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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 – 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:**

Rv 7:2-4. 9-14  
Ps 23:1-6. R. see v.6  
1 Jn 3:1-3  
Mt 5:1-12

**25th October 2020 ~ 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

Like last week's gospel, we again have an example of the Pharisees seeking to 'catch Jesus out' in his interpretation of scripture. The Pharisees were regarded as the great interpreters of the Torah – the Law. To them, ALL the commandments were vitally important, not just the Ten Commandments given to Moses with which we are perhaps most familiar, but the 613 mitzvot (commandments) contained within the Torah – the first five books of the Bible. These 613 mitzvot governed all aspects of Jewish life. For the Pharisees to ask Jesus about the 'greatest' commandment was a blatant challenge to him. Perhaps they expected Jesus to name one commandment and then they could challenge him with a whole series of 'What about ...?' questions.

Jesus' answer to the Pharisees highlights their preoccupation with the particulars of the Law contained within scripture. In their over-emphasis on the details of religious observance, they have forgotten about the most basic element of faith: to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind. Jesus reminds them that being faithful to God isn't about following precise rules but rather it is simply about loving God. With this one sentence, Jesus undermines the power position of the Pharisees. If the Law is as simple as 'Love God', what need is there of Pharisees to interpret the details of the Law? Having pulled the rug out from under them, Jesus follows up with his reminder that the second most important commandment is to love your neighbour as yourself. This is a call to compassion and justice that Jesus practised freely but was sadly lacking in the religious authorities of his time.

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Link for Veronica Lawsons weekly video reflections:  
<https://www.mercyworld.org/newsroom/gospel-reflections-on-video-veronica-lawson-rsm/>



**Recently Deceased: We commend to God:** Lorna Holmes

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Joe van der Linden, Pam Orchard, Kevin Bawden, Harold Keys, Eileen Ferguson, Sr Therese Lynch RSM, Ronald Brewer, Peter Crowe, Francis Curran

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

**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.

**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/](https://www.vinnies.org.au/page/Our_Impact/International_Impact/Assist_a_student_today/)

**Next step on Plenary Council journey** As part of the on-going 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/>

**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/>

**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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**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). 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. Subscribe to e-News so you can receive updates and information about the life and activity of the parishes, schools and agencies 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.

**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.

**Divine Renovation Australasia Launch Webinar** All are welcome to join us as we cast vision for what is possible in Australia and New Zealand and officially launch the Divine Renovation Australasia office with Fr James Mallon, Dan O'Rourke, Fiona O'Reilly and Kevin Bailey. The launch event will be held on October 24, 2020 from 9.30am -11.00am (AEDT). For more info and to register to attend go to <https://www.tfaforms.com/4857335>



**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

**A New Audio Prayer Resource for Children and Families** A new audio resource called 'Time With Jesus' (TWJ) is a collection of short five minute meditations that take children (and adults) on an adventure through 13 popular New Testament bible stories to meet Jesus and speak with Him. For a free sample meditation, tips on how to use the TWJ resource in families and children's ministries and to make a purchase visit [www.beheldmedia.com](http://www.beheldmedia.com), [www.parousiamedia.com](http://www.parousiamedia.com). TWJ is available on CD or mp3 format and is a joint production of Beheld Media and Parousia.



## Readings for Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time A

**First Reading** Ex 22:20-26 A reading from the book of Exodus

The Lord said to Moses, "Tell the sons of Israel this, "You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

"If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him; you must not demand interest from him.

"If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity."

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 17:2-4, 47, 51. R. v.2

(R.) I love you, Lord, my strength.

1. I love you, Lord, my strength,

my rock, my fortress, my saviour.

My God is the rock where I take refuge;

my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.

The Lord is worthy of all praise:

when I call I am saved from my foes. (R.)

2. Long life to the Lord, my rock!

Praised be the God who saves me.

He has given great victories to his king

and shown his love for his anointed. (R.)

**Second Reading** 1 Thes 1:5-10 A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

**Gospel** Mt 22:34-40 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

*The Gospel of the Lord*

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