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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](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 – 1:00pm  
Our Safeguarding Officer:  
Peter Marquand

**Our Lady Help of Christians**

Parish Co-ordinator and Safeguarding Officer:  
Maree Roache

Wed-Friday 9:00am—1:00pm

**MASS TIMES**

**St Columba's**

Saturday 5:00pm  
Monday 10:00am All Souls Day  
Wednesday 10:00am

**Our Lady Help of Christians**

Sunday 8:30 am Beaufort  
(1st & 3rd Sunday—Waubra, 2nd & 4th Sunday—Beaufort, Lexton 5th Sunday)

Sunday 10:00am  
Thursday 10:00am  
Friday 10:00am

**Readings for next weekend:**

Wis 6:12-16  
Ps 62:2-8. R. v.2  
1 Thes 4:13-18  
Mt 25:1-13



**1st November 2020 ~ All Saints Day**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

We have become so familiar with the beatitudes that there is a danger of our listening only to the mellifluous flow of language and of failing to attend to the extraordinary present and future reversal that they offer to those who suffer injustice and to those who choose non-violent ways of addressing it. With pandemic sweeping the globe and affecting the dispossessed quite disproportionately, it is time to listen anew to these opening words of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Jesus of Nazareth knew in his body the experience of displacement: from Bethlehem to Egypt; from Judaea to Galilee. He shared the experience of Galilean peasant farmers and artisans. His words are grounded in the stories, the music, the poetry, the law and the history of his people. They foreground the qualities of those whom we honour as saints, those who are remembered by name and those who are not.

The mountain setting establishes Jesus as wisdom teacher like Moses of old. God's favour rests on the poor/the humble/the "grounded", on the gentle, on those who grieve for the pain of the world, on serious justice seekers, on those who know how to mercy, on the pure or single-minded of heart, on peacemakers, and on those who suffer in the cause of right. The repetition of 'blessed are...' (a better translation of the Greek makarioi than 'happy') provides multiple links with Israel's collection of sacred songs, the Psalms. For Israel's lyricists, God's favour or blessing is on those whose hope is in God, on those whose delight is in God's way, on those who take refuge in God, on the guileless in spirit and on those whom God forgives. The content of the beatitudes echoes the voice of Israel's prophets, especially Isaiah 61. God's spirit is upon Jesus. He brings the good news of God's present and future favour or blessing to the destitute and to those who mourn. The distinguishing mark of God's favoured ones is righteousness or right relationship.

God's favour or blessing comes in diverse forms: the basileia or empire of the heavens; comfort in the face of grief; the earth as a heritage to be protected; the joy of being mercied; face to face encounter with God; a great reward "in heaven". If heaven is only a place to be enjoyed in the afterlife, it is little consolation for the desperately poor or for those who are persecuted or misrepresented to know that "the empire of the heavens is theirs" or that their "reward is great in heaven". "Heaven" is better understood as a way of talking about God or God's empire of justice and compassion in contrast with the heartless empire of Rome and its modern equivalents. Maybe the most urgent invitation in our present context is to mourn strategically the displacement of so many of earth's inhabitants who, in these liminal times, long for the blessing of God's kin-dom in the form of comfort and mercy and a just share in the earth's resources.  
Veronica Lawson rsm



**Recently Deceased: We commend to God:** All those who have died recently

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Margaret Haintz, Mary Coutts, Bernie Nolan, John Elliott, Liz Fitzpatrick and Bill O'Loughlin

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

**Ceremonies and Religious Gatherings** Provisions for Regional Victoria from Wednesday October 28

- Indoor religious gatherings: Allowed for up to 20 people, plus one faith leader. Strict requirements to be contained in a COVIDSafe plan.
- Funerals: funerals - allowed with 20 people (infants under 12 months of age or people required to conduct the funeral not included in the limit), 20 in a private residence

At all gatherings contact details are to be collected, contact surfaces sanitised, social distancing observed, hand sanitiser will be provided to be used and face masks to be worn. Please remember that breaking the law is associated with substantial fines for the institutions and the people involved.

