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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
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 10:00am

Friday 10:00am

Readings for next weekend:

Is 40:1-5. 9-11

Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

2 Pt 3:8-14

Mk 1:1-8



29th November 2020 ~ First Sunday of Advent (B)

Focus on the Scriptures

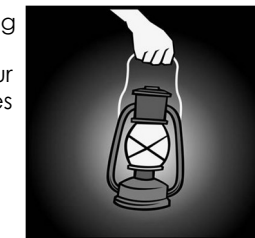
As I write, I am watching the magpies in the yard, ever alert, rarely asleep, ready to protect their territory and their young. "Eyes wide open" is the proper stance, not just for the magpies, but for gospel people too. The little parable that is the gospel reading for this first Sunday of the new liturgical year forms the conclusion to Mark's so-called apocalyptic discourse. Apocalyptic literature emerged within Judaism in the context of crisis or persecution. It was intended to provide hope in the midst of disaster. Its message was that God's coming can reverse the sufferings of the present, a hopeful message for our contemporary world if we envisage multiple "comings" and not simply an end-time return. The Markan discourse is delivered as a farewell teaching to the inner circle of Jesus' disciples. The concluding verse indicates that it is intended for a wider audience, however: "what I say to you, I say to all..." Like Peter, James, and John, Christian disciples through the ages are invited to stay awake, to be on the lookout, to be alert.

This cycle of the liturgical year begins and ends with Mark 13 and a focus on the end of the present order of things. It may seem strange to begin the year with such a reflection. Is Advent not a time of preparation for Christmas, for the coming of the Christ child into the world? Mark' has no account of the birth of Jesus. His gospel begins with the immediate preparation for the adult ministry of Jesus. From the very outset, his interest is in the coming of God's reign of justice and compassion. That is, in fact, what Advent is about: living in hopeful expectation that God's dream for a transformed world might be realised.

The parable of the watchful gatekeeper forms the conclusion to a farewell discourse that the Markan Jesus addresses to his disciples. The disciples are told to be alert and watchful through the four watches of the Roman night: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, and at dawn. The parable thus foreshadows aspects of Jesus' suffering that was to be compounded by the abandonment of his closest friends. Peter, James, and John will fall asleep in Gethsemane. The disciples will all disperse and Peter will deny him. We find our own experience mirrored in that of the disciples. It is easy to lose hope in the face of overwhelming violence and even to lose focus.

Advent is about recognising our own tendency to be less than vigilant and even to turn away when our presence is most needed. It is about allowing the grace of God to take hold in our hearts, keeping us watchful for the sake of those on the edge and for the sake of a regenerated Earth. Most of us would agree that our Earth communities are in crisis. We need to be alert to causes as well as to consequences so that the cycles of violence might eventually be broken. Our gospel asks no less of us.

Veronica Lawson



Responsorial Psalm: (R.) Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: John Sharry, Bill Smith, Sr. Claire Flanagan RGS

Anniversaries: We remember: Clare McGoldrick, Adele Carter

We pray: Those in need of our prayers; all the sick in our Parishes, students sitting exams and all those struggling with the effects of Covid-19. For the Plenary Council process in Australia.

Ceremonies and Religious Gatherings With the announced easing of coronavirus restrictions from Monday November 23rd. We will be able to have up to 65 (Ballarat North), 80(Wendouree) 23 (Waubra) for each Mass/ For the 10.00am weekday Masses bookings will not be required but those who attend will be asked to provide their contact details. Please ensure you arrive at least ten minutes to tick off your name and hand sanitize before the commencement of Mass as doors will be locked at 5pm and 10am. To book for the weekend Masses please either ring or email the Parish Office. St Columba's parishioners are welcome to use the link for Trybooking to register each week. To obtain the link please contact Judith. Please note that with the increase in numbers allowed at each Mass St Columba's will move to just having one weekday Mass (Wednesday @10am).

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/>

Advent 2020 with Bruce Downes The Catholic Guy Join me and people all around the world and Expect the Unexpected! Sign up for a free daily email devotional that will guide you on a life-changing journey through Advent. Starting November 29th you'll receive daily emails with short inspirational videos from Bruce Downes, full of real life stories and practical ways to become all that God has created you to be! Register now or for more information: <https://brucedownes.org/registerforadvent> Email: info@brucedownes.org

Advent Resources are available from the diocesan website. Click on the "Liturgy Resource" tab on front page www.ballarat.catholic.org.au.

