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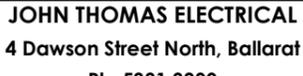
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**Child Safe Church** The Parishes of St Columba's & Our Lady Help of Christians (including Lexton, Miners Rest and Waubra) follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards as directed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

Tues-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 45:1-4-6

Ps 95:1, 3-5, 7-10, R. v.7

1 Thes 1:1-5

Mt 22:15-21



**11th October 2020 ~ 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

As incredible as it may seem, some people turn down the invitation to the eschatological banquet. This is the case, both in the parable and in our world today. This invitation seems much less interesting than a sports event, the latest movie, or some social affair. So much of our time and energy is spent either climbing the economic ladder or just trying to keep our heads above water. Even if we are interested in the banquet, we do not seem able to afford the time and energy that it might require. And so we send our regrets: I cannot come. What a shame! We seem to have forgotten that everything is tending toward the end; all of our plans, interests and distractions will cease. Only the banquet will remain. All God asks of us is that we receive the blessings that have been prepared for us. We need not work for them. In fact, we cannot work for them on our own. All we can do is enjoy them. Enjoyment of the eschatological time of fulfilment is open to all, but guaranteed to none.

One theme seems to connect all of the readings for this Sunday, our total dependence on God. God spreads the banquet table and invites the guests; God punishes those who are indifferent to or antagonistic toward the eschatological banquet; God supplies whatever we need in whatever circumstances we find ourselves. We do not have to bargain with God, or make reservations. All we have to do is accept what God has to offer.

Dianne Bergant CSA



**Recently Deceased:** We commend to God: Joan Cushing

**Anniversaries: We remember:** John Sullivan, Connie Rice, Edward Schreenan, Antonina Yaworowicz, Josephine Reilly, Carmel Brinkmann, Thomas Rush, Walter Gercovich, Ronald Brewer, Pacifica Filippi

**We pray:** Those in need of our prayers; all the sick and all those struggling with the effects of Covid-19.

**Churches, worship, sacraments and the easing of restrictions** Bishop Paul has communicated to the people of the Ballarat Diocese informing us that together with the other bishops of Victoria, he has been making representations to government for an easing of the restrictions in relation to places of worship. He has proposed that places of worship should at least be treated in the same way as other places where people can gather socially. In the coming week, bishops and other religious leaders will have further meetings with government. It is hoped these meetings will bear fruit so that we will be able to gather again in our churches. We do need to safeguard the community's health, yet we have shown that we can observe the necessary precautions for physical health at the same time as we celebrate the liturgy, which contributes so much to the spiritual and mental health of the community. Bishop Paul prays particularly that we will soon be able to share the Eucharist, source and summit of the Christian life, **but at this time it is not possible for us to gather for Mass.**

It is still possible for parishes to live-stream Mass, however this can only involve up to five people. The provisions do not allow us to gather in our churches to celebrate Mass as we would dearly wish to. **Funerals** will be able to have up to 20 people gathered, plus those required to conduct the funeral. **Weddings** will be able to have up to 10 people gathered (including the couple and two witnesses), plus the celebrant.

**Baptisms** cannot be celebrated until there is a further easing of restrictions. For those seeking to celebrate the sacrament of **Reconciliation**, this can be done by contacting the priest directly to make an appointment.

**Anointing** of the Sick remains possible in Hospitals and Aged Care facilities. Priests are permitted to visit these institutions when a person's condition has been designated 'end of life.' The priests will continue to be available to offer pastoral and sacramental care for the sick and the dying in their own homes.

In the coming week we will consider how our churches may be opened for private worship in ways that operate within the government guidelines. The seriousness of the potential health risks and the penalties for breaching the law demand a very considered approach and a workable system. In the meantime the mission of Christ that we have been given to serve, reach out, care for each other and pray continues.

**Parish Appointments - Mildura, Merbein and Redcliffs** the Bishop has appointed Fr Shaiju Mathew to be assistant priest from the First Sunday of Advent. Fr Shaiju has been assistant priest at the Cathedral since his arrival in the Diocese 6 months ago. *Horsham, Nhill, Warracknabeal and Hopetoun*—Fr Peter Hudson will be retiring on 27 December. From January 21st, Mons Glynn Murphy current administrator of Warracknabeal and Hopetoun will become Parish Priest of Horsham and Nhill and also of Warracknabeal and Hopetoun. Fr Jim McKay currently at East Wimmera will become the assistant priest.

