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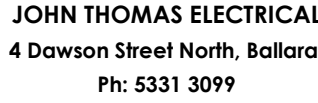
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Child Safe Church The Parishes of St Columba's & Our Lady Help of Christians (including Lexton, Miners Rest and Waubra) follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards as directed 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.



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 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:

2 Chr 36:14-16. 19-23
Ps 136. R. v.6
Eph 2:4-10
Jn 3:14-21



7th March 2021 ~ Third Sunday of Lent (B)

Focus on the Scriptures

Today's gospel passage foreshadows the death of Jesus. As a devout Jew, Jesus goes up to Jerusalem at Passover. His final going-up will be the occasion of his death and resurrection. The Jerusalem Temple, Judaism's most holy place, is the site of a dramatic incident, an event that is recounted in all four gospels. The Synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) locate it towards the end of the gospel. They present it as a catalyst for the intensification of hostility between the temple authorities and Jesus. John's gospel, in contrast, places it at the beginning of Jesus' ministry. The tension between Jesus and the temple authorities that is to culminate in his death in all four gospels is thus present from the outset in John.

Jesus acts decisively, even violently, to draw attention to the primary function of God's "house". He creates an effective weapon, a whip of cords, and comprehensively clears the temple precinct of merchants, sheep, and cattle. He overturns the tables of the money-changers, orders the dove-sellers out and tells them all, in words that evoke the prophecy of Zechariah (14:21), to stop making God's house "a market-place". Zechariah had declared that, in the end times, there would no longer be traders in God's house. There was legitimate commercial activity associated with temple worship, such as the purchase of animals and doves for sacrifice, a practice we might now critique, and the conversion of money to pay the Temple tax. The traders seem to have forgotten that this activity was a means to an end and not an end in itself.

In John's account, the disciples partially understand: they interpret Jesus' actions in the light of Psalm 69:9: "It is zeal for your house that has consumed me". "The Jews" request a "sign ... for doing this". In other words, they ask Jesus to demonstrate the source of his authority for his actions. His response is a challenge: "Destroy this temple, and in three days, I will raise it up". "The Jews" misunderstand. This provides Jesus with the opportunity to play on the word "temple": the temple is not only a material edifice that took forty-six years to build. It is also, metaphorically, his body that will be destroyed and raised up "in three days". The narrator provides the explanation and indicates that the disciples will eventually understand and come to belief. It is important to note that John writes with the wisdom of hindsight. It is also important to note that the designation "the Jews" is neither a reference to the people of Judaea nor to the dispersed Jewish people. In John's gospel, it refers to those who reject Jesus as the Anointed One of God, the Christ. As we travel the journey to Jerusalem this Lent, we are invited to keep everything in balance, and to remember that God, and not the opponents of Jesus, will have the final word in this drama.
Veronica Lawson rsm



Responsorial Psalm: (R.) Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Imelda McGrath

Anniversaries: We remember: Michael Mahar, Marija Gavranic, Brian Perkins, Margaret Pearson, Kevin Tardrew and Patrick Duggan

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

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.

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 Lifestyle Travel Ballarat leonie@lifestyletravel.com.au

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. The South West Victoria CPE Centre is registered through the Association for Supervised and Clinical Pastoral Education Victoria (ASACPEV Inc.). Further information on the program is available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/pastoral-care-education-3/>

ACRATH Slavery-free Easter Chocolate Campaign The campaign began on Ash Wednesday and this year we are asking people to name their change. What will you do in 2021 to help eliminate slavery or child labour? ACRATH is hosting a fun zoom morning tea on Thursday, March 4 at 10.30am. Pour a cuppa and join us as we chat about our slavery-free hopes, dreams, intentions and commitments in 2021. No need to register, just join us for five minutes or for 30 minutes at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89357222192?pwd=TMRTWVVAWmg3MzZnTEpjeTNEWDVudz09>. Display the poster in your classroom, staffroom, kitchen, workplace or front fence!! For more Slavery-free Easter Chocolate information go to: <https://acrath.org.au/take-action/slavery-free-easter/> or the diocesan website Social Justice Commission page <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/social-justice/>

Lenten Resources - Week 3 "How are we a healing Church, a field hospital?" <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/liturgy-sacraments/liturgy-resources/> (From Sandhurst Diocese)

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Project Compassion Oliva, 22, could not read, write or count, and her business was losing money. Then she attended Caritas Australia-supported literacy and numeracy classes, and set up a home classroom to teach her neighbours. Now her classes, business and family are thriving, and she aims to become a pastor and run for local leadership. Please donate to Project Compassion

2021 and support people like Oliva's gain access to education to build a brighter future and live in communities that upholds everyone's dignity. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting 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 and 5 week cycles. Study Cycle 3 begins 11th April. This cycle is mostly 3 week courses. Registrations are now open for new and returning participants. For more info www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or email djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7121.

We pray for women and families impacted by violence Catholic Social Services Victoria have provided a number of resources to assist with the prevention of the devastating impact of violence against women and families. They have developed a poster with some key telephone numbers that can be placed in your parish or school office should someone seek help — on a noticeboard to catch someone's eye, or sent around electronically to increase awareness of options and what services are available to assist someone if they are facing issues of domestic violence. Go to <https://www.css.org.au/Article-View/Article/23892/Pope-Francis-prayer-intention-for-February-for-women-who-are-victims-of-violence#.YD71cWgzaCg>

Healing Our World Retreat – St Clement's Retreat Centre Galong NSW If you have an interest in the global health crisis and ecosystem restoration you would find this retreat beneficial. An Australian Ecumenical Response to the health crises drawing on: Laudato Si' - On Care for our Common Home & 7-year action plan; Fratelli Tutti - Fraternity & Social Friendship; The Economy of Francesco - A Response to the world's inequalities; United Nations Decade of Ecosystem Restoration from 2021-2030. Retreat run from October 5-8, 2021 and program cost is \$300. Accommodation options are ensuite room \$400 or shared facilities \$350. To register or expressions of interest email info@stclement.com.au or ph. 02 6380 5222.

Monthly Reflections Each month during the year of St Joseph, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference will publish a reflection on the various aspects of St Joseph's life and character. Robert Falzon reflects on how St Joseph may have responded to his astonishing call to be the foster-father of Jesus and spouse of Mary. What does it mean for fathers and husbands in today's world? <https://catholic.org.au/yearofstjoseph>

Praying with Pope Francis March universal intention for evangelisation – Sacrament of reconciliation Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God. For each monthly intention visit www.thepopevideo.org.



Readings for the Third Sunday of Lent Year B

First Reading Ex 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17 A reading from the book of Exodus God spoke all these words. He said, 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. 'You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it. 'Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. 'Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you. 'You shall not kill. 'You shall not commit adultery. 'You shall not steal. 'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. 'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. 'You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 18:8-11. R. Jn 6:68 (R.) Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

1. The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul. The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple. (R.)
2. The precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart. The command of the Lord is clear, it gives light to the eyes. (R.)
3. The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever. The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just. (R.)
4. They are more to be desired than gold, than the purest of gold and sweeter are they than honey, than honey from the comb. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Cor 1:22-25 A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Gospel Jn 2:13-25 A reading from the holy Gospel according to John Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

The Gospel of the Lord

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