AdventHope Read the latest from the Global Catholic Climate Movement at <https://preview.mailerlite.com/u9i6z9/1558374805588153901/o6p7/> · The November Laudato Si monthly reflection can be found at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NmLYsqX0Ue6qqlz9LofeVjunZUagKym/view>

Vinnies launches 2020 Christmas Appeal The St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia is asking people in a position to do so to dig a bit deeper this year as the Society launches its Christmas Appeal after a very tough year. To donate go to https://donate.vinnies.org.au/christmas-appeal?_ga=2.45291745.433958477.1606174687-2061808706.1606174687

Laudato Si Advent Week 1 Reflection " Our industrial system, at the end of its cycle of production and consumption, has not developed the capacity to absorb and reuse waste and by-products" LS # 22 When gift-giving of toys, clothes, technology is it Sustainable? Under what conditions was it made? <https://www.ethical.org.au/theguide/> <https://baptistworldaid.org.au/resources/ethical-fashion-guide/>

No Interest Loans Scheme Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand continues to offer No Interest Loans (NILS) for essential goods and services such as fridges, washing machines, car repairs and medical procedures for up to \$1,500. Repayments are set at an affordable amount over 12 to 18 months. NILS is offered by 170 local community organisations in over 600 locations across Australia. Chances are there'll be a local NILS provider near you or one who can help over the phone. For more information go to <https://nils.com.au/?fbclid=IwAR1yXO4BQBURX43G6zwWn1L8LpHmCJeASgKxi140daBbnc0EIJ7-F13gDM0>

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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

Caritas Australia Asia Emergency Appeal Typhoon Vamco has caused devastating unprecedented flooding in the regions of the Philippines, Vietnam and Cambodia, followed only weeks after being hit by Super Typhoon Goni. People who have lost their homes and livelihoods are fleeing to evacuation centres, where the risk of COVID-19 spreading is high. If you are able to assist, donations are being accepted at www.caritas.org.au or by calling toll free 1800 024 413

OLHC Christmas Lunch Due to the uncertainty of gathering in large groups for Christmas Day, OLHC Wendouree is offering a Christmas Day Take-away lunch. For those without transport, alternative arrangements can be organised. Bookings are essential. **Bookings:** 0419 975 914 or **Email:** christmaslunchwendouree@gmail.com

Christmas Giving Tree a St Columba's this year we will not have the giving tree in the foyer as in previous years, however the need in the community is greater this year than ever. We invite you to donate gift cards, grocery items or cash donations which we will distribute to the Parish St Vincent de Paul society. These can be left at the Parish office during office hours.

Just released: The Place of the Kyriale - The Ordinary of the Mass – in Catholic History, Liturgy and Music by Marie Therese Levey rsj. The prayers of the Ordinary, or the people's parts of the Mass, have formed a type of spiritual chain which has linked all the prayers of the Mass together since the first years of Christianity. The current book is a response by the author to a need expressed by fellow parish musicians to know more about the origin of the people's sung parts of the Mass. In this work the reader will meet well known saints who loved to praise God in song and contributed to the Kyriale: St Gregory I the Great, Bernard of Clairvaux, Hildegard of Bingen, Francis of Assisi, Dominic of Osma. You will also meet those who made life difficult for them. The work is full of stories of "saints and sinners very human figures (who) come alive in these pages". Available for \$30 + P&P from Congregational Administration Centre, PO Box 1508, North Sydney NSW 2059. Enquiries (02) 8912 4853 email CAC.reception@sosj.org.au

Gifts for others via Catholic Mission <https://catholicmission.org.au/gifts>

Readings for 1st Sunday in Advent (B)

First Reading [Is 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8](#) A reading from the prophet Isaiah
You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name.
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance.
Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down – at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him.



You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind.
You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you.
We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.
We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind.
No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you.
For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins.
And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter,
we are all the work of your hand.

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19 R. v.4](#)

(R.) Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.

O Lord, rouse up your might,

O Lord, come to our help. (R.)

2. 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.)

3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.

And we shall never forsake you again:

give us life that we may call upon your name. (R.)

Second Reading [1 Cor 1:3-9](#) A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

Gospel [Mk 13:33-37](#) A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

The Gospel of the Lord

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