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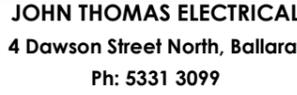
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**Child Safe Church** The Parishes of St Columba's & Our Lady Help of Christians (including Lexton, Miners Rest and Waubra) follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards as directed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



**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

Tuesday: 9am—12 noon

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 10:00am

**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**  
Sunday 10.00 am  
Thursday 10:00am  
Friday 10:00am

**Readings for Next Weekend:**

Ex 20:1-17  
Ps 18:8-11. R. Jn 6:68  
1 Cor 1:22-25  
Jn 2:13-25



**28th February 2021 ~ Second Sunday of Lent (B)**

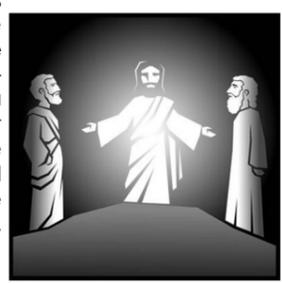
**Focus on the Scriptures**

The wilderness was the geographical and key symbolic focus of last week's gospel story. This week, the focus is a mountain. Wilderness and mountain remind us that God's Earth itself is the locus of mystery and grace, the place of Earth-divine encounter. The mountain, like the wilderness, links Mark's story of Jesus with the story of the Israelites. Moses' encounter with God on the mountain of Sinai was a defining moment in the life of the people: the Israelites entered into covenant with God at this mountain and received the Law that was to guide their lives as a people. Some centuries later, at a time of crisis in Israel's life, the prophet Elijah returned to this mountain and experienced the presence of God in the gentle breeze.

In the gospel passage for today, Jesus takes Peter, James and John up the mountain and is "transfigured" before them and "his clothes become dazzling white". In the Book of Revelation, white clothes come to symbolise the clothing of martyrs, of those who die for their faith. Elijah and Moses, the key prophetic figures of Israel, appear and enter into dialogue with Jesus, God's definitive prophet. The "transfiguration" seems to point to a time in Jesus' ministry when he accepts his likely fate. If he continues to challenge oppression and injustice, he is certain to encounter opposition, even death. He struggles with that realisation in the "wilderness" and comes to terms with what it involves on this unidentified mountain.

The voice of God reaffirms the identity of Jesus that was announced in the opening words of the gospel and proclaimed at his baptism in the Jordan. It calls for a response from the disciples who have ascended the mountain in his company: "Listen to him". In the two preceding scenes, Jesus has spoken of the suffering that he and his followers will have to face. These words are crucial to an understanding, not only of Jesus, but of what it means to follow him. They fall on deaf ears.

Peter wants to hold on to the experience of glory, to "make tents" and settle down. He prefers not to face the difficulties involved in fidelity to the mission. But that is not the way of discipleship. Like Jesus and his companions, we too need the occasional glimpse of final victory. We also need the courage and the good sense to return from the mountain and follow through on the path that brings life, despite the pain. We can feel overwhelmed by the enormity of the challenges facing us and by the opposition we sometimes experience. Vaccines for Covid-19 are in process of changing our world. They have a crucial role to play in combatting infection, in casting out fear and restoring life. We too have a role to play. We must "listen" to the underlying causes of disease and come to terms with the costs involved in maintaining the struggle for a sustainable, safe, and peace-filled world.  
Veronica Lawson rsm



**Responsorial Psalm:** (R.) I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

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

**Anniversaries:** We remember: Kathleen Squire, Patrick Duffy, Margaret Pearson

**We pray:** Those in need of our prayers; all the sick in our Parishes, and for the success of the Plenary Council.

**World Day of Prayer Services - Friday, March 5, 2021** will be held at: 10.00am at Patrick's Cathedral, corner Sturt & Dawson Streets, Ballarat. 2.00pm at StJames' Parish Church, cnr Albert & Vale Streets, Sebastopol. 7.00pm at Ballarat South Uniting Church, 305 Scott Street, Buninyong. 7.00pm at St John's Anglican Church, 103 Napier Street, Creswick. You are most welcome to attend one of these Ecumenical services. This year the prayer service has been prepared by the women of Vanuatu and the theme is "Build on a Strong Foundation".

