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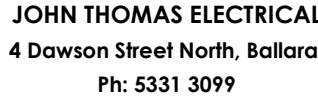
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Child Safe Church The Parishes of St Columba's & Our Lady Help of Christians (including Lexton, Miners Rest and Waubra) follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards as directed 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 -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:
Ez 33:7-9
Ps 94:1-2,6-9. R. v.8
Rom 13:8-10
Mt 18:15-20

30th August 2020 ~ 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Focus on the Scriptures

We all know people in leadership who take themselves a bit too seriously. Some confuse their role or title with their significance in the scheme of things. Some look for privilege and an easy life, forgetting that leadership of anything worthwhile involves hard work, misunderstanding, and invariably brings opposition. The first part of today's gospel story presents Peter, who has just been declared the foundation rock of the church and given the "keys" of the kingdom or empire of the heavens, refusing to accept that Jesus' mission will involve suffering, even death. The reader is confronted in this story with the expansive rock face at Caesarea Philippi and invited to consider the friable properties of the seemingly indestructible rock. Even rocks can be reduced to sand or gravel and a humbler mode of being.

For all its seriousness, there is something quite comical about this story. Peter actually censures or reprimands Jesus. Jesus then sets him straight in no uncertain terms. The "rock" becomes the leader of the opposition, a serious obstacle to God's purposes, a stumbling block. He is ordered back to the place where disciples properly belong, namely "behind" Jesus, "following" him. Matthew provides a striking contrast in this section of the gospel between Peter who "rebukes" Jesus and Justina, the Canaanite woman, who respectfully and persistently implores Jesus to see from a new perspective. Peter receives a decisive rebuttal, while the woman's plea is heard and she is praised for her great faith.

Peter's impetuous outburst provides the trigger for Jesus to invite his disciples to think about what they really want. In Matthew's gospel, Jesus is the teacher and the disciples are the students who have accepted the invitation to follow him. That means living out in their lives the pattern of his life. If they really want to be his followers, then they have to embrace the pain involved in his relentless program of teaching and of healing the sick and brokenhearted. They will also share the "glory". If they choose to put their own interests first, then they will surely lose themselves. It is ultimately a question of choosing life. Peter forgets this for a while and has to be reminded to be true to what he has previously professed. He is not very different from the rest of us. We too need to rethink our choices and to reorder our priorities from time to time if we want to find life. September 1 is the World Day of Prayer for Creation and our church, along with many churches, is celebrating September 1 to October 4 (Feast of St Francis of Assisi) as a Season of Creation. At a time when life on our planet is seriously endangered, we might attend more closely to the urgent gospel challenge of living in ways that help to sustain the life of the whole Earth community. We bring into our celebration those most affected by Covid-19 and we pray for the insight to live in right relationship with all that is.

Veronica Lawson RSM

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Molly Flynn (Tess Dougherty and Brendan Curran's sister)

Anniversaries: We remember: Mark Milne, Eddie Kennedy, Therese Hayes, Eileen O'Meara

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 (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 or http://bit.ly/SocialJustice_2020

Stewardship Contributions We are extremely grateful to those of you who during this difficult time continue with your regular stewardship contributions. If you are using envelopes I am happy for you to drop them into the office during office hours. We will greet you at the door with mask on so you feel safe. But only come if you have somewhere else to go. It will be nice to see you. Again, many thanks for your continuing financial support of the Parish - it is much appreciated.

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>

Holy Land Collections The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land normally takes place on Good Friday. This year, due to the closure of churches around the world during Holy Week because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Pope Francis moved the date for this collection to Sunday September 13th to coincide with the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross on September 14th. As we are still not able to gather for Masses in Ballarat to take up this collection, we invite you drop any donations into the Parish Office or use CDF Pay <https://ballarat.cdfpay.org.au/>

Child Protection Sunday – 13th September 2020 The Catholic Church in Australia marks Child Protection Sunday, on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings. We recommit to practices that support survivors and make the Catholic Church and its ministries the safest possible place for children and vulnerable adults. You can find out more at: www.catholic.org.au/responseandprevention

Catholic Earthcare Convocation is now open for registrations! Catholic Earthcare is a place and platform where the many, diverse voices within our church community come together, in dialogue, to help and co-create our shared future. Come join us, digitally, so together we can all celebrate and Care for our Common Home! <https://catholicearthcare.org.au/2020-convocation/>

Collections at St Columba's We thank you for your generous support
1st Collection: \$ 2nd Collection (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 645.00

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.

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.

Staying Connected ... Doing Ministry Safely Online A 90 minute online workshop designed for those working with children and young people in church communities. Thursday 10th September 5pm-6.30pm. More info and free registration at: www.trybooking.com/BKZSO

Virtual Gathering for Prayer Victorian Council of Churches and Christian leaders have felt a need to stand together to uphold our State, government, frontline health workers, communities and one another as we work our way through this time of restrictions and uncertainty. Stand Together in a virtual gathering at 2pm on Sunday 30th August. Screened at facebook.com/viccouncilchurches

Season of Creation 1st September – 4th October 2020 The 5th anniversary 2020 was the beginning of the Special Laudato Si Anniversary Year (24th May 2020 – 24th May 2021) with the hope that it be a time of grace, a true Kairos experience and "Jubilee" time for the Earth. For humanity and all God's creatures. The theme for Season of Creation 2020 is "Jubilee for the Earth" in which we are invited to consider the integral relationship between the rest for the Earth and ecological, economic, social and political ways of living, the need for just and sustainable systems revealed this year by the global COVID-19 pandemic makes this a time to reflect and further act on the urgency of the situation of our world today and act for future generations with local to national responses. Liturgically, we celebrate remembering God's action in prayer.

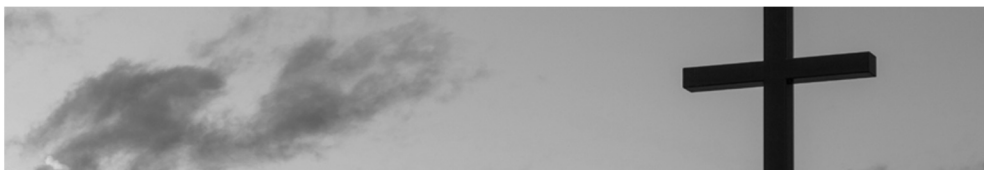
For Liturgical resources to guide our reflection on this season, <https://www.columban.org.au/media-and-publications/educational-resources/a-catholic-season-of-creation-sundays-of-september-year-a>

For further information on the Season of Creation and Ecumenical Resource, <https://seasonofcreation.org/celebration-guide/>

Readings for Twenty second Sunday in Ordinary Time A

First Reading Jer 20:7-9 A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced; you have overpowered me: you were the stronger. I am a daily laughing stock, everybody's butt. Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!' The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long. I used to say, I will not think about him, I will not speak in his name any more. Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones. The effort to restrain it wearied me, I could not bear it.



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

(R.) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting. My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water. (R.)
2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory. For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise. (R.)
3. So I will bless you all my life, in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you with joy. (R.)
4. For you have been my help; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 12:1-2 A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

Gospel Mt 16:21-27 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

The Gospel of the Lord

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