

Please support our loyal advertisers



**Prepaid Funerals**  
Eliminate family stress  
Details: 5337 7111



**Ed Browne**  
Busy Bookkeeping  
Phone 5364 2922  
ballarat@busybookkeeping.com.au



Domestic & Commercial  
cleaning  
0402862188/0434746818  
admin@mlmclean.com.au



20 Lydiard Street Sth,  
Ballarat  
Ph: (03) 5331 3711  
www.ppt.com.au



139 Bogong Ave,  
Invermay Park  
Phone: 5331 4510  
Mobile: 0418 501 606



Mon-Fri 8.30 am - 6.00 pm  
Saturdays 9.00 am - 5.00 pm  
2 Bridge Mall Ballarat Vic 3350  
Ph: 5331 4900



11 Neerim Crescent,  
Wendouree Industrial Park  
Ph: 5339 3122  
Open Direct to the Public  
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday



402 Sturt Street Ballarat  
5331 2233  
Best Result Every Time!  
BALLARAT | MARYBOROUGH | ARARAT



Address: 1251 Doveton Street  
North, Ballarat, 3350  
Phone: (03) 5333 3101  
www.peterobinfunerals.com.au



4 Dawson Street North, Ballarat  
Ph: 5331 3099  
We can help you with all your  
repairs and installation of:  
\*Televisions & Television Antennas  
\* Home Theatres & Projectors  
\* DVDs & Audio Equipment  
\* Household appliances  
\* Public Address Systems  
\*CCTV Systems



Address: 1114 Doveton Street  
North, Ballarat, 3350  
Phone: (03) 5333 3911  
All hours. Moderate cost



801 Howitt Street WENDOUREE  
PH: 5339 5033  
127 Gillies Street Sth BALLARAT  
PH: 5334 2700  
55 Albert Street SEBASTOPOL  
PH: 5335 9023



Phone: (03) 5332 3069  
Mobile: 0418 504 254

**Advertising spaces available. If you are interested in advertising your business here please contact the Parish Office of OLHC or St Columba's for more information**

**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](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 25:6-10

Ps 22. R. v.6

Phil 4:12-14. 19-20

Mt 22:1-14



**4th October 2020 ~ 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

Canadian theologian Bernard Lonergan had a major impact on philosophy and theology last century. Sometimes his language was so complex we had to buy a companion book to help us read the original work! Surprisingly, however, his most important insights were very simple and expressed in very simple language. One of them was that we regularly have 'ah-ha' moments, where we get an insight into God, the world or ourselves. These moments make sense of things we have previously only seen as problems.

Matthew's Gospel is filled with 'ah-ha' moments. Written for a generally Jewish audience it reflects on Jesus in light of the history of Israel, the Hebrew Scriptures and the expectations of the Messiah. Jesus was for Matthew's community, and is for us, the 'ah-ha' in world history. By Matthew reflecting on his life, death and resurrection, things he had previously only wondered about now made sense.

The phrase 'the stone rejected by the builders' originally referred to Israel. In Psalm 118 and, more generally, in the Book of Psalms, the trials and defeats of Israel are seen to be tests of strength, love and endurance. Despite everything Israel has gone through, the people continue to sing of God's fidelity to them and what marvels God has done before their eyes, making them into a more faith-filled people.

Matthew, however, reflects on what happened to Jesus at the hands of the Chief Priests, Scribes and Romans. In a great 'ah-ha' moment he sees that it is Jesus, not Israel, who is the stone rejected by the builders which has now become the key building block of a new edifice.

Doing exactly the same as Matthew does with this passage, we can apply it to our own lives as well. There are often facets of our personality or character of which we are ashamed or about which we despair. From gossip to greed, past hurts to anger, sexuality to broken relationships, we can often get discouraged at how un-together our Christian life is.

Even though we have worked hard to overcome our worst traits, we often think nothing good will ever come of them. In such a context we need to hear today's Gospel, 'The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.'

The parts of our character we most despise could be the most marvellous moments of amazing grace. Nothing is irredeemable to God; nothing has gone too far or become too entrenched. In the Christian life there is no room for shame, only for repentance and starting over. Looking at things we have thought of as only being problems provides us with the greatest potential for 'ah-ha' moments, where the healing and love of Christ enables us to turn our lives around, to demolish all the negative and defeatist self-talk in which we can indulge and rebuild ourselves with Christ, the master builder.