**Parish Appointments** Bishop Paul has recently announced that from January 15, 2021, Fr Gerard Prunty, currently Parish Priest of Mortlake and Terang, will become Parish Priest of East Wimmera. I thank Fr Gerry for his years of service to the communities of Mortlake and Terang and pray for blessings upon him as he prepares to join the communities of East Wimmera in the new year. Also, from January 15, 2021, Fr Eugene McKinnon, currently Parish Priest of East Wimmera, will become Parish Priest of Linton, Redan and Sebastopol. I thank Fr Eugene for his years of service to the communities of East Wimmera and pray for blessings upon him as he prepares to join the communities of Linton, Redan and Sebastopol in the new year.

**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](mailto:holsc@bigpond.com) or tel 9890 1101.

**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](mailto:bernadette@bernadettewurlod.com.au) or ph. 0455 033 321. More info: <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/pastoral-care-education-3/>

**Plenary Council** Discernment papers now available in audio format: The Diocese of Bathurst has taken the discernment papers to another format, recording audio versions to help with the reception of the documents. All six discernment papers have now been recorded and can be accessed on the Plenary Council website <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/continuing-the-journey-of-discernment/>



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**Want to stop modern slavery and human trafficking?** ACRATH (Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans) works tirelessly to inform and empower us to take action against the modern slavery and human trafficking that is occurring right here on home soil. ACRATH supplies free resources to help us make informed decisions about the products we buy, fair trade and ethically sourced materials in our schools. Every year ACRATH works to raise awareness of forced marriage and human trafficking and this year, like many others, ACRATH has had a tough time! ACRATH's 2021 calendar is now available. This calendar is not only handy to have because it outlines all of the important dates for the year, but it also lists practical ways we can get involved and be a part of the solution. To date ACRATH have sold the calendar for \$10.00. However this year they acknowledge that many are directly affected by COVID-19 and are giving the calendars to us for free. If you wish you can show your support by going to their website ([www.acrath.org.au](http://www.acrath.org.au)) and making a donation. To order a calendar simply email your name and home or work/school address to Dr Rachel Smith at [social.justice@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:social.justice@ballarat.catholic.org.au) and you will be mailed a free calendar. You may wish to order a dozen copies for your workplace – just ask! Please support this important work.

**On-line Lay Pastoral Ministry Program – Registrations now open** The Ballarat Diocese in partnership with Dayton University offer low-cost online study and formation. Subjects include Sacraments, Scripture, Youth Ministry, Liturgy, Leadership and more. There are a small number of subjects on offer in Cycle 8 which begins November 29. The first study cycle for 2021 begins January 3. Registration for both cycles is now open. More information 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) or ph. 5337 7121

**Annual Knox Public Lecture** Catholic Theological College invites you to participate in the annual Knox Public Lecture on "Safe Church: Commitment, awareness & action for cultural change" to be presented by Sheree Limbrick, Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Professional Standards. The lecture will be held online on Thursday, November 5, 2020 at 7.00pm. For more information and bookings go to <https://ctc.edu.au/catholic-theological-college/news-and-events/knox-public-lecture/>

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**Readings for All Saints Day**

**First Reading** Rv 7:2-4. 9-14 A reading from the book of the Apocalypse  
I, John, saw another angel rising where the sun rises, carrying the seal of the living God; he called in a powerful voice to the four angels whose duty was to devastate land and sea, 'Wait before you do any damage on land or at sea or to the trees, until we have put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.' Then I heard how many were sealed: a hundred and forty-four thousand, out of all the tribes of Israel.

After that I saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. They shouted aloud, 'Victory to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels who were standing in a circle round the throne, surrounding the elders and the four animals, prostrated themselves before the throne, and touched the ground with their foreheads, worshipping God with these words, 'Amen. Praise and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and strength to our God for ever and ever. Amen.'



One of the elders then spoke, and asked me, 'Do you know who these people are, dressed in white robes, and where they have come from?' I answered him, 'You can tell me, my Lord.' Then he said, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb.'

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 23:1-6. R. see v.6

(R.) Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. (R.)
2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. (R.)
3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him. Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. (R.)

**Second Reading** 1 Jn 3:1-3 A reading from the first letter of St John

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is. Surely everyone who entertains this hope must purify himself, must try to be as pure as Christ.

**Gospel** Mt 5:1-12 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

- 'How happy are the poor in spirit: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage.
- Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted.
- Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied.
- Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them.
- Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God.
- Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God.
- Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

*The Gospel of the Lord*

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