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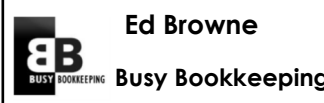
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Child Safe Church The Parishes of St Columba's & Our Lady Help of Christians (including Lexton, Miners Rest and Waubra) follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards as directed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

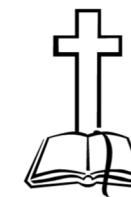
Readings for next weekend:

Is 22:19-23

Ps 137:1-3. 6. 8. R. v.8

Rom 11:33-36

Mt 16:13-20



16th August 2020 ~ 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Focus on the Scriptures

The gospels are written in Greek and much of the language of the gospels has to be understood against a Greek philosophical background. Today's gospel story culminates in the healing of a "daughter" who may be a little girl or even a young woman. Her mother, the main character in the story, is known to Matthew's community simply as a Canaanite woman, or in other words an indigenous woman. To some early Christian communities, she is Justa, so we might reasonably call her daughter Justina.

Justa comes to Jesus as he moves from Jewish territory into or close to non-Jewish territory. In the language of liturgy, she laments loudly and persistently for her daughter, for Justina is "severely tormented by a demon". For the ancient Greeks, the antithesis of demonic possession or torment is human flourishing or well-being (eudaimonia). Eudaimonia means having a good guardian spirit as opposed to a malevolent spirit that impairs a person's well-being and sense of self. Justina's well-being is in jeopardy. Her distraught mother is an outsider to the "house of Israel" who is nonetheless familiar with Israel's prayer of lament. She is a woman alone in public space, risking ridicule and rejection to find healing for her daughter.

The immediate response to her plea is silence: Jesus "does not answer her a word". Is he ignoring her cry for help? Is he simply stunned, taken aback at the vehemence of her request? Is he rendered speechless by the simple fact that she would cross the boundaries of gender and ethnicity in this way? Is he in awe at her courage and faith from the outset? All we know is that he says nothing and that the disciples tell him to send her away. He responds by defining the limits of his mission rather narrowly: he was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Justa is not deterred from her mission. She begs Jesus to help her and receives an explicit refusal in a confronting image that names his people as "the children" and hers as "the dogs". She accepts his statement as a challenge and bests him in the exchange: "even the dogs eat the crumbs...."

Jesus' horizons are expanded by the persistence and insight of this woman. Justa's great faith is affirmed and her daughter is healed. Justa is vindicated and Justina restored to a state of well-being or eudaimonia. Justina has her counterparts across the globe, especially in these troubled times of pandemic. The challenge for us is to be Justa in our times for the sake of all in the Earth community, human and other-than-human, whose well-being or eudaimonia is impaired by illness or fear or lack of access to the means to flourish. **Veronica Lawson RSM**



Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Margaret Gedye (Jim Kierce's sister)

Anniversaries: We remember: John Brusaschi, Lesley Bigarelli, Gwen Souter, Mary Ursula Caine rsm, Mavis Keegan, Judith Johnstone, Neil Woods

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 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. Therefore we are unable to offer Masses or celebrate Baptisms until after this date.

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/lebanon or call 1800 101 201 during business hours: 8am-5pm, AEST.

Position Vacant – Catholic Prison Ministry CatholicCare are seeking a Pastoral Care Practitioner to be an integral part of the Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care Team at Ararat and Trawalla. More information is available from the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.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>

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.

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 August we will look at **HOW IS GOD CALLING US TO BE A CHRIST-CENTRED CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA THAT IS Inclusive, Participatory & Synodal?** 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. Read the discernment paper at <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/PC2020-thematic-papers-2.pdf>. Visit the Inclusive, Participatory & Synodal theme's page at <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/themes/inclusive/>.

E-news now available on the Diocesan website

Collections at St Columba's

1st Collection: \$ 85

We thank you for your generous support

2nd Collection (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 390

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>

Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program – Registrations now open

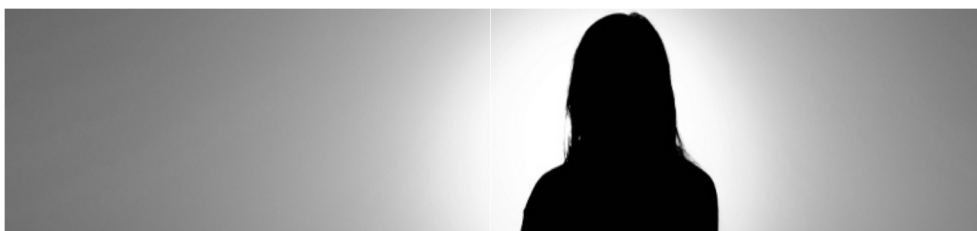
Low-cost online study and formation for lay workers in parish and other ministries; employed or volunteers. Sacraments, Scripture, Youth Ministry, Liturgy, Leadership and more. The next cycle begins August 30. Study is 5 weeks. Registrations open now until August 19. More info at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or email kim.butler@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 0407 523 424.

Plenary Council Discernment papers now available in audio format: The Diocese of Bathurst has taken the discernment papers to another format, recording audio versions to help with the reception of the documents. All six discernment papers have now been recorded and can be accessed on the Plenary Council website <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/continuing-the-journey-of-discernment/>

Next step on Plenary Council journey: As part of the ongoing journey for the Plenary Council, work has commenced on the preparation of the instrumentum laboris, or working document, for the Council. Fr Kevin Lenehan is part of the instrumentum laboris writing team <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/news/fx-articles.cfm?loadref=102&id=2881&categoryid=101>



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>



Readings for Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time A

First Reading Is 56,1, 6-7 A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the Sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 66:2-3 5-6 8 v 4

(R.) O God, let all the nations praise you!

1. O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help. (R.)
2. Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.

With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth. (R.)

3. Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 11:13-15 A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

Gospel Mt 15: 21-28 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

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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