop links with many religious congregations and Vatican and diplomatic sources for the benefit of the Columbans and our missionary work. Rome has also been an opportunity to develop fruitful working connections with the Anglican, Methodist and Presbyterian churches. This has been a rich harvest from the seeds of ecumenical friendship which I received from my parents while growing up in Victoria.

**Collections at St Columba's**

**We thank you for your generous support**

1st Collection: \$ 305.60 2nd Collection (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,319.00  
Easter Offerings: \$

**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>

**Holy Hour and Adoration** before the Blessed Sacrament. Friday 10th July from 6.00pm till 7.00pm in the foyer. All most welcome

**SVDP St Columba's Winter Appeal** As we will be unable to take up our usual collections after weekend Mass for our annual winter appeal, this year we invite you leave your donation in the Church in the basket provided or you are welcome to leave an envelope marked "Winter Appeal" in the Parish Office. We thank you in advance for your generosity.

**Plenary Council Update** The journey to the Plenary Council 2020 continues. While it's in a context more different than we could have ever expected, the need to pray, discern and listen to the Holy Spirit and each other is more important than ever.

**New Assembly Dates announced:** Have you heard the news? We've locked in our new dates for the Plenary Council Assembly 1 and 2!. Read the full media release here: <https://mediablog.catholic.org.au/dates-locked-in-for-plenary-council-assemblies/#more-8501>

**Discernment Papers:** The six discernment papers have been released and are available to be read. The National Plenary Facilitation Team will soon release resources to assist parishes and communities to explore each of the papers. Here in the diocese, we will endeavour to look at one paper for a month. For the month of July (you can start in June, of course), we will look at **HOW IS GOD CALLING US TO BE A CHRIST-CENTRED CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA THAT IS Missionary & Evangelising?** *'Mission' is God's initiative and proceeds from the Trinity, whose love overflows in creation and redemption. The Word and Spirit are present and active in the unfolding of the universe and in all human history, as evidenced in the goodness and truth found in all cultures and societies. The incarnate Son of God through his life, ministry, death and resurrection revealed God to us and redeemed us in a unique and unsurpassable way through his paschal sacrifice. His evangelising activity gave birth to the Church which is the visible manifestation of the Gospel command to "Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations" (Mt 28:19). Have a read of the discernment paper, think about your parish and the diocese in general. We welcome any comments. Please send through to [jane.collins@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:jane.collins@ballarat.catholic.org.au). [Read the discernment paper](#) [Visit the Missionary and Evangelising theme's page](#).*

**Congratulations** This weekend during the Saturday evening 5pm Mass at St Columba's we will welcome Sarah Greig, who after a long preparation, will be received fully into the Catholic Church. We congratulate her and warmly welcome her as she reaches this milestone. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.



**Readings for Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time A**

**First Reading** Zec 9:9-10 A reading from the prophet Zechariah

The Lord says this:

'Rejoice heart and soul, daughter of Zion! Shout with gladness, daughter of Jerusalem!

See now, your king comes to you; he is victorious, he is triumphant, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

He will banish chariots from Ephraim and horses from Jerusalem;

the bow of war will be banished. He will proclaim peace for the nations.

His empire shall stretch from sea to sea, from the River to the ends of the earth.'

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 144:1-2. 8-11. 13-14. R. v.1

(R.) I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

1. I will give you glory, O God my King,

I will bless your name for ever.  
I will bless you day after day  
and praise your name for ever. (R.)

2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,  
slow to anger, abounding in love.  
How good is the Lord to all,  
compassionate to all his creatures. (R.)

3. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,  
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.  
They shall speak of the glory of your reign  
and declare your might, O God. (R.)

4. The Lord is faithful in all his words  
and loving in all his deeds.  
The Lord supports all who fall  
and raises all who are bowed down. (R.)

**Second Reading** Rom 8:9.11-13 A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Your interests are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him, and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

So then, my brothers, there is no necessity for us to obey our unspiritual selves or to live unspiritual lives. If you do live in that way, you are doomed to die; but if by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body you will live.

**Gospel** Mt 11:25-30 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus exclaimed, 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'

The Gospel of the Lord

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