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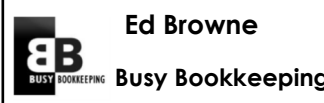
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**Child Safe Church** The Parishes of St Columba's & Our Lady Help of Christians (including Lexton, Miners Rest and Waubra) follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards as directed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

Tuesday: 10:00 am  
Wednesday: 9:30 am  
Saturday Vigil: 5.00 pm

**Our Lady Help of Christians**

Thursday: 10:00 am  
Friday: 10:00 am  
Sunday: 8.30 am No Mass  
(Waubra 1st & 3rd Sun., Lexton 5th Sunday)  
10:00 am

**Readings for next weekend:**

1 Kgs 19:9.11-13  
Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8  
Rom 9:1-5  
Mt 14:22-33



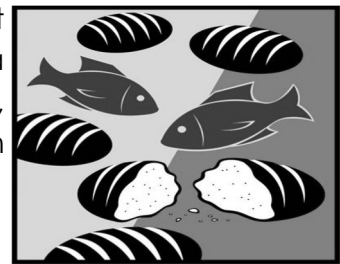
**2nd August 2020 ~ 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

Jesus nourishes us. In a world that is fraught with meaninglessness, he offers purpose; to a world that is stumbling in darkness and confusion, he provides direction. He satisfies the hungry heart; he enlivens the drooping spirit. Those who follow Jesus will never be left to languish in the desert. If we but open our eyes, we will be amazed at the bountifulness of the nourishment that is provided for us. We will discover that God is magnanimous, even prodigal in giving, that God's generosity exceeds all of our expectations and also our understanding.

Furthermore, we are nourished by God through the ministry of each other, through the simple things of life, (distributing bread and gathering up the fragments): visiting the sick and consoling the grieving; caring for a child and giving aid to an elder; bagging groceries and directing a choir. If we but open our eyes, we will be astounded at how ordinary actions can satisfy our hunger and the hunger of others.

Most amazing of all is that this nourishment is given freely; there was no thought of requiring payment. God simply invites: Come! All we have to do is reach out our hands to receive and we will never be sent away to find nourishment for ourselves. We will discover that a bond is established that endures. Jesus is filled with compassion, a compassion that is not a fleeting emotion, but an enduring attitude. Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ.



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**Responsorial Psalm:** (R.) The hand of the Lord feeds us: he answers all our needs.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Alleluia!

**Recently Deceased: We commend to God:** Roza Horvarth, Ron Flynn

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Jacqueline Curran, Jim Lamb, Bill Thompson, Gwen Sowter, Tess Sheehan, Hilda Duggan, Mary "Bel" Jackman.

**We pray:** Those in need of our prayers especially Saskiah Gallagher; our RCIC candidates, all the sick 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 ie: name and phone number are still required. You only need to preregister 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. Thank you.

**Further restrictions** Note from Bishop Paul "In our diocese of Ballarat, we will still be allowed to gather for liturgies in churches, with a maximum of 20 people in the congregation, plus those needed to conduct the service. However, from Monday August 3, everyone will be required to wear a face covering throughout the liturgy. The only exceptions would be when the priest is speaking to the congregation or reading prayers, when a reader is actually reading the Scriptures, when a song leader is leading the singing and when anyone is receiving communion. "



**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>

**Wednesday 5th August** please note that the Mass at St Columba's will begin at **9.30am**

**Congratulations** to Isabelle and Sienna Kis, daughters of Jayne and Paul who are welcomed into the Catholic Church through Baptism this weekend at OLHC. May the girls grow in faith with the support of their family and our parish community.



**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 August 30. Study is 5 weeks. Registrations open now until August 19. More info 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.

**Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission - Climate Change Act** Have you signed Zali Steggal's climate change bill? We need your support to ensure that the bill is introduced to Parliament. All you have to do is click and register - it takes one minute. Please remember to only register once as if you register twice, your vote will not be counted at all. Register today to strengthen our fight against climate change. <https://climateactnow.com.au>

**Collections at St Columba's** **We thank you for your generous support**

1st Collection: \$ 110.95 2nd Collection (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 800.00

**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](http://vinnies.org.au) **3.** By phone 13 18 12. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

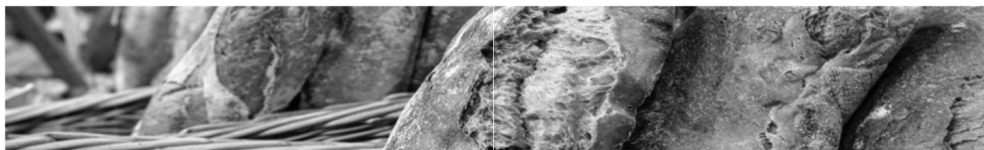
**'Treasuring our Later Years'** (via Zoom until face-to-face permitted), 6 x Tuesdays, 1pm-3pm, 4 Aug to 8 Sep 2020. Facilitated by Nicole Rotaru rsm, this series offers participants the opportunity to explore new possibilities that ageing offers daily. It will include reflections on themes that take 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](mailto:holsc@bigpond.com) or tel 9890 1101.

**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-july2020?e=986abfa3fb>

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**Readings for Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time A**  
**First Reading** Is 55:1-3 A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord:  
Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty;  
though you have no money, come!  
Buy corn without money, and eat,  
and, at no cost, wine and milk.  
Why spend money on what is not bread,  
your wages on what fails to satisfy?  
Listen, listen to me and you will have good things to eat  
and rich food to enjoy.  
Pay attention, come to me;  
listen, and your soul will live.  
With you I will make an everlasting covenant  
out of the favours promised to David.



**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 144:8-9. 15-18. R. v.16  
(R.) The hand of the Lord feeds us: he answers all our needs.

1. 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.)  
2. The eyes of all creatures look to you  
and you give them their food in due time.  
You open wide your hand,  
grant the desires of all who live. (R.)  
3. The Lord is just in all his ways  
and loving in all his deeds.  
He is close to all who call him,  
call on him from their hearts. (R.)

**Second Reading** Rom 8:35. 37-39 A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Gospel** Mt 14:13-21A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick.

When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered, 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me,' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.

The Gospel of the Lord

The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers.

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