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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

**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 10:00 am  
Friday 10:00 am

**Readings for Next Weekend:**

Is 50:4-7  
Ps 21:8-9. 17-20. 23-24. R. v.2  
Phil 2:6-11  
Mk 14:1 – 15:47



**21st March 2021 ~ Fifth Sunday of Lent (B)**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

Today's gospel tells us that among those who go up to Jerusalem to worship at the feast of Passover are some "Greeks". The reference is probably to a group known in the early church as "God-fearers", although that designation is found only in Luke's second volume, the Acts of the Apostles. These people were, in relation to Judaism, a bit like RCIA candidates in the Catholic tradition. They were certainly interested in Judaism and, because of their active interest in the Jewish faith, were possibly better informed about many of the Jewish traditions than those who had been members of the Jewish community all their lives. God-fearers seem to have been among the first Gentiles (non-Jews) to join the early Christian Jewish movement, i.e. the Jews who accepted Jesus as Messiah (or Christ).

For Jesus, the arrival of these God-fearing Greeks signals his "hour". Earlier in John's gospel, Jesus has insisted that his "hour" had not yet come. Now that his message receives global acknowledgement, or in the words of the Pharisees, now that "the world has gone after him" (John 20:19), he can announce that the hour of his glorification has come. Characteristically, Jesus uses a potent agricultural image to capture the transformative nature of his imminent death: like the grain of wheat, he must go into the earth and die in order to bear fruit. The same is true for his followers: to be concerned only with self-preservation is to "lose" one's life; to give one's life is to "keep it for eternal life".

Although the language is more explicit in John, the grain of wheat image echoes some aspects of the first reading from the prophet Jeremiah (31:31-34). Jeremiah presents the God of Israel as One who forgives and who is even prepared to forget the sins of the past. The people will be God's garden: the seed planted within them is God's Law. They will be God's own billboard: the law of forgiveness and mercy will be written in their hearts. John uses the "eternal life" metaphor in much the same way as the other gospel writers use the "reign of God" or "kin-dom" image. To keep one's life for "eternal life" has to do with living God's transformative vision for creation in the present so that it might one day be fully realised.

In John's gospel, Jesus' death is also his being lifted up in glory. The moment of his death becomes the moment of drawing "all" to himself. The "all" includes all people, but is not restricted to the human community. It also allows for an ecological interpretation: in his death and exaltation, Jesus gathers the whole Earth community into the mystery of God's redemptive and transforming love.

Veronica Lawson rsm



**Responsorial Psalm:** (R) Create a clean heart in me, O God.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, my servant will also be.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

**Recently Deceased:** We commend to God: Kaylene Jarvis (Colleen Wakefield's sister), Anne Cheesman, Marie Green

**Anniversaries:** We remember: Annie Sullivan, John McNamara, Connie Vincent, Brian Troy

**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

**Holy Week Liturgies in time of Covid-19** There will be a few changes this year as to how we will celebrate our Holy Week Liturgies:

**Palm Sunday**—you will need to bring your own palm, none will be provided. We will not gather in the foyer for the entry into Jerusalem (Ballarat North)

**Mass of the Oils**—ten persons per parish are invited to register on a first come, first served basis. There will be no hospitality offered at the conclusion of the Mass. Oils will still be distributed as per usual. You will be required to wear a mask. To register contact your Parish Office.

**Holy Thursday**—no washing of the feet and no procession to the Altar of Repose. The Blessed Sacrament will remain in the tabernacle. We invite people to stay and pray quietly in the Church until 9pm when the Church will be locked for the evening.

**Good Friday**—No Stations of the Cross walk up to Black Hill Lookout in the morning, *Way of the Cross* at Waubra will commence at 10:00 am. Registrations commence at 9:30 am. During the Passion at 3pm veneration of the Cross, you will be invited to bow before the Cross.

**Easter Vigil**—commences outside (with fire). Please dress warmly.

You can now for each of these ceremonies via Trybooking. Please ensure you are booking for the correct Mass. You may also book via the office.

**Palm Sunday St Columba's 6pm** <https://www.trybooking.com/BPRPE>

Palm Sunday at OLHC 10am [www.trybooking.com/BPWXCX](http://www.trybooking.com/BPWXCX)

**Mass of the Last Supper St Columba's** <https://www.trybooking.com/BPRSY>

Good Friday 3pm at OLHC <https://www.trybooking.com/BPWB>

**Easter Vigil at OLHC** <http://www.trybooking.com/BPWBW>

Easter Sunday at St Columba's <https://www.trybooking.com/BPTZV>

**HOLY WEEK CEREMONIES**

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



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**Project Compassion**

Halima is raising two children in a



Bangladeshi refugee camp while caring for her mother, who has a disability. A Caritas Australia-supported program helped her with a shelter, cooking equipment and hygiene training. Halima now earns a small income as a trainer, helping to maintain the health and cleanliness of her community. Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 to so this transformational program can continue to empower vulnerable women, men and children, and strengthen the communities around them. 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.

**Unity in Diversity** Harmony Fest Interfaith forum. Sunday 21st March 4pm-5.30pm St Patrick's Cathedral Hall. Booking details ph:0400650234

**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/>

**Confirmation** we congratulate the 43 children who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation next week at St Columba's. Please keep them in your prayers

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

**First Reading** Jer 31:31-34 A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to know the Lord!' No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 50:3-4. 12-15. R. v.12  
(R.) Create a clean heart in me, O God.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offence. O wash me more and more from my guilt. and cleanse me from my sin. (R.)



2. A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit. (R.)
3. Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me, that I may teach transgressors your ways and sinners may return to you. (R.)

**Second Reading** Heb 5:7-9 A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

**Gospel** Jn 12:20-33 A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest.

Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled.

What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.

'Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.'

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

The Gospel of the Lord

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