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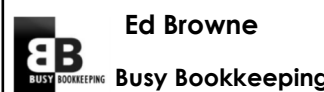
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Child Safe Church The Parishes of St Columba's & Our Lady Help of Christians (including Lexton, Miners Rest and Waubra) follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards as directed 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>
- **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
Tues-Friday 9:00am—1:00pm

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 this coming week

St Columba's

Saturday Vigil: 5.00 pm
Tuesday: 10:00 am
Wednesday: 10:00 am

Our Lady Help of Christians

Sunday: 8.30 am Waubra
(1st & 3rd Sunday, Lexton 5th Sunday)

10:00 am Wendouree

Thursday: 10:00 am

Friday: 10:00 am

Readings for next weekend:

Is 55:1-3
Ps 144:8-9. 15-18. R. v.16
Rom 8:35. 37-39
Mt 14:13-21



26th July 2020 ~ 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Focus on the Scriptures

The three parables and the summary statement in today's gospel conclude Matthew's parable chapter. In the first parable, the Matthean Jesus likens the kin-dom of the heavens, not just to "treasure", but rather to treasure hidden in a field that someone, possibly a slave or day labourer, finds and hides before going joyfully to sell everything in order to buy the field and acquire the treasure. The parabolic image here comprises the whole complex of actor, objects and actions (the finder; the finding, selling and buying; the joy; the treasure and the field). The details pose endless questions. Who had right to ownership of the treasure? Is this a case of theft? Whatever the answer to these questions, this parable invites us to pause and consider what constitutes the real "treasure" in our lives and ask to what lengths we would go in order to secure that treasure.

The second parable tells of a merchant who seeks fine pearls, finds one of great value, then goes and sells all his possessions in order to acquire that one pearl. Again, that is what the kin-dom of the heavens is about. What is of such value to us that we would give up everything else in order to have that one thing, that one relationship? That is the question.

Jesus proceeds to liken the kin-dom of the heavens, not just to a dragnet, but to a dragnet thrown into the sea that catches fish of every kind and is drawn to shore by fisher-folk who sit down and sort it, putting the good into baskets and throwing away the bad. To what might this parable invite us? As we confine ourselves to essential shopping during the pandemic, many are asking what is good and what is not so good, what sort of future do we really want. Do we want to perpetuate a consumerist life-style that appropriates far more than our share of the world's resources and leaves little time or energy for considering either the plight of our endangered planet or the needs and aspirations of those on the edge? There is a new realisation that standard of living and quality of life are far from synonymous.

The summary statement tells us that, like Matthew's community, we need to be "scribes" educated in the ways of God. We need to bring out of the treasury of our traditions "what is new and what is old", wisely discerning what to keep and what to relinquish. Parables help to subvert our presuppositions. They disturb our complacency if we allow them to do so. The parables of the buried treasure, the priceless pearl and the dragnet remind us that gospel discipleship demands an all-embracing investment of heart and spirit. We search our hearts to know where our treasure lies and join with others who show us how we might claim it for the common good of the entire Earth community. Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm: (R.) Lord, I love your commands.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Marie McKenna, Frank O'Connor, Alan Rix, Nick Morcom

Anniversaries: We remember: Bill Heagney, Mena Heagney, Marj Murtagh and Jim Murtagh

We pray: Those in need of our prayers; our RCIC candidates, all the sick including Saskiah Gallagher and all those struggling with the effects of Covid-19

Weekend Masses continue 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. Contact details i.e: name and phone number are still required. You only need to pre-register for the weekend Masses. Contact can be made during office hours with the respective Parish Office via telephone or email. If you leave a telephone message, please ensure you leave your contact number. As much as we would like to accommodate everyone who wishes to attend, that is not always possible. We suggest that you register every 2-3 weeks to give others an opportunity to attend. If you register please ensure you attend or let us know asap as we have a waiting list and someone else would be grateful for the seat. Thank you. Please use hand sanitizer when you enter and leave the Church and follow social distancing at all times.

SUPPORT OUR PARISHES



Our CDF (Catholic Development Fund – Ballarat) together with CDF Pay have developed an online thanksgiving portal known as CDF Pay for Parishes. During this time where Masses in the diocese are suspended or reduced as a consequence of COVID-19, the financial support of parishioners is greatly appreciated. Many parishioners give physically to our parish utilising the first and second collection plates, which has been a feature of parish life for many years. As an alternative parishioners are invited to consider using the new electronic parish thanksgiving program. This portal is available to support our parish in both/either the first and second collections. Electronic offerings can be made as one off payments or you can set up a regular payment. You will receive an electronic receipt for any payments made. Payment link can be found by scrolling down on our webpage or using the link. <https://ballarat.cdfpay.org.au/details/?id=6>

Baptism Preparation Session The next session will be held on Tuesday 28th July at 11am in the Church Foyer at St Columba's. Please contact Maree or Judith to register your attendance.

