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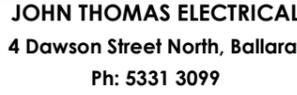
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Child Safe Church The Parishes of St Columba's & Our Lady Help of Christians (including Lexton, Miners Rest and Waubra) follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards as directed 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:
Is 55:6-9
Ps 144:2-3. 8-9. 17-18. R. v.18
Phil 1:20-24. 27
Mt 20:1-16



13th September 2020 ~ 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Message from Fr Marcello

No doubt the news we had been waiting for last Sunday was not what we were anticipating. We were hoping for better. Our expectations were focussed on something a little more optimistic in terms of an easing of the restrictions that have been imposed upon us. It would be fair to say that each one of us is feeling the effects of COVID fatigue by what we are hearing and what we are seeing in terms of a statistical litany of daily infections, numbers hospitalised, numbers who have died not to mention the decimation of people's lives and livelihoods. The reality is that behind each statistic there is a human being, someone who has made a tangible contribution to the world in which they live, someone who is loved and loved others in return, a family and intricate network of relationships where support is generously offered and gratefully received.

Yet the reality is that we are powerless because what is happening is beyond our control. Yet we get up each day and look to the future with hope for one day this will pass. One small thing that we can do is to switch off from the endless clamour of commentary which effectively desensitises us to the trauma that humanity is going through and remember the word of scripture, "Be still and know that I am God". Hope can emerge in the most unlikely places as I discovered whilst perusing last Sunday's Sun.

Last Sunday being Fathers Day, I came across an article that mentioned a very successful and very wealthy businessman. He had sold his business for \$300M, owns a resort and socialises with all kinds of dignitaries, yet when he reviewed his life his most cherished memory was reading Harry Potter to his children every night. Not the mega deals. Not the mega mansions. Not the pointy end of the plane. Reading a \$20 book to his kids. Whilst in some ways it is insignificant, it is a powerful reminder at a time like this what really matters most in life.

For this very successful businessman, who without doubt worked hard to achieve what he did it was nurturing his relationship with his children in their most formative years. It's what might easily be called a God moment, a God of surprises, a God who is always close and connected with people, a God to whom we cry out in the refrain of the COVID song composed by Michael Joncas, "O shelter me, O shelter me: the way ahead is dark and difficult to see. O shelter me, O shelter me: all will be well if only you will shelter me." Let's also remember, Not everything is cancelled, Sun is not cancelled, Spring is not cancelled, Relationships are not cancelled, Kindness is not cancelled, Hope is not cancelled, AND God's love for GOD'S people is never cancelled.
Take care, *Marcello*

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: All who have died recently
Anniversaries: We remember: Margaret Hall, Danny Frawley, Elizabeth & Edmund Goodger, Giuseppe Finocchiaro, Michael Crowley, Joseph Davis, Nancy Davis, Basil Gregory, Walter Salo, Bill Armstrong, Chris Haintz Snr, Kevin McLaughlin, Kath Moran
We pray: Those in need of our prayers especially Sasskiah Gallagher; Maria Antonelli, all the sick and all those struggling with the effects of Covid-19, teachers and students of all Victorian schools

Ballarat North Parish Social Profile

	2011	2016
Catholic population	3,903	3,572
Catholics aged 0-14 (%)	22.1	21.6
Catholics aged 65+ (%)	12.8	15.5
Catholics born in NESCI (%)	4.6	5.3
Catholics not proficient in English (%)	0.3	0.3
Catholic families	1,388	1,315
Catholics living alone	374	367
Catholic students attending Catholic schools2 (%)	72.7	76.3
Catholics with university degree (%)	19.7	23.9
Catholic males in labour force (%)	72.7	72.8
Catholic females in labour force (%)	63.3	63.4
Catholic households owning or purchasing dwelling (%)	75.8	76.8

Wendouree Parish Social Profile

	2011	2016
Catholic population	3,805	3,736
Catholics aged 0-14 (%)	19.8	21.4
Catholics aged 65+ (%)	18.8	20.4
Catholics born in NESCI (%)	5.8	6.2
Catholics not proficient in English (%)	0.2	0.4
Catholic families	1,408	1,342
Catholics living alone	461	454
Catholic students attending Catholic schools2 (%)	47.5	48.7
Catholics with university degree (%)	10.3	12.2
Catholic males in labour force (%)	62.7	61.3
Catholic females in labour force (%)	51.5	51.5
Catholic households owning or purchasing dwelling (%)	69.1	70.2

The above is a snapshot of the profile of each parish. Full details are available on the Diocesan website and a quick comparison reveals the similarities between each parish using the data collected is the 2016 Census.

Notes: 1. NESCI = Non-English-Speaking Country as defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. 2. The percentage of all students who are Catholic attending Catholic schools.

Engaging Your Catholic Faith is a series of short sessions offered online by Catholic Theological College held from September 14 - October 31 cost \$20 per session. The sessions will be held via Zoom and will run for approx 90 minutes. More info and enrolment details www.ctc.edu.au

Centacare support offering Centacare's family and relationship team are offering support during COVID-19. View the flyer for programs on offer and contact details at https://mcusercontent.com/fe8dff0912e9e1b378f7db433/files/c7d47726-0da8-4a94-8f27-f73ed3eb922b/Programs_brochure_COVID.pdf

Collections at St Columba's

We thank you for your generous support

1st Collection: \$ 2nd Collection (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 575.00

Season of Creation 1st September – 4th October 2020

Season of Creation and Ecological Justice: This year's theme is "Jubilee for the Earth" and is an annual celebration of prayer and action to protect creation and is celebrated by Christians of all traditions. In Laudato Si' Pope Francis asked us to care for creation and one another. You are warmly invited to find an oasis of peace and calm for 45 minutes with a guided meditation 'Finding God in Creation'. This Creation Examen will be held via Zoom on **Wednesday, 16th September at 7.30pm**. Developed by St Ignatius of Loyola, the Examen is a simple technique of prayerful reflection on the events of the day which will help you to listen to the inner movements of your heart. This Ecological Examen asks you to reflect with gratitude on your personal relationship with God in creation, to notice where you can do more to protect creation and to promote ecological justice by standing in solidarity with those most impacted by environmental harm. Please respond by email and you will be sent a link to Zoom closer to the 16th Sept. catholicearthcare@ballarat.catholic.org.au A Christian Life Community and Catholic Earthcare Ballarat Diocese in collaboration.

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

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/>

Diocesan Resource Centre With the stage 3 restrictions, the Diocesan Resource Centre will be closed until further notice.

E-News now available on line for viewing

Readings for Twenty fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time A

First Reading Sir 27:30 – 28:7 A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin. Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord?

Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins? Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments.

Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.



Responsorial Psalm Ps 102:1-4. 9-12. R. v.8

(R.) *The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.*

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. (R.)
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. (R.)
3. His wrath will come to an end; he will not be angry for ever.
He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults (R.)
4. For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 14:7-9 A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Gospel Mt 18:21-35 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.'

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me", he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said. "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

The Gospel of the Lord

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