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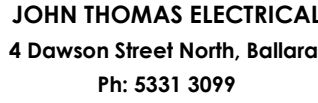
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Child Safe Church The Parishes of St Columba's & Our Lady Help of Christians (including Lexton, Miners Rest and Waubra) follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards as directed 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 is optional 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
Waubra 1st & 3rd Sunday 8:30am
Beaufort 2nd & 4th Sunday 8:30am
Lexton 5th Sunday 8:30am
Wendouree: Sunday 10.00 am
Thursday 10.00 am
Friday 10.00 am

Readings for Next Weekend:
Dt 18:15-20
Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R. v.9
1 Cor 7:32-35
Mk 1:21-28



24th January 2021 ~ Third Sunday of Ordinary Time (B)

Focus on the Scriptures

Most of the gospel readings for this year are from Mark's story of Jesus. As with any story, it is best to read it from beginning to end, attending to the story line, to indications of habitat and of time, to all the actors or characters in the story, human and other-than-human. While the main character or actor is Jesus, there are other characters and character groups that claim our attention. The "worlds" we encounter include the celestial world, the world of spirits and demons, the human, the animal and the plant worlds. In many ways, we can resonate with the worlds that Mark creates. In other ways, they are alien to 21st century scientific sensibilities and experience. We bring our consciousness of these differences to our reading of the text. As we embark on this reading we might also become aware of what we bring to the text, "the joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties" (GS 1) of our world today, a world still grappling with pandemic and with growing economic inequality. What we bring to the text informs our understanding of the text.

As we read, we might think of this gospel as a two-act drama. The first act in the drama (Mark 1:1-8:26) raises the question, "Who is this?" The central scene (Mark 8:27-30) provides a partial answer: Jesus is the Messiah or God's Anointed One, the Christos. The second act of the drama (Mark 8:31-16:8) is full of surprises for its earliest audiences: Jesus is not a militaristic messiah, but one who is prepared to suffer death for the sake of God's empire; God finally triumphs over suffering and death.

The invitation to us as readers is to enter into the drama, to identify with the characters and character groups, and to hear the teachings of Jesus. In the passage selected for today, Jesus announces his program and invites others to reorient their lives, to expand their horizons and to join him on a mission of proclaiming God's kin-dom, God's way of being in the world. Jesus proclaims the advent of God's "time" or kairos, as opposed to ordinary clock time (chronos). It is crisis time, time to attend to the cries of the earth and the cries of those rendered poor in every age.

One might get the impression in the opening chapters of the gospel that the disciples are all men. We have to go to the end of the gospel to find that there are also women "who came up with him to Jerusalem" from Galilee. The central section of the gospel (Mark 9-10) makes it clear that there are children on the journey as well. So let us imagine a much more extended group around Jesus than today's little gospel reading suggests. Women, men, and children, all are invited to leave behind whatever gets in the way of bringing God's kin-dom into our world.
Veronica Lawson rsm



Responsorial Psalm: (R.) Teach me your ways, O Lord.
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The kingdom of God is near: believe the Good News! Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Maureen Shannon

Anniversaries: We remember: Mary McFarlane, Marlene Kirby, Margaret Deady, Henry Deady, Annie Morgan, Stephen Haintz

We pray: Those in need of our prayers; all the sick in our Parishes especially Jan Mullaly and for all teachers, parents and students as they prepare to return for a new school year.

Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Virtual Learning Program Our partners, Dayton University offer low-cost online study and formation for employed or volunteer lay workers in parish and other ministries. Study subjects over 3 & 5 week cycles. Study Cycle 2 begins 21st February. Registrations for this cycle are now open for new and returning participants. For more information go to www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or email djurdia.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7121.

St Vincent de Paul Drought Community Support Initiative St Vincent de Paul are available to assist those who are eligible for round 2 of the Drought Community Support Initiative funding. Funding of \$3,000 per application is available for farming households who meet the following eligibility criteria:

- over 18 years of age;
- live/work in an eligible drought declared LGA: Benalla, Buloke, East Gippsland, Gannawarra, Greater Shepparton, Latrobe, Mildura, Moira, Pyrenees, Strathbogie, Swan Hill, Wangaratta, Wellington, Yarriambiack;
- be permanent residents/citizen of Australia;
- be primarily employed in farming related activity, ie: farmer, farm worker, farm supplier/contractor.

COVID-19 has impacted the Society's ability to move around local communities and so we are reaching out to our networks to assist us in promoting this funding. Staff in the National Office are available to assist applicants who need help completing the questions for eligibility or who may not have internet connection or experience navigating online. We know there are many families we have not yet been able to reach. For more information call the Drought Team 1300 846 643 or go to www.vinnies.org.au/drougthelp.