ACRATH (Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans) - World Day Against Trafficking in Persons is on July 30 COVID-19 is impacting those most vulnerable to trafficking because they often live in poverty and lack suitable housing and healthcare. Hundreds of thousands of these people will be drawn to the promise of work simply to put food on their tables - work that often turns out to be a job in slave-like conditions. Each year ACRATH asks for your support as we mark the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons on July 30. Each year, generously, you respond. And each year because of your response, ACRATH has been able to develop projects, services and resources. If you're able, your donation will be much appreciated. You can donate online at <https://www.trybooking.com/au/donate/acrath> or go to Youth Social Justice page of the diocesan website at <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-and-agencies/dsp-default.cfm?loadref=238> for other donation options and more information.

Australian Catholic Men's Gathering The Australian Catholic Bishop's Conference National Catholic Men's Gathering for 2020 is now being offered as an online event for registered participants on Saturday, July 31. The program offers flexibility so that you may participate individually or gather with others from your parish/diocese or men's ministry group. This is a free event. For the event program and registration information go to www.catholicmensgathering.com.au.

Masses at Waubra have resumed on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 8:30 am. Next Mass will be on Sunday 2nd August.

Collections at St Columba's **We thank you for your generous support**
 1st Collection: \$ 153.00 2nd Collection (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 385.00

St Vincent de Paul Society Winter Appeal This year's appeal will focus on addressing the needs of Victorians who have been impacted by COVID-19. Now more than ever, the funds raised during this appeal are critical in ensuring that Vinnies can continue to be there for people when they need us most. You can donate to our appeal via: **1.** Envelopes available at churches. Please write your name and address on the envelope so receipts can be issued. Once completed envelopes can left at the parish office. **2.** Online at vinnies.org.au **3.** By phone 13 18 12. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible. **'Treasuring our Later Years'** (via Zoom until face-to-face permitted), 6 x Tuesdays, 1pm-3pm, 4 Aug to 8 Sep 2020. Facilitated by Nicole Rotaru rsm, this series offers participants the opportunity to explore new possibilities that ageing offers daily. It will include reflections on themes that take on particular relevance and meaning in our later years, eg Spirituality... deepest dimension of our life; What is giving my life meaning?; At its core, life is about relationships; etc. Cost \$115 for the series, or \$20 per session. Bookings and payment via Trybooking at <https://www.trybooking.com/BKLUH>. For more information, contact holsc@bigpond.com or tel 9890 1 1 0 1 .

An invitation to pray, reflect, journal, listen and converse using St Ignatius' First Spiritual Exercise The First Spiritual Exercises Ministry warmly invites you to experience a reflective and quiet time receiving and sharing your experiences in praying the new FSE Field Hospital Exercises. During three Mondays August 3, 10 and 17 from 7.00pm – 8.30pm via Zoom meeting, we will guide you through this gentle retreat which offers participants the deeper graces of tender love, hope, faith and inner peace in the Service of God. More information available from <https://mailchi.mp/garrattpublishing.com.au/all-fse-field-hospital-exercises-july-2020?e=986abfa3fb>

Judith Potter: At the conclusion of Term Two Judith Potter concluded her appointment as Principal of Loreto College after 14 years. Judith is a valued member of OLHC Parish Community and is a Special Minister of the Eucharist. The parish joins with Loreto College, Catholic Education in the Ballarat Diocese and the wider educational community in congratulating Judith on an exceptional career in education and thank her for her generosity and commitment. Every blessing and good wish in your retirement Judith.

Parish Pastoral Council at OLHC was held of Wednesday night via Zoom. Discussion focussed on the effect of COVID-19 on parish life and parishioners, and preparing for a way forward post-COVID. Members Mario Cordioli (0427 909 786) and Sue Calsitro (0409 426 928) and) are happy to take your comments or concerns to the PPC on your behalf.

Readings for Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time A

First Reading 1 Kgs 3:5.7-12 A reading from the first book of the Kings The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'



Responsorial Psalm Ps 118:57. 72. 76-77. 127-130. R. v.97

(R.) Lord, I love your commands.
 1. My part, I have resolved, O Lord, is to obey your word.
 The law from your mouth means more to me than silver and gold. (R.)
 2. Let your love be ready to console me by your promise to your servant.
 Let your love come to me and I shall live for your law is my delight. (R.)
 3. That is why I love your commands more than finest gold.
 That is why I rule my life by your precepts: I hate false ways. (R.)
 4. Your will is wonderful indeed; therefore I obey it.
 The unfolding of your word gives light and teaches the simple. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 8:28-30 A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

Gospel Mt 13:44-52 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'

The Gospel of the Lord

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