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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

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

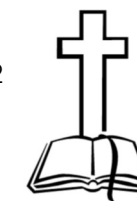
No Masses until further notice

Our Lady Help of Christians

No Masses until further notice

Readings for next weekend:

- Ex 22:20-26
- Ps 17:2-4. 47. 51. R. v.2
- 1 Thes 1:5-10
- Mt 22:34-40



18th October 2020 ~ 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Focus on the Scriptures

The emergence of a common enemy is often the catalyst for sworn enemies to unite. In first century Palestine, Pharisees were the respected religious teachers of the law and Herodians represented secular Jewish power and wealth. They despised each other on both religious and political grounds. When faced with a perceived threat to their authority, however, they united in opposition. Jesus of Nazareth becomes the threat that unites them. His teaching and healing draw the crowds and threaten their authority. They come together and try to set a trap for him. In attempting to set him up, they ironically pay him the greatest of tributes: addressing him as "teacher", they acknowledge his sincerity and admit that he teaches the way of God in accordance with the truth. They witness to his lack of concern with status and hierarchical division.

The question of these traditional enemies is intended to put Jesus in a "no win" position: "Is it lawful to pay tribute to the emperor or not?" Jesus turns the question back upon them. He lets them know that he is aware of their malicious intent and asks them to produce the coin used for the tax. He thus makes the issue one of images, a sensitive issue for all Jews, rather than of tribute. The Roman denarius that they produce bears the bust of the Roman emperor and the Latin inscription, "Tiberius Caesar, son of the divine Augustus, High Priest".

Jesus' response, "Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God", can be interpreted in several ways. Is Jesus simply exposing their hypocrisy as bearers of images? From a Jewish perspective, everything belongs to God, the earth and all its riches. The disciples of the Pharisees and the Herodians are Jews, even if the sympathies of the latter lean towards the Roman occupiers. Is he telling them to pay the tax while still recognising God's prior claim? Is he telling them not to pay the tax precisely because the emperor has no claim on what belongs to God? Is he critiquing the Roman occupation or legitimizing it? Or is he saying something else? They are left to interpret his response as they wish. One thing is clear: Jesus' words have nothing to do with the modern distinction between Church and secular state. There are good reasons for paying taxes in a secular state and for contributing financially to the life of the Church, something we may need to revisit in the light of pandemic and the closing of our places of worship. It is quite anachronistic, however, to invoke this text in support of paying state taxes or of supporting the Church financially. The story is more about sincerity and truth in our relationships with each other and with the God of all truth. That is the key criterion for any personal or global alliance.
Veronica Lawson RSM



Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Trevor Ferguson

Anniversaries: We remember: Nell Bourke, Thomas Rush, Denis Gerdtz, Br John Neri Parker CFC, Ivan Klaric, Wayne Libbis, Arthur Sowter (Snr), Eileen Gercovich, John Shaw, Graham Staley, Valma Shanahan,

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

Mission Sunday Appeal - The joy of the Lord is our Strength!

Nehemiah 8:10 Today is 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 land mine 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; 3. Text GIVE to 0488 854 436 and then follow instructions. Thank you for your prayerful support and generosity.



Meditation & Mindfulness - Reflection event via Zoom, Saturday 7 Nov 2020, 10am-1pm (AEST). Facilitated by Carol Dyer (B.A.Psych), Transpersonal & Experiential Psychotherapy Level 5 (Trainer), Cert. Spiritual Direction), this event provides the opportunity to broaden your ways of accessing your inner world and listening to what God is inviting you to at this time. There will be some input to enable participants to learn some theory of meditation and mindfulness practices as well as time away from the Zoom screen for meditation and mindfulness practise. Cost \$25. Bookings and payment via Trybooking at <https://www.trybooking.com/663916> For more information, contact holsc@bigpond.com or tel 9890 1101.