Vinnies No Interest Loan Scheme No Interest Loans (NILs) provide individuals and families on low incomes with access to safe, fair and affordable credit for those with a Health Care Card / Pension Card or earn less than \$45,000 a year after tax or \$60,000 for couples or people with dependants. Further information available at <https://www.vinniesnils.org.au>.

Palms Australia seeks mission recruits For 60 years Palms Australia has been recruiting, preparing, sending and supporting Catholics from all around Australia to fill overseas professional placements in response to requests from international community partners. Rising to the challenges of COVID 19 we are actively recruiting Australian Catholics now to receive preparation and training to undertake overseas professional placements in late 2021 and early 2022. For more information go to <https://palms.org.au/assignments-abroad/current-opportunities/>

Year of St Joseph Pope Francis on December 8, 2020 published an Apostolic Letter *Patris corde* (With a Father's Heart), commemorating the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a "Year of St Joseph", running from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021. A number of resources are being developed by the ACBC to encourage and support the celebration of the Year of St Joseph. The resources are available from the ACBC website <https://catholic.org.au/yearofstjoseph>

Farewell and Thank you. It is customary at this time of year that people either move on or are new to this parish... Hence it is appropriate to acknowledge the contribution of Betty Fitzpatrick over many decades, who leaves to be closer to family in Warrnambool. Betty's faith and commitment to OLHC parish has been greatly appreciated.

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World Day of the Sick Pope John Paul II initiated World Day of the Sick a year after he was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. It began in 1993 and each February 11th we are called upon to pray for the sick and to remember those who care for them. As the past year has shown us if we have our health then we have much to be grateful for. So we ask you to say this prayer on their behalf. (From Catholic Health Australia)

Prayer:

Verse: Jesus, you brought healing to those who were sick.

Response: *Lord have mercy.*

V: Jesus, be with all who are sick and give them comfort.

R: *Lord have mercy.*

V: Jesus, bless the hands and feet of nurses and doctors who come to the aid of all who are ill.

R: *Lord have mercy.*

V: Jesus, keep safe all who travel to bring medical care to the poorer regions of our world.

R: *Lord have mercy.*

V: Jesus, so many are without adequate health care in our world, move our hearts to seek justice and access to medical care for all.

R: *Lord have mercy.*

V: Jesus, give patience and strength to those who care for family members who are ill.

R: *Lord have mercy.*

V: Jesus, give hope to all who live with chronic conditions.

R: *Lord have mercy.*

V: During this time of pandemic we pray for all scientists and medical researchers who are working on vaccines and better treatments.

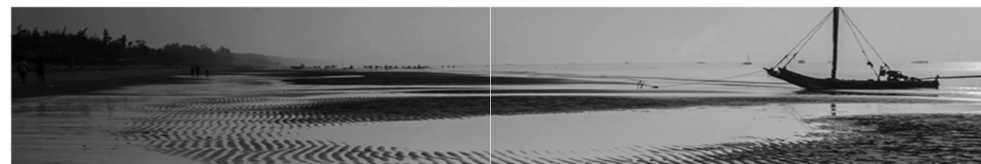
R: *Lord have Mercy*

Let us pause and call to mind those who are sick among our family and friends and all medical and nursing staff throughout the world. (Pause for a moment of reflection)

God, your Son taught us that we should always pray for those in need and so we pray for them in Jesus' words: Our Father... (After the Lord's Prayer the leader continues)

Let us pray: God, we entrust to your merciful care all who are sick, We ask you to bless all medical and nursing staff and all who assist them in their work, Give them the grace and strength, the clarity and wisdom, the hope and love that they will need to sustain them in their work. We pray that others will be inspired to follow in their footsteps and to give themselves generously to the healing professions. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, in the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

All: Amen



Readings for 3rd Sunday in Ordinary time

First Reading Jon 3:1-5. 10

A reading from the prophet Jonah

The word of the Lord was addressed to Jonah: 'Up!' he said 'Go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to them as I told you to.' Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was a city great beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. Jonah went on into the city, making a day's journey. He preached in these words, 'Only forty days more and Nineveh is going to be destroyed.' And the people of Nineveh believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least.

God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behaviour. And God relented: he did not inflict on them the disaster which he had threatened.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 24:4-9. R. v.4

(R.) *Teach me your ways, O Lord.*

1. Lord, make me know your ways.

Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:

for you are God my saviour. (R.)

2. Remember your mercy, Lord, and the love you have shown from of old. In your love remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord. (R.)

3. The Lord is good and upright. He shows the path to those who stray, he guides the humble in the right path; he teaches his way to the poor. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Cor 7:29-31 A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers, our time is growing short. Those who have wives should live as though they had none, and those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for; those who are enjoying life should live as though there were nothing to laugh about; those whose life is buying things should live as though they had nothing of their own; and those who have to deal with the world should not become engrossed in it. I say this because the world as we know it is passing away.

Gospel Mk 1:14-20 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.' And at once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets. He called them at once and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.

The Gospel of the Lord

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