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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.



**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 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:**

Gen 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18

Ps 115:10. 15-19. R. 114:9

Rom 8:31-34

Mk 9:2-10



**21st February 2021 ~ First Sunday of Lent (B)**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

Lent comes around each year and presents us with its usual challenge to take stock of our lives, to see more clearly what is in our hearts and to discover what might be calling us out of our comfort zones. It is a time to consider how we might respond to the pain of the world and of its inhabitants. It is a time for personal as well as group reflection, a time for entering into "the wilderness" and for grappling with the mysteries of life. It is a time of preparation for Easter when we will renew our baptismal vows and celebrate the greatest mysteries of our faith.

The gospel reading invites us to reflect on Jesus' forty-day experience in "the wilderness". Jesus is said to be "filled with the Holy Spirit" and, like so many human beings before and since, is "led by the Spirit" into the wilderness of life to be "tested" there. ["Tested" is a more accurate translation of the original Greek term than is "tempted"]. Forty is a symbolic number in Israel's story: the great flood lasts forty days and forty nights; Moses spends forty days and forty nights on the mountain of God; Israel wanders for forty years in the wilderness; King David reigns for forty years; the prophet Elijah travels forty days and forty nights in the wilderness on his way to the mountain of God.

The wilderness of Judah, with its unique desert flora and fauna, its wadis and waterholes, is ever so real. At the same time it functions symbolically in the narrative. In Israel's story, it is the place of testing for God's people: "Remember the long way that your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness... testing you to know what was in your heart" (Deuteronomy 8:2). Jesus now passes the tests that Israel failed in the wilderness.

Jesus is "with the wild beasts". This terse statement recalls the prophet Isaiah's vision of a future time of reconciliation and harmony when "the wolf will lie down with the lamb" (Isaiah 11:6-9). Jesus is presented as the one who ushers in that age of peace and healing of division. God's agents care for him in his time of testing: "angels minister to him". In this context, Jesus announces the coming of God's empire or reign. His message is to "repent" or to "think beyond" in a way that might turn lives around in God's direction, and to "believe the good news" that he is set to proclaim in word and action. At a time of growing divide between the mega-rich and the desperately poor, we might look back to our symbolic tradition and forward to ways of bringing good news to those mostly deeply affected by the inequities in our world.

Veronica Lawson rsm



**Responsorial Psalm:** (R.) Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

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

**Anniversaries: We remember** Bernice Rienets, Kevin Carroll, Fred Maruff, Rod Lacey, Mary Mahar, Kevin McLaughlin, Mary McCluskey, Elaine Drake, Steven Fitzpatrick

**We pray:** Those in need of our prayers; all the sick in our Parishes especially Jan Mullaly. 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 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".

**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](mailto:info@heartoflife.melbourne) or tel 9890 1101.

**Project Compassion** Please take home a Project Compassion box and/or a set of donation envelopes and support Caritas Australia this Lenten season themed "**Be More**". Through your generosity and by aspiring to be more, you are assisting some of the world's most vulnerable people build better futures for themselves, their families and their communities. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes or by visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or phoning 1800 024 413

**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.

**Lenten Prayer**

God of all peoples and nations,  
 As you accompany us on our  
 Lenten journey,  
 May our fasting strengthen our  
 commitment to live in solidarity,  
 Our almsgiving be an act of justice, and  
 Our prayers anchor us in love and  
 compassion.  
 Through living simply and loving  
 generously,  
 May we care for our global family  
 and our common home, as we  
 "Aspire not to have more, but to be more".\*  
 We ask this in Jesus' name.  
 Amen.  
 \*Saint Oscar Romero



**Collections at St Columba's** **We thank you for your generous support**  
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**First Sunday of Lent**  
 21<sup>st</sup> February 2021



Jamila is a Rohingya refugee living in a camp in Bangladesh with her elderly mother and baby daughter. With the support of Caritas Australia, and through Caritas Bangladesh, Jamila has been able to access to emergency food, shelter, counselling, and vocational training that will help to support her family.

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 to help mothers like Jamila be more for her family and her community.**

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.

**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](http://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.

**Parish Secretary Position – Parishes of Bungaree and Gordon** are seeking to jointly employ a suitably qualified person to fill the position of Parish Secretary for both parishes. The position is 12 hrs per week for the Parish of Gordon & 5 hours per week for the Parish of Bungaree. Days of work are negotiable. More information is available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/our-diocese/>

**First Sunday of Lent B**

**First Reading** Gen 9:8-15 A reading from the book of Genesis.

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.'

God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 24:4-9. R. see v.10

(R.) Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

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 Pt 3:18-22 A reading from the first letter of St Peter

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

**Gospel** Mk 1:12-15 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

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.'

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