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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 (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

Tuesday 10:00am

Wednesday 10:00am

Our Lady Help of Christians

Sunday 8.30 am

Waubra 1st & 3rd Sunday

Beaufort 2nd & 4th Sunday

Lexton 5th Sunday

10.00 am Wendouree

Thursday 10:00 am

Friday 10:00 am

Readings for next weekend:

Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

Ps 127:1-5, R. v.1

1 Thes 5:1-6

Mt 25:14-30



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8th November 2020 ~ 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Focus on the Scriptures

The three gospel accounts from the final three weeks leading up to the season of Advent all come from Chapter 25 of the Gospel of Matthew. They can be seen together as an extended treatise on living life in response to Jesus' message and preparing for the end of time. This week's gospel starts out as a Kingdom parable and becomes a bit more of a metaphor for living a Christian life.

The gospel parable relates to ten bridesmaids – five foolish and five wise – who are participating in a wedding ritual that involves meeting the bridegroom and escorting him the last part of his way to the wedding reception. The foolish bridesmaids have not brought sufficient reserves of oil for their lamps and have to leave at the critical time to try to obtain more. When they eventually arrive at the reception hall they are turned away because they have shamed themselves as well as the bride and groom by not fulfilling their duty.

Some of the original audience of Matthew's gospel, along with many of the early Christian followers, had an expectation that Jesus was going to return and usher in the end of the world in their lifetime. The message of this gospel is captured in Jesus' final words, 'So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.' The timing of Jesus' coming cannot be predicted and so all Christian believers, like the bridesmaids, need to continue to act with hope and expectation; being prepared for the fact that it may be further off than anticipated. Many early Christians were living their lives as though the world would end at any time. The gospel warns them, and us, to continue to follow the example of Jesus and not to become complacent – expecting that everything is about to come to an end.



Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Joan Talbot, Jim Moran, Sheila Barrett

Anniversaries: We remember: Lina Muller, Hanes Walters, Brian O'Sullivan, Michael Sullivan, Herbert Krusche, Phillip Auer,

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. Please see our COVIDSafe plans on our website.

November remembrance In the Catholic Tradition, the month of November is a special time to remember those who have died. This year we will be unable to gather to remember those we have lost, but we still want to remember them. You are invited to offer the names of people you would like remembered during November and they will be prayed for at each Mass during the month of November. Please email names to your respective Parish.



Catholic Care Victoria Victoria's bishops have announced the merging of CatholicCare Melbourne and Gippsland, Centacare Ballarat and CatholicCare Sandhurst, to form a new entity, CatholicCare Victoria from January 1, 2021. Statements and further information is available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/catholic-care-victoria/>

ACU Short Courses in Theology "Revelation, Revolution and the Reception of the Bible" presented by internationally acclaimed scholars Dr Kylie Crabbe, Dr Emmanuel Nathan, Dr Gareth Wearne and Dr Jonathan Zecher. Wednesdays, November 11, 18, 25 and December 2 from 6.00pm – 7.00pm (AEDT). For more information and to register go to <https://www.acu.edu.au/about-acu/faculties-directorates-and-staff/faculty-of-theology-and-philosophy/short-courses/short-course-in-theology-series>

Catholic Theological College Virtual Open Days CTC are running Virtual Open Days during November so you can join online to explore courses from wherever you are. Whether you are interested in learning more about your faith, have a desire to study and research, wish to pursue a career in ministry or pastoral areas or need to gain qualifications to assist your current teaching or ministry position, you will find something at CTC to meet your needs. Live information sessions will be held as well as a number of video resources to assist you in making the right decision. During the sessions, you will have the opportunity to ask questions of the speakers. Please register online for the sessions <https://ctc.edu.au/catholic-theological-college/news-and-events/open-days/>

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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On-line Lay Pastoral Ministry Program – Registrations now open The Ballarat Diocese in partnership with Dayton University offer low-cost online study and formation. 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 or ph. 5337 7121

Are you a Spiritual Leader? – The Spiritual Leaders Program is a one-year, part-time program held on Friday mornings (and some Friday afternoons). It is suitable for people in outreach ministries and various positions of leadership within their faith community, such as priests, ministers, members of religious Orders, lay ecclesial ministers, community and spiritual leaders, chaplains, pastoral carers, and those in health and education. The program, which commences in Feb 2021, focuses on personal integration of the theory and practice of a contemplative, discerning approach to pastoral ministry. Previous participants have commented that this Program has been transformational in terms of their personal spirituality and their leadership skills. The Program may be available online via Zoom, face-to-face, or a combination of both. Apply to Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation in Malvern, VIC. Fee-Help is available to qualifying participants. Brochure and application form at www.heartoflife.melbourne or tel 03 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 or ph. 0455 033 321. More info: <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/pastoral-care-education-3/>

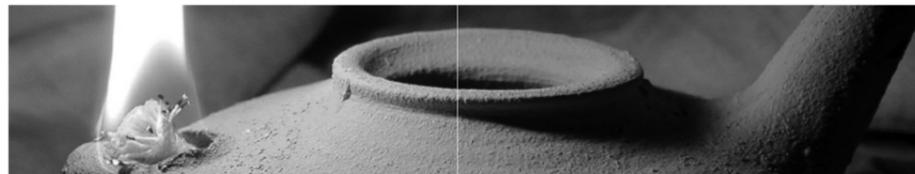
Sisters of the Immaculata - Mission School 2020 The Immaculata Mission school talks will be shown on Shalom World TV from November 2, 2020. The talks will be Monday – Friday at 7PM (AEDT). A promo video is available to watch at <https://youtu.be/Wkof4AgYPTc>.

Readings for 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

First Reading Wis 6:12-16 A reading from the book of Wisdom

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim.
By those who love her she is readily seen,
and found by those who look for her.
Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes herself known to them. Watch for her early and you will have no trouble;
you will find her sitting at your gates.

Even to think about her is understanding fully grown;
be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you.
She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her and graciously shows herself to them as they go,
in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.



Responsorial Psalm Ps 62:2-8. R. v.2
(R.) *My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.*
1. O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. (R.)
2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary.
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. (R.)
3. So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. (R.)
4. On my bed I remember you.
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Thess 4:13-14 A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thesalonians

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him.

Gospel Mt 25:1-13 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five of them were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

The Gospel of the Lord

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