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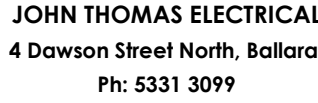
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**Child Safe Church** The Parishes of St Columba's & Our Lady Help of Christians (including Lexton, Miners Rest and Waubra) follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards as directed 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.  
You no longer need to preregister for Masses. Please ensure you arrive 10 minutes before Mass; doors will be locked prior to commencement. Contact tracing is required for all Masses. Please use the QR code on the door or sign the register in the foyer (please add your phone number if you are a visitor).  
Ensure that you maintain appropriate physical distancing at all times (1.5 metres).  
A face mask is currently optional whilst visiting the Church (if you choose to wear your mask, it 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

Wed-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 No Mass

**Our Lady Help of Christians**

**Waubra** 1st & 3rd Sunday 8.30 am  
**Beaufort** 2nd & 4th Sunday 8.30 am  
**Lexton** 5th Sunday 8.30 am  
**Wendouree** 10.00 am  
Thursday No Mass  
Friday No Mass

**Readings for Next Weekend:**

Job 7:1-4, 6-7  
Ps 146:1-6. R. v.3  
1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23  
Mk 1:29-39



**31st January 2021 ~ Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time (B)**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

Discipleship requires a change in us. We want to change because in so many ways we are being strangled to death by demons. We are caught in dysfunction and sin; we live in the midst of the battle between good and evil, the struggle of human finitude and failure. We are plunged into the throes of human suffering and pain, and there seems to be no escape.

The demonic seduces us in more ways than we can count and we are often caught in its web before we recognise what has happened. There have always been many and varied voices that claim to have the remedy for our ills. Preachers and politicians have stirred up crowds and ignited their emotions. Promises have been made and predictions advanced, yet the conflict goes on, the demons continue to hold sway. The demon recognised the authority in the voice of Jesus. Do we recognise it?

When we are released by Jesus from the demons that possess us, we are freed from the stranglehold of evil and liberated to live far less encumbered and divided lives. No Earthly reality will possess us, neither relationships nor obligations nor even religious practices. Rather, we will be possessed by Christ who liberates us for the reign of God. Therefore, whether married or unmarried, whether in the midst of the community or at its margins, we will be able to heed the voice of God in our hearts and to recognise Jesus in our midst.

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**Responsorial Psalm:** (R.) If today, you hear his voice, harden not your hearts

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! A people in darkness have seen a great light; a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death. Alleluia!

**Recently Deceased: We commend to God:** Wayne Blake, Katherine Moss

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Stuart Robertson,

**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 21<sup>st</sup> February. Registrations for this cycle are now open for new and returning participants. For more information go to [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) or email [djurdia.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto: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/droughthelp](http://www.vinnies.org.au/droughthelp).

**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>.

**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>

**Webinar - Vaccines, Viruses and Vulnerabilities: Catholic health and care of the human person** The ACU Faculty of Theology and Philosophy, in partnership with Catholic Health Australia (CHA), is running a webinar event that brings together international experts and thought leaders to discuss mental health, public health and the question of solidarity in the face of this pandemic. The first event in this series, entitled "Vaccines, Viruses and Vulnerabilities: Catholic health and care of the human person" is taking place on World Day of the Sick which is February 11. Registration is essential at <https://www.acu.edu.au/about-acu/events/2021/february/vaccines-viruses-and-vulnerabilities>

**Ash Wednesday Masses 17 February 2021 - Ballarat North 9.30am and Wendouree 11am.** You will need to preregister for these Masses, either by contacting the Parish Office or using a trybooking code which will be available from next week.

**Collections at St Columba's** *We thank you for your generous support*  
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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 4th Sunday in Ordinary time

**First Reading** Dt 18:15-20 A reading from the book of Deuteronomy Moses said to the people: 'Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. "Do not let me hear again" you said "the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die"; and the Lord said to me, "All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.'"

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R. v.9  
(R.) If today, you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;  
hail the rock who saves us.  
Let us come before him, giving thanks,  
with songs let us hail the Lord. (R.)
2. Come in, let us kneel and bend low;  
let us kneel before the God who made us  
for he is our God and we  
the people who belong to his pasture,  
the flock that is led by his hand. (R.)
3. O that today you would listen to his voice!  
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as on that day at Massah in the desert  
when your fathers put me to the test;  
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' (R.)

**Second Reading** 1 Cor 7:32-35 A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

**Gospel** Mk 1:21-28 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

The Gospel of the Lord

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