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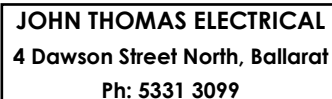
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**Child Safe Church** The Parishes of St Columba's & Our Lady Help of Christians (including Lexton, Miners Rest and Waubra) follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards as directed 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

**COVID Safe Plan**

If you are feeling unwell or have any symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough or sore throat) **please do not attend Mass.**  
Please register with the Parish Office during office hours to attend a weekend Mass. You do not need to preregister for a weekday Mass. Please ensure you arrive 10 minutes before Mass; doors will be locked prior to commencement. Contact tracing is required for all Masses.  
Ensure that you maintain appropriate physical distancing at all times (1.5 metres).  
A face mask must be worn at all times whilst visiting the Church (your face mask may be removed when consuming Communion or reading, but must be worn again immediately afterwards).  
Please use the hand sanitiser available upon entering the Church.  
Please do not touch any surfaces unnecessarily.  
Please remain in the designated area of the Church (in or near your seat at all times).  
Once Mass has concluded, please leave the Church immediately afterwards to allow for cleaning of all surfaces.  
We appreciate your assistance. The fines for non-compliance with Government Regulations may be imposed on the Parish are up to \$100,000.



**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 5.00 pm  
Wednesday 10.00 am

**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:**

Is 61:1-2. 10-11  
Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10  
1 Thes 5:16-24  
Jn 1:6-8. 19-28



**6th December 2020 ~ Second Sunday of Advent (B)**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

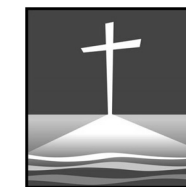
John immersed, baptised, his followers in water, symbolising the washing away of the sins of the past. But he could not empower people by drenching them in the dynamic life of God. John anticipates 'Someone' (not named!) who does have the power to inundate, baptise, people with the Holy Spirit.

From the heading of St Mark's Gospel, we know that that 'Someone' is 'Jesus Christ, Son of God' who came to flood our lives with that Divine Power which can effect a completely new future for humanity.

That is why St Mark took the term 'gospel' (good news) which was used on inscriptions announcing an Emperor's birth or victory, and used it to describe his inspired rendering of the mission of Jesus Christ, which was to inaugurate the 'Kingdom of God', overcoming the pretensions of all Emperors of any kind throughout history.

We could pause for a moment to thank God for the Good News of our being baptised with water in the 'Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.'

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com



**Responsorial Psalm:** (R.) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia, alleluia!

**Recently Deceased: We commend to God:** June Henderson

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Terry Carman, Mary McCauley, Sinie Dam, Dorothy Vaughan, Brian Fitzpatrick, Fr John Martin, Carmel Caligari, Trevor Jeffreys, Paul Melenhorst

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

**Ceremonies and Religious Gatherings** We will now 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. You will need to still preregister for weekend Masses. Please ensure you arrive at least ten minutes before the commencement of Mass to complete entry requirements. Doors will be locked before Mass commences.

**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/>

**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](https://donate.vinnies.org.au/christmas-appeal?_ga=2.45291745.433958477.1606174687-2061808706.1606174687)

**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>

**Thank God for Mass!** Just as lockdown begins to ease and Churches open for prayer and the celebration of Mass, Sue Ellis has produced an interactive book that will help every family, school and church to inspire children to enjoy the many aspects of this key event in the life of every Catholic. More information available from the diocesan website "Liturgy resources" page

**Making a Scene** In this year of COVID, travelling around the world is but a dream. Making a Scene at Christmas, a display of over 500 Christmas Nativities, can take you around the world and through time using the lens of hand-crafted Nativities. Currently we have Nativities from Australia, Asia, Europe, Africa and North and South America. We have nativity related artifacts (coins) that are 2000 years old, nativities made of different materials including bullets and bullet shells, recycled potato chip packets, spark plugs, pewter, china, wood and our latest acquisition is a 1.2 m high wooden Herod about 100 years old that came from a carousel in NY State. We will be displaying these in The Bridge Mall, Ballarat, from December 17 - 20, All are welcome. .

**Advent Recollection: Reflecting on the Joys and Struggles of 2020** On the feast of the Immaculate Conception, you are invited to gather as the Church of Oceania in recollection and thanksgiving on the year that was. This event will be hosted by the Pastoral Ministry Network (formerly known as NAPPA) and supported by the Mission Planners Network Oceania and the Diocese of Parramatta. More information is available from the diocesan website "news" section [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)

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

**Collections at St Columba's** **We thank you for your generous support**  
1st Collection: \$ 267.00 2nd Collection (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 2,549.00

**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](mailto: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. You are also invited to purchase gifts suitable for the Mum's and Dad's. These can be left at the office during office hours or give to Judith after one of the Parish Masses.

**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: Ss 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](mailto:CAC.reception@sosj.org.au)

**Congratulations** to Jada Blake who will receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist during the Saturday evening Mass at St Columba's. Jada has been a part of the RCIA for Children process and has prepared well for this special day. Please keep her in your prayers.



**Laudato Si Advent** Laudato Si Advent Week 2 Reflection: 'Many intensive forms of environmental exploitation and degradation not only exhaust the resources which provide local communities with their livelihood...' LS #145. Widespread forest removal in Asia for palm oil production is denying indigenous people access to land and risking extinction of animals. Corporate overfishing is depleting fish populations in the Pacific and elsewhere. When buying during this Advent, consider whether your food, toiletries and other purchases use Certified Sustainable Palm Oil (CSPO). Products and palm oil <https://www.ethical.org.au/theGuide/> Sustainable fish <https://goodfish.org.au>

**Readings for 2nd Sunday in Advent (B)**

**First Reading** Is 40:1-5. 9-11 A reading from the prophet Isaiah 'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.' A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'



Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

(R.) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,  
a voice that speaks of peace,  
peace for his people.  
His help is near for those who fear him  
and his glory will dwell in our land. (R.)
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;  
justice and peace have embraced.  
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth  
and justice look down from heaven. (R.)
3. The Lord will make us prosper  
and our earth shall yield its fruit.  
Justice shall march before him  
and peace shall follow his steps. (R.)

**Second Reading** 2 Pt 3:8-14 A reading from the second letter of St Peter

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace

**Gospel** Mk 1:1-8 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;  
he will prepare your way.  
A voice cries in the wilderness:  
Prepare a way for the Lord,  
make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

*The Gospel of the Lord*

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