St Vincent de Paul Society, "Assist a Student" Program for Victoria The program assists very poor students in countries to our north to attend school who may otherwise, without this assistance, not be able to afford to attend. It is aimed at breaking the poverty cycle the student finds themselves in and it encapsulates the Vincentian message of "a hand up, not a hand out". A \$100 donation provides access to education. Any administrative costs are met by the Australian St Vincent de Paul Society. For more information go to https://www.vinnies.org.au/page/Our_Impact/International_Impact/Assist_a_student_today/

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/next-step-on-plenary-council-journey/>

Read the discernment paper: <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/PC2020-thematic-papers-4.pdf>

Visit the Prayerful & Eucharistic page:
<https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/themes/humble/>

Liturgical Music - Gregorian chant course Fr Anthony Ruff OSB is offering his online chant course. It's asynchronous learning, a comprehensive introduction to Gregorian Chant, with practical emphasis on singing in the liturgy. More information and registration at <https://www.praytellig.com/index.php/2020/09/05/gregorian-chant-online-sept-28-to-nov-20/>

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/>

Madonna magazine - a gift of spiritual sustenance that lasts a whole year Madonna magazine, published by Jesuit Communications, has accompanied Australians in their daily prayer and spiritual growth for more than 120 years. With daily prayers, deep reflections, faith-focused articles and more recently online retreats - it is an ideal spiritual companion, particularly now when we may not be able to freely gather in person with our faith and spirituality communities. If you are not a subscriber - we invite you to subscribe or consider taking out a gift subscription for a loved one. An annual subscription is just \$53 and offers prayer and spirituality resources for the whole year. If you are a subscriber, we invite you to help keep Madonna alive by: recommending it to family and friends, buying a gift subscription or two. Or donating one to someone on the margins. You can find out more about Madonna, how to subscribe, purchase a gift subscription or donate a subscription on the website: www.madonnamagazine.com.au/article/subscriptions

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 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, click News & Events in the menu at the top, then e-News and register for the Diocesan e-News by the subscribe box. **ODC** printed copies are now available from the Parish Office

Appointment Bishop Paul has announced the appointment of Fr Kevin Maloney as Diocesan Pastoral Development Coordinator. This coordinating role will be in addition to Fr Kevin's existing role as Vicar General. To enable him to fulfil these roles, he will conclude his current responsibilities as Parish Priest of Redan and Sebastopol and Administrator of Linton.

Pastoral Care Education The South West Victoria CPE Centre is offering the opportunity for education and formation in Pastoral Care, with the option to have a CPE unit recognised as 30 points should you wish to enrol in theological studies with the University of Divinity. The Centre is registered through the Association for Supervised and Clinical Pastoral Education Victoria (ASACPEV Inc.) CPE is offered online presently and will be this way for at least the first semester in 2021 after which it will be reassessed. For further information email bernadette@bernadettewurlod.com.au or ph. 0455 033 321. More info: <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/pastoral-care-education-3/>

Prayers and Images in the Time of Virus Following the success of Michael McGirr's Trees in Solitude, Prayers and Images for Pentecost, Garratt Publishing are pleased to present a complimentary second 'Trees' series from Michael - Trees Without Masks. Over the coming weeks these beautiful prayers and images will be shared. Download the prayers from the news section of the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au.



Readings for Twenty ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time A

First Reading Is 45:1.4-6 A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more: It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, of Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, conferring a title though you do not know me.

I am the Lord, unrivalled; there is no other God besides me. Though you do not know me, I arm you that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.

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

(R.) Give the Lord glory and honour.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
Tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. (R.)

2. The Lord is great and worthy of praise,
to be feared above all gods;
the gods of the heathens are naught.
It was the Lord who made the heavens. (R.)

3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
give the Lord glory and power,
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Bring an offering and enter his courts. (R.)

4. Worship the Lord in his temple.
O earth, tremble before him.
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'
He will judge the peoples in fairness. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Thes 1:1-5 A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

Gospel Mt 22:15-21 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar - and to God what belongs to God.'
The Gospel of the Lord

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