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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/UCiHcYtTuk5DivKLWY1bvqg>
- **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

Wed-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—12:00pm

**MASS TIMES**

**St Columba's**

No Masses until further notice

**Our Lady Help of Christians**

No Masses until further notice

**Readings for next weekend:**

Jer 20:7-9

Ps 62:2-6. 8-9. R. v.2

Rom 12:1-2

Mt 16:21-27



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**23rd August 2020 ~ 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

Like last week's gospel, this week's story takes place in a region that was outside predominantly Jewish territory. Caesarea Philippi (north of Galilee and in the region of modern day Syria) had long been a centre of pagan worship. It was used originally by the Canaanites as a site of worship; the Greeks built a temple to one of their gods there; in 20 BCE Herod the Great built a temple to Caesar Augustus; and after his death, Herod's son, Phillip, renamed the city Caesarea Phillipi after Tiberius Caesar and himself. It is intriguing that Matthew's gospel chooses such a site as the location for such a significant revelation of faith.

Jesus asks the disciples who people say he is. They report that people associate Jesus with one of the great prophets of Jewish tradition. By people identifying Jesus with other great prophets they were projecting Jesus into the same mould as that prophet. What they were saying was that Jesus will be a great leader in the style of John the Baptist, or Elijah or even Jeremiah. The expectation of a messiah was running very high at the time of Jesus and everyone had their own idea about what that messiah would be like – usually aligned with some previous leader. They didn't seem to understand that Jesus was breaking the mould and was not going to fit in with any of those expectations. To see him as one of the great prophets come again is always going to be an inadequate understanding of Jesus as messiah.

When Jesus pushes the disciples for their own ideas, it is Simon Peter who speaks up and identifies Jesus as being the Son of the living God. Making a play on Peter's name (in Greek, petros = Peter and petra = rock), Jesus states that hereafter, Simon Peter will be known as Peter and upon the rock of his profession of faith the church will be built.



**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** (30th August) 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](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) or [http://bit.ly/SocialJustice\\_2020](http://bit.ly/SocialJustice_2020)

**Social Justice Sunday – 30th August – Theme – To live life to the full – Mental health in Australia today**

*Jesus, you invite us all into the fullness of life.  
May we support one another to flourish  
in body, mind and spirit.  
Strengthen our commitment to ensure  
that nobody falls through gaps in our systems of care.*

*People called you mad.  
Help us to recognise you  
in those who suffer mental ill-health today.  
Show us how to eliminate stigmatisation of mental ill-health  
from our parishes, schools, communities and organisations.*

*You drew near to those  
who were suffering in body and mind.  
May we to feel your nearness  
when we struggle with mental health challenges.  
May we be one as embers of Your Body.*

*You invite us to share in your ministry  
of love and true compassion.  
May we be empowered by your Spirit  
to reach out to all people in need.  
May we build communities of welcome and inclusion.*

Amen

**Cancellation of Chrism Mass for 2020** Bishop Paul has advised parishes by email this morning that the Chrism Mass has been cancelled for 2020 due to the coronavirus restrictions which do not allow for large gatherings. We look forward to celebrating this mass on the Monday of Holy Week in 2021

**Collections at St Columba's**

1st Collection: \$ 2nd Collection (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$2,325.00

**We thank you for your generous support**



**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>

**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](http://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](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)

**Cancellation of the 2020 Knights of the Southern Cross Archbishop's Dinner for the Priests Support and Education Fund** This year's KSC Archbishop's Dinner has been cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. Our intention is to continue to receive donations via the original Dinner Booking Form to support our seminarians. More information is available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/news/fix-articles.cfm?loadref=102&id=2873&categoryid=101>

**2021 Parish Appointments** Fr Linehan will conclude his role as Parish Priest of Warrnambool West and Dennington on 31 December 2020. From January 2021, the Parishes of Warrnambool West and Dennington will be entrusted to the Pastoral Care of Fr John Fitzgerald and Fr John Corrigan, in addition to their care of Warrnambool, Koroit and Port Fairy. Fr Fitzgerald and Fr Corrigan will be co-pastors with Fr Fitzgerald being Moderator. The Bishop thanks Fr Linehan for his 50 years of service in Diocese.

**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](http://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

**First Reconciliation and Sacraments of Initiation** (Confirmation and First Eucharist). Due to COVID-19 the preparation programs for these Sacraments have been suspended until 2021. Program details will be available early next year. Programs for the preparation for Baptism are available for small groups only. Please contact the parish offices for information



## Readings for Twenty first Sunday in Ordinary Time A

**First Reading** Is 22: 19-23

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace: I dismiss you from your office, I remove you from your post, and the same day I call on my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiyah.

I invest him with your robe, gird him with your sash, entrust him with your authority; and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the House of Judah.

I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder; should he open, no one shall close, should he close, no one shall open. I drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will become a throne of glory for his father's house.

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 137:1-3. 6. 8. R. v.8

(R.) Lord, your love is eternal;

do not forsake the work of your hands.

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,  
you have heard the words of my mouth.  
Before the angels I will bless you.

I will adore before your holy temple. (R.)

2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love  
which excel all we ever knew of you.

On the day I called, you answered;  
you increased the strength of my soul. (R.)

3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly  
and the haughty he knows from afar.

Your love, O Lord, is eternal,

discard not the work of your hands. (R.)

**Second Reading** Rom 11: 33-36

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

**Gospel** Mt 16: 13-20 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

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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