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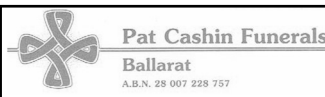
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Child Safe Church The Parishes of St Columba's & Our Lady Help of Christians (including Lexton, Miners Rest and Waubra) follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards as directed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

We appreciate your assistance. In helping stop the spread of the virus.



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

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 (This week)

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

Sunday 10:00 am
Wednesday 1.30 pm Funeral
Friday 10:00 am

Readings for Next Weekend:

Acts 3:13-15. 17-19
Ps 4:2. 4. 7. 9. R. v.7
1 Jn 2:1-5
Lk 24:35-48



11th April 2021 ~ Second Sunday of Easter (B)

Focus on the Scriptures

Some of us may remember when we spoke of the Sundays after Easter. The terminology has changed and we now speak of the Sundays of Easter. In other words, we now recognise that the liturgical readings and prayers for each Sunday between Easter and Pentecost invite us into a different movement of the one great symphony of resurrection faith.

The first scene in today's gospel has the disciples hiding behind closed doors "for fear" of those who had handed Jesus over to be executed by the Roman authorities. Jesus appears among them, offers a greeting of peace, and tells them that he has been sent by God, his "Father". They receive from him the gift of the Holy Spirit. He sends them in turn to bring peace and to mediate the forgiveness of God through the power of the Spirit. In other words, he sends them to create communities of people who listen to one another and who love one another into life. The story invites us as believers to place ourselves in the shoes of the earliest disciples. It invites us to receive the gift of the Spirit, to emerge from behind the doors that close us in on ourselves and that prevent us from rising above the fears that control and even paralyse us. We render the gospel ineffective, even powerless, when we make self-protection our priority.

The second and third scenes in today's gospel focus on Thomas who is not with the other disciples when Jesus first appears in their midst. Thomas is not exactly the trusting type. He seems to trust only his own first hand experience. We all know people like Thomas. They test our patience because they seem to lack imagination. Then they make big statements when they come around to understanding what everyone else has known for a while. If we think, however, that the other disciples are any better than Thomas, we need to note that the doors are still closed eight days down the track! The simple fact of knowing has not dispelled the fears.

Even those of us who do believe and trust need a bit of time and encouragement to take the gospel message to heart. We often need the example and support of others to move out beyond our personal fears and embrace the pain of the wider world. We are asked to do this right now as we ponder the wisdom of being vaccinated against COVID 19. Some are more fearful of the vaccine than of the virus. It may be helpful to look back to today's first reading from Acts (2:32-35) where Luke presents an idealised picture of the post resurrection Jerusalem community: all things in common and the gospel received with great respect. We are called to rise above our own fears and respond with love and generosity in times of crisis, to live the gospel message from death through resurrection and into "ordinary time".
Veronica Lawson rsm



Responsorial Psalm: (R) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy are those who have not seen me, but still believe!

Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Tony McDonald, Jillian Briody, Fr Phil Crotty SJ

Anniversaries: We remember: Corrina Burns, Jack Moran and Eileen McLoughlan

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

The Season of Easter is a period of 50 days that celebrates the joy of the sacred Paschal Triduum, the three day centre of the liturgical Year. It begins with the week-long celebration of the Octave of Easter and concludes with Pentecost Sunday. During the Easter season the Church rejoices in the resurrection and ascension of the Lord, and the bestowal of the Spirit. It is a period of renewal and commitment to that same mission taken up by the early Christian communities. For those who have been newly initiated, it is a time to reflect on their experiences and is oriented towards spiritual growth and entering more fully into the life of the community.

St Columba's St Vincent de Paul would like your prayerful support, as we seek to find new members to enable us to continue to support the needy in our Ballarat North community. If you would like to discuss this with someone on the committee, speak with Josie or Tim after Mass, or contact the Parish Office, Thank you.

Diocesan Liturgical Commission Membership is currently seeking new members from all areas of the diocese. Membership is for an initial term of three (3) years with the option of two further terms (3 years per term). The Commission meets five times per year in Ballarat. Video linking facilities are available for meetings. All members of the Commission must hold a current Working with Children check or VIT (Victorian Institute of Teaching) registration. The Charter of the Liturgical Commission is available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/liturgy-sacraments/diocesan-liturgical-commission/>. Expressions of interest can be forwarded to liturgy@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Newman and the Nineteenth Century Church online Rev Prof Austin Cooper OMI AM is teaching a unit on Newman and the Nineteenth Century Church online via zoom on Saturday mornings from 10.00am – 1.00pm on 17, 24 April; 8, 15, 29 May; 26 June; 10 July; 7, 14, 28 August; 4, 18 September. More information is available from <https://vox.divinity.edu.au/study-with-us/newman-and-the-nineteenth-century-church/>

