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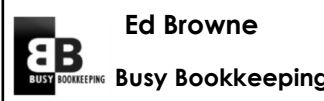
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Child Safe Church The Parishes of St Columba's & Our Lady Help of Christians (including Lexton, Miners Rest and Waubra) follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards as directed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

Wed-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

St Columba's

No Masses until further notice

Our Lady Help of Christians

No Masses until further notice

Readings for next weekend:

Is 56:1.6-7

Ps 66:2-3 5-6. 8. R. v.4

Rom 11:13-15. 29-32

Mt 15:21-28



9th August 2020 ~ 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Focus on the Scriptures

Right now, our planet is battered by the waves of pandemic. Our church also knows what it means to be "battered by the waves". Over its two millennia history, there have been periods of discrimination and persecution against its members. Countless church members have died for their faith, while others have been and are being denied the freedom to practice their religion. There have also been times when the church has fallen far short of its own ideals and has quite seriously betrayed the gospel values it seeks to embody and proclaim. It is presently "battered" by huge even terrifying waves, largely of its own creating. Only God can bring order out of the chaos, and God works through the courageous witness and action of faith-filled disciples.

In today's gospel, Matthew tells of Jesus astride the waves like the God of Israel in Job 9:8. In Israel's mythology, the sea represents chaos. To walk on water is to have power and authority to bring order out of the chaos. Matthew presents Jesus as exercising the power of God over the potentially destructive chaos. Jesus makes his claim to divine power explicit in words that echo God's words from the burning bush: "It is I" (literally "I am"). He tells the frightened disciples to take heart and not to be afraid. Peter, leader of the group, continues to doubt. He asks for a sign and is then prepared to take a risk in order to come to Jesus on the water. He begins to falter when he takes his eyes off Jesus and focuses instead on the threatening wind. Jesus reaches out his hand to rescue Peter. In a lovely gesture, Jesus takes him by the hand and holds him firmly in his grip. Jesus names Peter's hesitation as a response of limited faith.

Matthew weaves the story of Peter into an earlier story from Mark's gospel. We can only speculate on the reasons for this. Were Matthew's communities going through hard times? Were they battered by the waves of conflicting loyalties as they found themselves excluded from Pharisaic Judaism? Was the pressure of separation from the synagogue too great for some, even for those in leadership? This is a telling story for anyone who exercises leadership at any level in the church. It is a reminder to us as disciples to keep our eyes firmly fixed on the source of hope in times of struggle and uncertainty and on the crucial issues that face our planetary home.

Finally, this story invites us to consider the threatening waves created by the undeniable reality of a pandemic in a time of climate crisis. The human community is largely responsible for the climate crisis. The human community must join hands to save what can be saved. The growing commitment to renewable energy provides, for me, a contemporary image of a saving hand reaching out to Earth communities that are in danger of being submerged. **Veronica Lawson RSM**



Responsorial Psalm: (R.) Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I hope in the Lord, I trust in his word. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: all who have died recently

Anniversaries: We remember: Des Willis, Brian Blood, Jane Morris, Carmel Sheehan, Michal Yaworowicz, Trudy Walters, Jack Nuttall, Hugh Deady, Ella Deady, Lawrence Deady, Michele & Giuseppina Agostinelli Kevin Nestor,

We pray: Those in need of our prayers especially Saskiah Gallagher; all the sick and all those struggling with the effects of Covid-19, teachers and students of all Victorian schools

Stage 3 Restrictions From Bishop Paul "As you would be aware, the Victorian government has introduced further restrictions to counter the renewed spread of COVID-19. In regional Victoria, including our Diocese of Ballarat, Stage 3 restrictions will apply from midnight August 5. The restrictions will apply until September 13.

The regulations require that "religious ceremonies and private worship" be "broadcast only". This means that our churches and chapels will be closed to the general public. It will still be possible to live stream Masses or other services from churches or chapels, although this would only involve those necessary to conduct the services and enable the live streaming. For information about Masses online, you could go to our diocesan website at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au In regional Victoria, there are exceptions for weddings and funerals, though with limited numbers. For weddings, there may only be 5 people (the couple, two witnesses and the celebrant). For funerals, there may be up to 10 people, plus those conducting the funeral.

It is very sad that we will not be able to gather for Mass in the coming weeks. However, medical advice indicates that the restrictions are necessary for the health of the community. I hope and pray that these steps will be effective in reducing the impact of the pandemic and that we will be able to come together again soon to give thanks to God. In the meantime, we can pray anywhere and anytime in our own heart. Families can pray together at home. We might also pray with others online or simply with a phone call. Christ promised to be with us always. May we know his presence in the weeks ahead. Peace be with you."

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>



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.

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>

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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: Online at vinnies.org.au or By phone 13 18 12. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Donations can also be left at the Parish Office during office hours. Thank you

Damascus College Information Webinars & Virtual Tours for 2022 Commencement Damascus College warmly invites all families to attend our upcoming Information Webinars. The Information Webinar are a great way for prospective families to learn more about Damascus College.
INFORMATION WEBINAR: Wednesday 9 September at 5pm
Tuesday 20 October at 6.30pm

GUIDED VIRTUAL TOURS: Held fortnightly on a Thursday at 9am.

You will be sent an online link the day prior to the event. TO REGISTER, PLEASE GO TO: <https://www.damascus.vic.edu.au/prospective-visit-us>

Social Justice Statement 2020-2021 The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting the mental health of many members of our parishes, schools and communities. Understanding mental health will help us to be aware of those who need our support. In the Social Justice Statement 2020-2021, To Live Life to the Full: Mental health in Australia today, the Bishops invite us all to reject stigmatisation, to work for the transformation of social determinants of mental ill-health, and to call for policies and service provision that meets the needs of the poorest and most marginalised members of our community. More information is available from the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or http://bit.ly/SocialJustice_2020

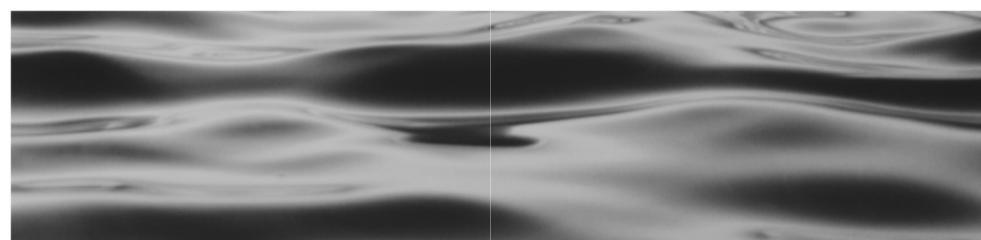
National Emergency Appeal for Lebanon In response to the horrific explosion in Beirut on the 4th of August, the Australian office of the international Catholic Charity, Aid to the Church in Need, has launched a national emergency appeal to raise funds to support the people of Lebanon. To read more about the appeal, and to make a donation, please visit: www.aidtochurch.org/

E-news now available on the Diocesan website

Readings for Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time A

First Reading 1 Kgs 19:9.11-13 A reading from the first book of the Kings

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.



Responsorial Psalm Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8
(R.) Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace. His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land. (R.)
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven. (R.)
3. The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 9:1-5 A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

What I want to say is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

Gospel Mt 14:22-33 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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