**Journey Catholic Radio** is a weekly radio program that can be emailed to you every Friday. The email provides links to individual presenter segments. It includes music, a weekly Gospel reflection, interviews and a variety of inputs from some of the best Catholic presenters in Australia. For more information and to subscribe go to <https://www.dow.org.au/media-resources/journey-radio/>

**OLHC Daily Prayer:** The Parish Pastoral Council in an endeavour to connect Parishioners with each other are introducing Community Prayer on Wednesdays and Thursdays to be prayed at 2pm. (if possible). Any feedback welcome. Corrie 0401478220

**Collections at St Columba's** **We thank you for your generous support**  
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**Mission Sunday Appeal - The joy of the Lord is our Strength! Nehemiah 8:10** On 18 October we will celebrate World Mission Sunday - a special day, called by Pope Francis, when we are called to pray and offer material support to the work of mission around the world. This year we are invited to partner with the Church in Cambodia, which is reaching out to those who have been affected by disability and giving them hope through the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and practical support to live a fulfilling life. Chen was just 16 years old when he lost both his legs in a landmine accident. Knowing that his life would never be the same, he felt hopeless, until he and his family were approached by the Arrupe Centre. Led by Bishop Enrique Figaredo Alvargonzalez, the Arrupe Centre provides children like Chen with support and opportunities they may not access otherwise. You are warmly invited to partner with the Church in Cambodia through this year's Church Appeal. **WAYS TO GIVE:** Due to COVID restrictions here are some ways to support the Appeal - 1. Envelope 2. visit Website – give online at [www.catholicmission.org.au/Cambodia](http://www.catholicmission.org.au/Cambodia); 3. Text GIVE to 0488 854 436 and then follow instructions. Thank you for your prayerful support and generosity.



**e-News** The Diocesan e-News is the online newsletter of the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat. It is supported by the print publication "Our Diocesan Community" and the Diocesan website [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) The Diocesan e-News is published every two weeks and distributed via email. It is available to all members and those associated with the Diocese and to those with an interest in the life of the Diocese. We encourage you to subscribe to the e-News so you can receive updates and information about the life and activity of the parishes and schools of the diocese. To subscribe please go to [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au), click News & Events in the menu at the top, then e-News and register for the Diocesan e-News by the subscribe box.

**To celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the canonisation of Saint Mary MacKillop** We invite you to order your free copy of Encountering St Mary MacKillop in Prayer. The Sisters of Saint Joseph have created a commemorative prayer booklet to inspire us all to "take fresh courage..." as Mary did so often. These prayers share details of her personal journey, highlighting Mary's values and spirit, and offering prayers and blessings for our modern world. To order your exclusive copy please go to: [www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/prayer-book](http://www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/prayer-book) or phone 02 8912 2777

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**Readings for Twenty eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time A**

**First Reading** Is 25:6-10 A reading from the prophet Isaiah  
The Lord will prepare a feast and will wipe away the tears from every cheek. On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will prepare for all people a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines, of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines. On this mountain he will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples, and the shroud enwrapping all nations, he will destroy Death for ever.

The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek; he will take away his people's shame everywhere on earth, for the Lord has said so. That day, it will be said: See, this is our God in whom we hoped for salvation; the Lord is the one in whom we hoped. We exult and we rejoice that he has saved us; for the hand of the Lord rests on this mountain.



**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 22. R. v.6  
(R.) I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

1. The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures  
where he gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me,  
to revive my drooping spirit. (R.)

2. He guides me along the right path;  
he is true to his name.  
If I should walk in the valley of darkness  
no evil would I fear.  
You are there with your crook and your staff;  
with these you give me comfort. (R.)

3. You have prepared a banquet for me  
in the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing. (R.)

4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me  
all the days of my life.  
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell  
for ever and ever. (R.)

**Second Reading** Phil 4:12-14. 19-20 A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich too. I have been through my initiation and now I am ready for anything anywhere: full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or plenty. There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength. All the same, it was good of you to share with me in my hardships. In return my God will fulfil all your needs, in Christ Jesus, as lavishly as only God can. Glory to God, our Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Gospel** Mt 22:1-14 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come. Next he sent some more servants. "Tell those who have been invited" he said "that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding." But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He dispatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding." So these servants went out onto the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests. When the king came in to look at the guests he noticed one man who was not wearing a wedding garment, and said to him, "How did you get in here, my friend, without a wedding garment?" And the man was silent. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

*The Gospel of the Lord*

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