A new history in the ordinary of the Mass The Place of the Kyrie – the Ordinary of the Mass was launched with great acclaim in Sydney on March 2 by Dr Paul Morrissey of Campion College, who described the book as one that “manages to do what very few works of scholarship manage: combine academic research with general interest and readability”. The book should strengthen the faith of the reader and is now available from:

- Direct publisher Sisters of St Joseph: Congregational Administration Centre PO Box 1508 North Sydney NSW 2059 Phone 8912 4853 CAC.reception@sosj.org.au .
- Pauline Books and Media 150 Castlereagh St, Sydney 2000.
- The Mustard Seed Bookshop 133 Liverpool St, Sydney 2000 (\$30 +P&P)

Celebrating 60 years of Catholic Education in Wendouree - Save the Date Our Lady Help of Christians School, Wendouree will celebrate 60 years of Catholic Education in Wendouree on Friday, October 15, 2021. Register for event updates on the OLHC Wendouree school website www.olhcwendouree.catholic.edu.au or by contact the school office, ph. 5339 4726.

Collections at St Columba's

We thank you for your generous support

1st Collection: \$ 524.85 2nd Collection (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,164.00

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#.YD7lcWgzaCg>

Contact tracing please ensure you sign in as you enter the Church with your name and contact number. Both parishes have a permanent list in the foyer for each weekend Mass. If your name is on this list, you just need to tick your name off. If you are regularly attending that Mass each weekend you can ask to go on the permanent list, this makes it quicker for all involved. Please note that we don't require pre-registering for Masses however, we are still limited to 125 (Ballarat North) and 165 (Wendouree). If we reach capacity we will unfortunately need to close the doors before the commencement of Mass. These are State Government requirements and we can be fined a substantial amount if we do not keep to the capacity numbers or keep full contact tracing records. We thank you for your assistance.

Congratulations to Ivy Mae Howley, daughter of Michael and Kristen; and Marley Lee Knowles daughter of Ryan and Jenna, who will be Baptized on Saturday evening at St Columba's. We pray that they will grow in faith with the loving support of their families, godparents and our Parish community.



Second Sunday of Easter Year B

First Reading Acts 4:32-35

Early believers share what they have.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 117:2-4. 15-18. 22-24. R. v.1

(R.) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

Second Reading 1 Jn 5:1-6

Love God by keeping the commandments.

Gospel Jn 20:19-31

Doubting Thomas.

For the full readings please see the Ballarat North website in the Resources section

Today is also Divine Mercy Sunday some resources can be found here: <https://divinemeracy.life/divine-mercy-prayers>



Year of St Joseph 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>

Daily Prayers to St Joseph The ACBC have provided daily prayers and a shorter Litany to St Joseph available from <https://catholic.org.au/yearofstjoseph>

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 April 11. This cycle is mostly 3 week courses. Registrations are now open for new and returning participants. For more information go to www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or email djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7121.

Year of the Family Pope Francis launched the “Amoris Laetitia Family Year” on March 19, the 5th anniversary of the publication of his Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris laetitia*, a document on the beauty and joy of love in the family. The year will conclude on June 26, 2022 on the occasion of the 10th World Meeting of Families in Rome with the Holy Father. The launch was a virtual event entitled, “Our Daily Love”, organised by the Vatican Dicastery for the Laity, the Family and Life, the Diocese of Rome and the Pontifical John Paul II Theological Institute, all based in Rome. The event is available to view online at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkl4OUXU7_LBguDrPZQKsng

Aid to the Church in Need Australia In many places religious sisters are the custodians of the faith, but often these communities struggle just to live. Across the course of a year ACN supports more than 18,000 religious sisters in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America. Could you help support a religious sister? Visit www.aidtochurch.org/sisters

Praying with Pope Francis The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) is an international movement that is more than 170 years old. Each month, the Pope puts forward a prayer intention and asks Catholics around the world to join him in prayer. These intentions cover all sorts of areas of life, encouraging faith, renewing hope and calling us to loving service. Praying each month 'The Pope Video' forms part of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network. This video, published to Facebook and YouTube, includes a personal message from the Pope as he asks us to pray for each monthly intention. You can find it at www.thepopevideo.org. Pope's intention for April: April universal intention for evangelisation – Fundamental Rights: We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.

St Columba's Sacramental Program we are currently taking bookings for the First Eucharist and Reconciliation program for children in Grade 5 or over. An Information evening will be on April 29th at 7pm, please contact Judith in the office for more information.

Collections at OLHC

We thank you for your generous support

1st Collection: \$ 595.05 2nd Collection (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$1,795.00
Holy Places <Good Friday> \$ 355.45