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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 optional whilst visiting the Church (you should carry it with you as per State Government guidelines)
- 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. In helping stop the spread of the virus.



Parishes of St Columbas 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

14th March 2021 ~ Fourth Sunday of Lent (B)

Focus on the Scriptures

The first reading describes how, despite the sinfulness of the people, God was moved to compassion. The people's callous contempt for prophetic warnings unleashed the avenging anger of God on them. God's fiery wrath purified what had been desecrated through their wickedness. The reading ends on a note of hope. A foreign king, who seems to have known the salvific role that he was playing on the international stage, is inspired by the God of Israel to release the people. The final words of the reading, of the entire biblical book, and of the Jewish canon (this is the last book) exhort them to go back to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple. The political implications of this directive continue to be profound.

The psalm describes inconsolable despondency, fierce resentment, and heartfelt commitment. The background of these sentiments is clearly identified; the people had been snatched from their beloved Zion and were held captive in Babylon. To compound the despair that engulfed them as a consequence of this disaster, they were taunted by their captors: Sing for us. They cannot sing their religious songs, because it would be incongruous to extol God's mighty deeds while the nation sat in defeat. Furthermore, since Babylon was considered an unclean land, it was unseemly to pray to the holy God of Israel in such a profane place. Nonetheless, Jerusalem is not forgotten. Loyalty to it is shown in silence and remembering.

The second reading characterises God as one who is rich in mercy; has great love for us; has brought us to life, raised us up, and seated us with Christ in glory. This portrait of God is followed by a glimpse into the meaning of our salvation. Unable to save ourselves, we receive salvation as a pure gift from God. This theme is really the heart of Paul's theology. Salvation is a grace that we receive 'in Christ' and because of Christ. Grace and faith are essential components of salvation; God bestows the grace and we accept it in faith. Good works are important, but only as a result of having been saved, not as a condition for it.

Those were saved who looked upon the bronze serpent that Moses raised up in the wilderness (Num 21:8-9). In like manner, life eternal comes to those who believe in Jesus, one raised up in both ignominy and exaltation. 'Son of Man (Humanity)' refers to a symbolic figure who will inaugurate the last days (cf. Dan 7:13-14). God's love for the world is so deep and magnanimous that nothing is spared for its salvation, not even God's only Son. Those who believe are saved; those who do not believe call down judgment upon themselves. Light expresses the same idea. Christ is the true light, and those who accept him live in that light; those who do not believe are in darkness.
Dianne Bergant CSA



MASS TIMES
St Columbas
Saturday 5:00 pm
Wednesday 10:00 am
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 11:00 am (Kelaston)
Friday 10:00 am
Readings for Next Weekend:
Jer 31:31-34
Ps 50:3-4, 12-15, R. v.12
Heb 5:7-9
Jn 12:20-33



Responsorial Psalm: (R) Let my tongue be silenced, if ever I forget you!
Gospel Acclamation: Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: All those who have died recently
Anniversaries: We remember: Sr Mary Lynch rsm, Bryan Deady
We pray: Those in need of our prayers; all the sick in our Parishes especially Jan Mullaly and Pat Hogan, the children preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation (St Columba's). For the success of the Plenary Council

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. Please contact Leonie at Life-style Travel Ballarat leonie@lifestyletravel.com.au

Catholic women invited to national consultation Catholic women are invited to participate in a national consultation with two bishops and to mark their diaries for a national gathering in September. The national consultation, which will take place on March 27 via Zoom, invites women to articulate and celebrate their contribution to and vision for the mission of the Catholic Church in Australia. More information available from the diocesan website or <https://mediablog.catholic.org.au/catholic-women-invited-to-national-consultation/>

The Sandhurst Diocese kindly shares their Lent 2021 leaflets which invite reflection on excerpts from Pope Francis' "Let us Dream", together with insights and suggestions for action from one of the Australian Plenary Council Thematic Discernment papers. The leaflets are for individual reflection or small group reflection and discussion. The theme for week 4 is, "How do we become a merciful Church, shaped by a culture of caring?" These leaflets are available for download from the diocesan website Liturgy Resources page <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/liturgy-sacraments/liturgy-resources/>

Congratulations to Huey Henderson, son of Dean and Jenna, who will be Baptized this weekend at St Columba's Parish. May he grow in faith with the loving support of his family and our Parish community.

HOLY WEEK CEREMONIES

Palm Sunday	Saturday 27th March 5pm	St Columba's
	Sunday 28th March 10am	OLHC
Reconciliation	Tuesday 30th March 7pm	OLHC
Anointing Mass	Wednesday 31st March 10am	St Columba's
Mass of the Last Supper	Thursday 1st April 7pm	St Columba's
Good Friday Passion	Friday 2nd April 3pm	OLHC
Holy Saturday Vigil	Saturday 3rd April 7pm	OLHC
Easter Sunday Mass	Sunday 4th April 8.30am	Waubra
	Sunday 4th April 10am	St Columba's



Collections at St Columba's We thank you for your generous support
1st Collection: \$ 364.20 2nd Collection (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,365.00

Project Compassion Arsad, an Indonesian farmer, had no toilet at home and was often sick due to the practice of open defecation. Through Caritas Australia's support, Arsad and his community improved hygiene and sanitation, and funded their own toilets. Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 and help improve health and wellbeing of communities in Indonesia so they can work towards eradicating poverty, providing a better future for all. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413



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. Further info on the program is available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/pastoral-care-education-3/>

Remembering Holy Saturday This retreat will be made available during the Holy Week. It explores the mystery of Holy Saturday, on what it means to live in "in-between" times, liminal times. There will be video talk everyday starting from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. This retreat will be given by an oblate of Jamberoo Abbey, Rev Catherine Eaton. For more information, go to our website: <https://www.jamberooabbey.org.au/retreats/online-retreats/holy-week-retreat/>

Readings for the Third Sunday of Lent Year B

First Reading 2 Chr 36:14-16. 19-23

A reading from the second book of Chronicles
All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."'



Responsorial Psalm Ps 136. R. v.6

(R.) Let my tongue be silenced, if ever I forget you!

1. By the rivers of Babylon there we sat and wept, remembering Zion; on the poplars that grew there we hung our harps. (R.)
2. For it was there that they asked us, our captors, for songs, our oppressors, for joy. 'Sing to us,' they said, 'one of Zion's songs.' (R.)
3. O how could we sing the song of the Lord on alien soil? If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand wither! (R.)
4. O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not, if I prize not Jerusalem above all my joys! (R.)

Second Reading Eph 2:4-10 A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it

Gospel Jn 3:14-21 A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

The Gospel of the Lord

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1st Collection: \$ 409.75 2nd Collection (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 609.00