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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 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.
- 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 9:30am

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
Wednesday 11:00 am
Thursday 11:00 Kelaston
Friday 10:00 am

Readings for Next Weekend:

Gen 9:8-15
Ps 24:4-9. R. see v.10
1 Pt 3:18-22
Mk 1:12-15



14th February 2021 ~ Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time (B)

Focus on the Scriptures

It is hard to imagine a person in 1st Century Palestine who would be more of an outcast from society than the leper. Unfortunately, any form of skin disease was categorised as leprosy (known as Hansen's disease today). It was regarded as one of the greatest forms of uncleanness and seen as a physical manifestation of God's punishment on the person.

For a person like this to even approach Jesus is a huge risk and an enormous act of faith. He trusts that Jesus will not reject him like everybody else in his life has done. His request to Jesus is almost a demand; it is certainly filled with an utter conviction of Jesus' ability and good will: 'if you want to, you can cure me'. Jesus' reaction is one of equally strong emotion – he is so moved by this man's plight that he reaches out his hand and touches the man. To touch a person with leprosy was to break every rule of the clean/unclean social structure that dominated Jewish society. In this one action, Jesus challenges the entire basis on which Jewish society is constructed – the purity code. For Jesus to touch this man, according to the purity code, is to become unclean himself. But Jesus ignores these social rules and responds out of love and heals the man with word and action. However, Jesus knows that if the man is to be accepted back into society he needs to conform to the rules that dominate his world. He must present himself to the local priest who is the only one with the authority to declare someone cured of their disease and thus able to become ritually clean and welcome back into worship and back into everyday life.



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Responsorial Psalm: (R.) I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Peter Baker, Joan Thomas, Anoja Stanislaus

Anniversaries: We remember John Brusaschi, Lesley Bigarelli, Gwen Souter, Mary Ursula Caine rsm, Mavis Keegan, Judith Johnstone, Neil Woods, Kevin Tradrew, Mary Mahar, Valerie Lavery, Margaret Le Marshall

We pray: Those in need of our prayers; all the sick in our Parishes especially Jan Mullaly. For the success of the Plenary Council

Ash Wednesday 17 February 2021. Masses

will be at 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:

Ballarat North is: <https://www.trybooking.com/BOJRG>

Wendouree is <https://www.trybooking.com/BOPRG>



Sacraments 2021 St Columba's Confirmation for children in Grade 4 or over will start with an Information session on Tuesday 16th February at 7pm in the St Columba's School Hall. Registration is required. Please contact Judith in the Parish Office to register or for any inquiry.

OLHC. A plan for the preparation of candidates for Confirmation, Reconciliation and First Eucharist is published on the OLHC website, and brochures are available in the church foyer or contact Maree at the Parish Office.

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 St James' 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".

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 info available at <https://www.vinniesnils.org.au/>.

Let the Heart Listen is a 15-week formation program on Thursday mornings for people involved in listening to and supporting others. The program includes: the principles of listening and discernment, facilitated group participation, guided reflection etc. Facilitated by Carole Carmody rsm, the program begins on 25 Feb 2021 at Heart of Life, Rear 41 Stanhope Street, Malvern or online. Cost \$680. For more information or application form, contact info@heartoflife.melbourne or tel 9890 1101.

'The People's Patriarch' film screening with Q & A Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Centre, the Australia Palestine Advocacy Network and PIEN would like to invite you to the Australian launch of the film "The People's Patriarch", Reflections with Patriarch Michel Sabbah. The documentary screening will be followed by an open discussion with His Eminence Patriarch (Emeritus) Michel Sabbah and the film's, director Mohammed Alatar and producer Lily Habash. Moderated by Ursula Stephens, former Senator and current CEO of Catholic Social Services Australia. Thursday, March 4, 2021 at 7.30pm (EST). Registration via zoom https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_UpG7WwUAT6ywg3SxFdYrYQ

Parish Secretary Position – Parishes of Bungaree and Gordon are seeking to jointly employ a suitably qualified person to fill the position of Parish Secretary to support the business and clerical requirements for both parishes. The position is 12 hours per week for the Parish of Gordon and 5 hours per week for the Parish of Bungaree. Total 17 hours per week. Days of work are negotiable. More information is available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/our-diocese/employment/>. Applications close February 26, 2021.

COVID safe practices—see our COVID safe plan on the back page

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Governance Arrangements for St Columba's Primary School & Our Lady Help of Christian's Primary School

Towards the end of 2020 the Diocesan Educational Community took a new direction. In December representatives of the Pastoral Council and Finance Committee in each parish met with Tracey O'Neill (Chair) and Fr. Andrew Hayes (Deputy Chair) of Diocese of Ballarat Catholic Education Limited to discuss the transfer of governance from the Parish Priest to the company, with the land on which the school is erected to remain in Parish ownership. Following those meetings a deed of transfer was executed for each school which means DOBCEL, the company established by Bishop Paul Bird assumed responsibility for all school operations with effect from 1st January 2021. All primary schools within the Diocese of Ballarat are effectively overseen by a Board of Directors rather than individual Parish Priests. Priests, themselves will continue to be the shepherd in their schools providing whatever pastoral and sacramental is needed to Principals, Staff, Children and their families. For further information pertaining to organisation and the composition of the education company please visit www.dobcel.org.au.

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 Virtual Immersions Each week during this Lenten season, Caritas Australia is holding Virtual Immersion opportunities for parishes via Zoom video conferencing. These digital engagements will allow participants to focus on prayer and reflection, Catholic Social Teaching and an interview and Q&A with Caritas International Program staff. Sessions will run Tuesdays and Thursdays for one hour across Australia. You can register for a Virtual Immersion by going to <https://lent.caritas.org.au/virtualimmersions>

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 djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7121

Readings for 6th Sunday in Ordinary time

First Reading Lv 13:1-2. 44-46 A reading from the book of Leviticus

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons.

'The man is leprosy: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, "Unclean, unclean". As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart; he must live outside the camp.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 31:1-2. 5. 11. R. v.7

(R.) I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

1. Happy the man whose offence is forgiven, whose sin is remitted.
O happy the man to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, in whose spirit is no guile. (R.)
2. But now I have acknowledged my sins; my guilt I did not hide.
I said: 'I will confess my offence to the Lord.'
And you, Lord, have forgiven the guilt of my sin. (R.)
3. Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord, exult, you just!
O come, ring out your joy, all you upright of heart. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Cor 10:31 – 11:1 A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone – to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved.

Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

Gospel Mk 1:40-45 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

The Gospel of the Lord

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