Once we get into the habit of doing this, it's amazing how many 'ah-ha' moments we have as our history ceases to be a problem to be overcome but turns into a challenge to be harnessed for the building up of the Kingdom of God on earth.  
© Richard Leonard SJ

**Recently Deceased: We commend to God:** Sasskiah Gallagher

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Mary Quarrell, Margaret Butler, Kevin Dower, Tim McKeegan, Carmel Mitchell, Thomas Rush,

**We pray:** Those in need of our prayers, especially 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.

**Free Public Lecture hosted by ACU Centre for Liturgy: "Liturgy, Prayer, Pastoral Care and Pandemics"** On Monday, October 12, 2020 the ACU Centre for Liturgy will host Sr Prof Julia Upton rsm, a member of the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, who will give an online public lecture entitled "Liturgy, Prayer, Pastoral Care and Pandemics". Applying her expertise in liturgy and her education and interest in public health, Dr Upton's lecture will be of great interest to all those involved in pastoral care in this time of global pandemic. The Lecture will run from 10.00am – 11.30am AEDT via Zoom. Registration by October 7, 2020 is essential <https://www.acu.edu.au/about-acu/institutes-academies-and-centres/acu-centre-for-liturgy/pastoral-training>. The Zoom link will be sent on October 9 to the email address you provide.

**'Pondering Grief - Reflection event via Zoom'**, Saturday 17 Oct 2020, 10am-1pm (AEST). Facilitated by Counsellor/Supervisor/Educator Linda Espie, this event provides the opportunity to reflect on and honour our inner life of change and transition. With creative, space and gentle guiding support, this workshop will offer a sacred place for the breadth of human experiencing and spirit to guide individual exploration. Limited to 10 participants. Cost \$30. Bookings and payment via Trybooking at <https://www.trybooking.com/BLUEA> For more information, contact [holsc@bigpond.com](mailto:holsc@bigpond.com) or tel 9890 1101.

**Collections at St Columba's**

**We thank you for your generous support**

1st Collection: \$ 2nd Collection (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 514.00

**Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission Mental Health Webinar**

The Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission is hosting a zoom webinar for anyone who wants to know more about mental health in Australia and to empower participants to understand mental health, the supports available here in Australia and provide an opportunity to reach out, encourage hope and bring fullness of life to those we love and care for. The Zoom webinar will be held on **Sunday, October 4, 2020** from 2.00pm – 3.00pm. For more information, registration details go to the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/social-justice/>

**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.



**Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program Online Study** Our partners at Dayton University are celebrating 20 years of learning and are providing some of their e-seminars at just \$20usd each (approx. \$28aud) in their next study cycle beginning 18 October: Hope in Times of Crisis, Basic Catechist Formation and Our Hearts were Burning. Registrations for this cycle are open now until October 12. More info at [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) or email [djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

\*\*\*\*\*

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

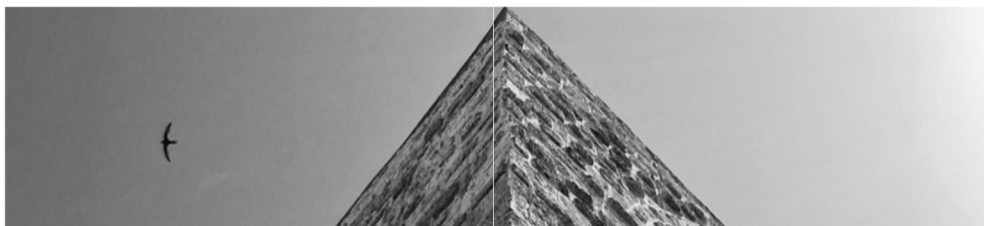
**First Reading** Is 5:1-7 A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Let me sing to my friend the song of his love for his vineyard. My friend had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. He dug the soil, cleared it of stones, and planted choice vines in it. In the middle he built a tower, he dug a press there too. He expected it to yield grapes, but sour grapes were all that it gave.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, I ask you to judge between my vineyard and me. What could I have done for my vineyard that I have not done? I expected it to yield grapes. Why did it yield sour grapes instead?

Very well, I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on, and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on.

I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug; overgrown by the briar and the thorn. I will command the clouds to rain no rain on it. Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the House of Israel, and the men of Judah that chosen plant. He expected justice, but found bloodshed, integrity, but only a cry of distress.



**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 79:9. 12-16. 19-20. R. Is 5:7 (R.) The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.

1. You brought a vine out of Egypt; to plant it you drove out the nations. It stretched out its branches to the sea, to the Great River it stretched out its shoots. (R.)

2. Then why have you broken down its walls? It is plucked by all who pass by. It is ravaged by the boar of the forest, devoured by the beasts of the field. (R.)

3. God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. (R.)

4. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved. (R.)

**Second Reading** Phil 4:6-9 A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

**Gospel** Mt 21:33-43 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

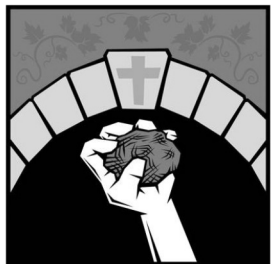
Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son," he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:

It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone.

This was the Lord's doing and it is wonderful to see?

'I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'

*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.

**Collections at OLHC**

**We thank you for your generous support**

1st Collection: \$ 2nd Collection (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,505.00