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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 No Mass
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 11.00 am (Kelaston)
Friday 10:00am

Readings for next weekend:

Ez 34:11-12. 15-17
Ps 22:1-3. 5-6. R. v.1
1 Cor 15:20-26. 28
Mt 25:31-46



Veronica Lawson rsm

15th November 2020 ~ 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Focus on the Scriptures

In answer to my usual greeting, "G'day Muff, what are you up to?" my polymath brother-in-law, David (nicknamed Muff), would invariably reply, "Just contemplating the eternal verities!" The conversation that followed, usually over a glass of wine, would confirm the veracity of his response. Contemplating the eternal verities was a way of life for my brother-in-law until his all too early death 15 years ago.

As the end of the church year approaches, the liturgy presents us with texts that invite us all to consider the big questions of life and death, including the day of reckoning that will inevitably confront each one of us. Matthew's parable of the talents is part of a discourse about the final realities. It is sandwiched between the parable of the ten lamp-bearers, five of whom are unprepared for the bridegroom, and the end time judgement of the nations (next week's gospel reading).

The previous story has concluded with the warning: "Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour." This is usually interpreted as a reference to the second coming of Christ. Today's story continues this motif. It opens: "For it is as if a man going abroad summons his slaves and entrusts his property to them..." Once more, we find slavery taken for granted. Once more, we might take this as a reminder to commit ourselves to the elimination of all power over others. The slaves are entrusted with phenomenal wealth: ten talents, five talents, and one talent respectively. A talent was a measure of weight rather than a coin and one silver talent was the equivalent of 1000 days wages for an ordinary labourer.

The slaves receive no instructions, but later events indicate that the man expects a good return on his wealth. The first two slaves deliver and are invited into the joy of the master, another possible reference to the end time when God will embrace those who are faithful to their mission. The third slave buries his talent and provides a reasonable rationale: the master is a hard man who inspires a fear-ridden response in the slave. The master does not resile from this description. The seemingly unproductive slave loses even what he has and is banished to a place "where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Is the master an image of God? There are some elements in the story that point in this direction. There are other features, such as the concentration of wealth in one person and the treatment of the fearful slave, that inhibit an unequivocally affirmative answer to this question. In face of present inequities even within the most affluent countries, we may find ourselves in sympathy with the third slave insofar as he challenges the violent and exploitative actions of the master. Parables are open to multiple interpretations and the eternal verities cannot be encapsulated in one story or one image. They bear ongoing reflection and call us to responsible action for the sake of planetary life.



Ceremonies and Religious Gatherings We continue to be guided by Government regulations, which means we are still required to limit the number of people who are able to attend Mass, keeping them at the appropriate distance from each other, keeping a record of all who attend (for contact tracing) and ensuring that the necessary cleaning is undertaken.

To ensure that we can uphold all of these requirements, 20 people will be able to partake in Mass on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings at Ballarat North and Thursday and Friday mornings at Wendouree at 10.00am. Also for the weekend we have Saturday at 5pm at Ballarat North and Sunday at 10am at Wendouree again only for 20 people. Registering via the Parish Offices is essential, where your name and contact details will be required. A face mask must be worn at all times in the Church (your face mask may be removed when receiving Communion or reading, but must be worn again immediately afterwards). These numbers are strictly enforced with risk of high penalties if we exceed them. We appreciate your assistance with this.

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/>

Reaching Beyond 2020 People of all trades and professions are being requested by communities abroad seeking to build the capacity of their organisations and the skills of their people. Restrictions this year have made communities' needs acute, but your assistance will help to develop self-reliance and sustainable solutions to poverty. Palms Australia will provide you with thorough preparation to ensure your readiness as travel resumes, and support on assignment. See www.palms.org.au and talk to Roger on 0431 995 058, or email palms@palms.org.au

The Good Samaritan Study and Mentoring Leadership Program for Women

The Sisters of the Good Samaritan are inviting Catholic women to apply for the Study and Mentoring (SAM) Leadership Program. The program offers both financial and personal support to mature-aged Catholic women as they undertake undergraduate or postgraduate theological/spiritual study at a recognised theological Institution. For more information go to <https://www.goodsams.org.au/article/applications-invited-for-study-and-mentoring-sam-leadership-program/>. Applications close 29th Nov 2020.

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. The last of these prayers has now been published. Download the prayers from the news section of the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au.

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>.

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/>

Readings for 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

First Reading Prv 31:10-13. 19-20. 30-31 A reading from the book of Proverbs

A perfect wife – who can find her? She is far beyond the price of pearls. Her husband's heart has confidence in her, from her he will derive no little profit.

Advantage and not hurt she brings him all the days of her life. She is always busy with wool and with flax, she does her work with eager hands. She sets her hands to the distaff, her fingers grasp the spindle.

She holds out her hand to the poor, she opens her arms to the needy. Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty; the woman who is wise is the one to praise.

Give her a share in what her hands have worked for, and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 127:1-5. R. v.1

(R.) Happy are those who fear the Lord.

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!

By the labour of your hands you shall eat.

You will be happy and prosper. (R.)

2. Your wife like a fruitful vine

in the heart of your house;

your children like shoots of the olive,

around your table. (R.)

3. Indeed thus shall be blessed

the man who fears the Lord.

May the Lord bless you from Zion

in a happy Jerusalem

all the days of your life. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Thes 5:1-6 A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about 'times and seasons', since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and peaceful it is' that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it.

But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day; we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

Gospel Mt 25:14-15. 19-21 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out. Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir", he said "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness."

The Gospel of the Lord

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