**A Pilgrimage for the Year of St Joseph** The Aussie Camino is a pilgrimage route running from Portland in Victoria to Penola in South Australia, inspired by the life and journeys of Australia's first Saint, Mary of the Cross MacKillop, and her mentor, Fr Julian Tenison Woods. On average you will walk between 20-25km per day (6-8 hours) for the eight days of walking. Based on the traditions of the Camino de Santiago de Compostela in Spain, pilgrims receive a guidebook, passport, scallop shell and stay in the local towns along the way. Fr Justin Driscoll will accompany the pilgrims. 10 Days – Portland to Penola departing Ballarat on Friday, April 30, 2021 and returning to Ballarat on Sunday, May 9, 2021. Maximum of 12 people. An information session for this event will be held on Wednesday, March 3, 2021 at 5.30pm in the smaller hall at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat. To register your interest and attend the information session, please contact Leonie at Lifestyle Travel Ballarat [leonie@lifestyletravel.com.au](mailto:leonie@lifestyletravel.com.au)

**Pastoral Care Education** An exciting opportunity for education and formation in Pastoral Care, with the option to have a CPE unit recognized as 30 points should you wish to enrol in theological studies with the University of Divinity, is now available in regional Victoria. The South West Victoria CPE Centre is registered through the Association for Supervised and Clinical Pastoral Education Victoria (ASACPEV Inc.). Further information on the program is available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/pastoral-care-education-3/>

**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 [djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or ph. 5337 7121.

**Baptism Preparation** the next session will be held on Thursday 4th March in the MacKillop/McGlowery meeting rooms at St Patrick's Cathedral Precinct. To attend a session or for more information please contact Parish Office.

**Sacramental Program for OLHC.** Programs for Confirmation, Reconciliation and First Eucharist preparations have been scheduled for 2021. Brochure are available in the OLHC Church foyer or by contacting Maree at the Parish Office.

**ACRATH Slavery-free Easter Chocolate Campaign** What will you do in 2021 to help eliminate slavery or child labour? ACRATH is hosting a fun zoom morning tea on Thursday, March 4 at 10.30am. Pour a cuppa and join us as we chat about our slavery-free hopes, dreams, intentions and commitments in 2021. No need to register, just join us for five minutes or for 30 minutes at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89357222192?pwd=TrmRTWVVaWmg3MzZnTEpjeTNEWDVudz09>. Display the poster in your classroom, staffroom, kitchen, workplace or front fence!! For more Slavery-free Easter Chocolate information go to: <https://acrath.org.au/take-action/slavery-free-easter/> or the diocesan website Social Justice Commission page <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/social-justice/>

**Collections at St Columba's**

1st Collection: \$ 296.80

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2nd Collection (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 920

**Mass times** Until the COVID-19 Pandemic, both the Wendouree Parish and Ballarat North Parish celebrated two Masses each weekend simultaneously at 6.00 pm (Sat) and 10.00 am (Sun). The initial easing of restrictions allowed small numbers to gather ie: 10 then 20, with one Mass being celebrated in each parish. Under current arrangements Ballarat North can accommodate 125 people and Wendouree 160 people. To date about 70 to 80 people have attended Mass in each place each weekend, which is most encouraging indeed and well within the permitted capacity constraints. On that basis it would also seem that only one Mass each weekend in Wendouree and in Ballarat North is required. In looking to the future, an opportunity will be given to parishioners of both parishes to explore what this might look like. Parishioners are most welcome to attend an evening at OLHC Church on Wednesday 10th March @7.00 pm to talk about Mass Times. This will not be a decision making meeting but an opportunity for all Ballarat North and Wendouree parishioners to share ideas and to listen to each other. Following this meeting Fr. Marcello will meet with representatives of each Parish Council to discern what the future Mass times should be. There will be plenty of notice given should a change be implemented. Up until then the current Mass times will remain in place.

**Project Compassion** Margret is a teacher at a vocational school for deaf students in the Solomon Islands that suffered long-term water shortages and damage from Tropical Cyclone Harold. With Caritas Australia's support Margret's school installed water tanks, repaired cyclone damage and implemented COVID-19 prevention measures, and is now planning to boost food security. Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 and help people living with disabilities in the Solomon Islands gain access to education and clean water, empowering them with skills to protect our common home. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or phoning 1800 024 413



**OLHC Liturgy Meeting** on Tuesday March 2nd at 4:00 pm in Parish Centre, \*\*\*\*\*

**Readings for the Second Sunday of Lent Year B**

**First Reading** Gen 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18 A reading from the book of Genesis

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham,' he called.' Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of your enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 115:10, 15-19, R. 114:9

(R.) I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

1. I trusted, even when I said:

'I am sorely afflicted.'

O precious in the eyes of the Lord

is the death of his faithful. (R.)

2. Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;

you have loosened my bonds.

A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:

I will call on the Lord's name. (R.)

3. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil

before all his people,

in the courts of the house of the Lord,

in your midst, O Jerusalem. (R.)

**Second Reading** Rom 8:31-34 A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

**Gospel** Mk 9:2-10 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

The Gospel of the Lord

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