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

**Readings for Next Weekend:**

Lv 13:1-2. 44-46  
Ps 31:1-2. 5. 11. R. v.7  
1 Cor 10:31 – 11:1  
Mk 1:40-45



**7th February 2021 ~ Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time (B)**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

In Australia, Sunday of the Word of God is celebrated this weekend. It comes at a time when our planetary community is in need of deep healing. It invites us to bring the distress of the Earth community into dialogue with the gospel. In the first century Mediterranean world, sickness was attributed to social rather than to physical causes. The corollary of this was that healing focussed principally on restoration of the person to her or his place or status in the society or community. Healing of an individual brought not only the person but the community itself to wholeness.

Last Sunday, we reflected on the "healing" of a man with an "unclean spirit". Jesus, healer and teacher, expelled the unclean spirit and thus restored health to the man as well as to the worshipping community. The healing took place in the Capernaum synagogue on the Sabbath. This story began Mark's account of a typical day in Jesus' ministry. Today's gospel passage continues that account. Jesus leaves the synagogue and moves, in the company of two of his new disciples, to the house of Simon and Andrew. In other words, he shifts from a long established gathering place for God's people to a prospective new locus of communal engagement, the house church. This new locus does not preclude the older locus: Jesus continues to teach and heal in the synagogues throughout Galilee.

In this new place of encounter with God, Jesus heals a woman with a "fever" who is identified only in relation to her son-in-law, Simon. Jesus takes her by the hand and raises her up. She is the first human character in the Markan gospel story who is said to "minister". In other words, the love of God working through Jesus draws her beyond herself to engage in a ministry of leadership in the community of God's people. Earlier in Mark's gospel we heard that angels "ministered" to Jesus in the desert. In other words, God looked after Jesus as he began his mission of bringing God's love into a broken world. Jesus will later insist that he came "to minister" (10:45). This woman is caught up in the same mission of bringing the community to health and wholeness.

That same evening, Simon's house becomes a magnet for "the whole city". Jesus heals their sick and afflicted and, early in the morning, seeks the solitude of a "desert" place for prayer. The disciples seek him out, as everyone is looking for him. Jesus makes it clear that he must move on and bring God's word and healing beyond the city to the neighbouring Galilean towns. God's word in this gospel story is for us as well as for those early disciples. Amid all the troubles besetting our world, we too must search out the solitude of a "desert" place for prayer, and engage with renewed energy and insight in whatever each new day brings.  
Veronica Lawson rsm

**Responsorial Psalm:** (R.) Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! He bore our sickness, and endured our suffering. Alleluia!

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

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Susan Parkes, Allan Noone, Clare Humphrey, Marianne Kenna, Bill Martin, Mary Martin.

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

**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>

**Collections** in line with COVID 19 safe practices, we are no longer handing around collections baskets. The baskets are on the sanctuary steps. We invite you to place your donations in the baskets prior to the commencement of Mass or when the opportunity is given after the Liturgy of the Word. Any donations are also able to be left at one the Parish offices during office hours. We thank you for your continued generous support of our Parishes.

**Ash Wednesday 17 February 2021**

**Masses will be at** Ballarat North 9.30am and Wendouree 11am. You will need to pre-register for these Masses, either by contacting the Parish Office or using a Trybooking code: **Ballarat North** is: <https://www.trybooking.com/BOJRG> and **Wendouree** is <https://www.trybooking.com/BOPRG>



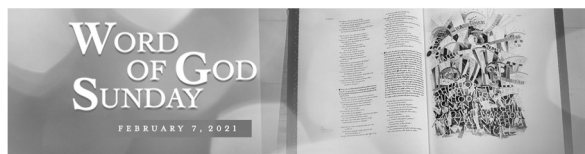
**St Columba's School** there will be a commissioning of the teaching and support staff from the school during the 5pm Mass on Saturday 6th February. We welcome them and thank them for all they do for the children and families of the Parish. On Wednesday 10th February a number from the school community will join us for Mass to mark the opening of the school year. This Mass will be live streamed to the school community.

**Sacraments 2021** Dates for reception of the Sacraments of Initiation will be available soon. Please check the Parish websites or contact your 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.

**Word of God Sunday** The Church in Australia celebrates the Sunday of the Word of God on the first Sunday in February – February 7 in 2021. Pope Francis established the day, which is devoted to "the celebration, study and dissemination" of the Word of God. Visit [www.catholic.org.au/wordofgodSunday](http://www.catholic.org.au/wordofgodSunday) to access resources to help commemorate the day and for suggestions on how to better engage with Sacred Scripture in various ways and settings.



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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](http://www.dobcel.org.au).

**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](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.

**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>.

**Masks** are once again mandatory for indoor gatherings— which includes during all Masses



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**Readings for 5th Sunday in Ordinary time**

**First Reading Job 7:1-4. 6-7** A reading from the book of Job

Job began to speak:

Is not man's life on earth nothing more than pressed service,  
his time no better than hired drudgery?  
Like the slave, sighing for the shade,  
or the workman with no thought but his wages,  
months of delusion I have assigned to me,  
nothing for my own but nights of grief.  
Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be day?'  
Risen I think, 'How slowly evening comes!'  
Restlessly I fret till twilight falls.  
Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days have passed,  
and vanished, leaving no hope behind.  
Remember that my life is but a breath,  
and that my eyes will never again see joy.

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 146:1-6. R. v.3**

(R.) Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

1. Praise the Lord for he is good;  
sing to our God for he is loving;  
to him our praise is due. (R.)
2. The Lord builds up Jerusalem  
and brings back Israel's exiles,  
he heals the broken-hearted,  
he binds up all their wounds.  
He fixes the number of the stars;  
he calls each one by its name. (R.)
3. Our Lord is great and almighty;  
his wisdom can never be measured.  
The Lord raises the lowly;  
he humbles the wicked to the dust. (R.)

**Second Reading 1 Cor 9:16-19. 22-23** A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it is a duty which has been laid on me; I should be punished if I did not preach it! If I had chosen this work myself, I might have been paid for it, but as I have not, it is a responsibility which has been put into my hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is this: in my preaching, to be able to offer the Good News free, and not insist on the rights which the gospel gives me.

So though I am not a slave of any man I have made myself the slave of everyone so as to win as many as I could. For the weak I made myself weak. I made myself all things to all men in order to save some at any cost; and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel, to have a share in its blessings.

**Gospel Mk 1:29-39** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.



The Gospel of the Lord

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