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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
Thursday 10:00 am
Friday 10:00 am

Readings for Next Weekend:
Acts 9:26-31
Ps 21:26-28, 30-32, R. v.26
1 Jn 3:18-24
Jn 15:1-8



25th April 2021 ~ Fourth Sunday of Easter (B)

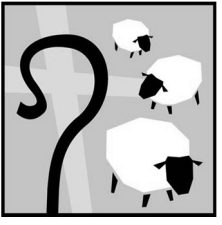
Focus on the Scriptures

The liturgy for Good Shepherd Sunday invites us to reflect on Jesus as the noble or good shepherd of the believing community. "Shepherd" in its literal sense is not really part of our 21st century vocabulary, and yet we use it metaphorically, as a verb or as a noun. Its verbal form connotes care and compassion, protection, guidance and tender relationship. In John's gospel, Jesus rightly claims for himself the title "good shepherd". He contrasts the good shepherd or leader with the leader that fails to care for the flock. Knowing one's sheep, staying with them in the face of mortal danger and being prepared to die for them are marks of the good shepherd.

There are echoes here of the Hebrew Scriptures, particularly of Ezekiel 34 where the "shepherd/sheep" metaphor describes the leaders of Israel in their relationships with the people. There are likewise echoes of an early second century description of the Emperor Tiberius in whose reign Jesus of Nazareth was executed, precisely because he did not abandon his "flock". The Roman historian Suetonius has this to say of Tiberius: "To the governors who recommended burdensome taxes for his provinces, he wrote in answer that it was the part of a good shepherd to shear his flock, not skin it" (Suetonius, Life of Tiberius 32.2).

In the pre-industrial biblical world and early centuries of the Common Era, the "shepherd/sheep" metaphor was heard by an audience that enjoyed a much closer relationship with sheep and their human carers than do most people today. In my country, for instance, there are 63.7 million sheep and some 25 million people. In other words, the ovine inhabitants of Australia significantly outnumber the human. Yet most of our highly urbanised human population knows its sheep only in their disembodied forms. The human-ovine relationship is, for the most part, reduced to that of consumer and consumed. Sheep are valued, not for their intrinsic goodness as creations of a loving God, but rather as commodities that provide food and clothing for the human population. We now know that modern domesticated sheep evolved from creatures that pre-date modern humans. We might take time to consider the implications of this for our relationship with the other-than-human inhabitants of our planetary home. Our reflections might include some consideration of the wisdom or otherwise of continuing to breed these creatures for human consumption, often at the expense of environment.

Good Shepherd Sunday provides us with an opportunity to move beyond our human-centred views of the world and our human-centred interpretations of our sacred texts. We might hear a call to value the realities that underpin gospel images such as the Good Shepherd/sheep metaphor. We might also hear a call to expand our appreciation of all the inhabitants of our planet. To be good shepherds in our time is to embrace the whole Earth Community with reverence and compassion.
Veronica Lawson rsm



Responsorial Psalm: (R.) The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Angela Loader, Wendy Smith

Anniversaries: We remember: Lorna Batty, Mary Smerdon, Betty Kirkpatrick, Barry McNamara, Veronica McNamara, Eric Myers, Kath Myers

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.

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

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.

Congratulations to Louis Francis and Oliver Remy Angel, sons of Joseph and Meagan, who will be Baptised at St Columba's on Saturday evening. We pray that they will grow in faith with the loving support of their parents, godparents and our Parish Community.



Sacrament Programs are starting soon in both parishes. Information evening for Confirmation at OLHC is Tuesday 27th April and First Eucharist at St Columba's on Thursday 29th April. Please contact the office for more info.

Today is ANZAC day we remember all who gave their lives:
Remember, O Lord, all those the brave and the true, who have died the death of honour and are departed in the hope of the resurrection to eternal life. In that place of light from which sorrow and mourning are far banished, give them rest, O Lord, thou lover of men. And grant to us who remain the spirit of service which may make us worthy of their sacrifice, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Collections at St Columba's

We thank you for your generous support

1st Collection: \$ 240.70 2nd Collection (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 640.00

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 using the QR code if you have a phone app to do so. To assist us in managing the numbers in the Church please also sign in at the registration desk. It is a state government requirement that we keep all records for 28 days, after which time they are destroyed. We thank you for your assistance.

A way to re-ignite the spark An invitation to all in the diocese to join a conversation about faith during and after COVID-19, looking at people's experiences, where to next and how does the Plenary Council fit in. Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 7.00pm via zoom – you can zoom in yourself or perhaps organise a zoom gathering in your local community and join together. Please register with Jane Collins jane.collins@ballarat.catholic.org.au and details will be sent.

Get vaccinated for the common good Vaccination against COVID-19 is a morally good thing, providing protection for the person vaccinated and the wider community. Some COVID-19 vaccines are associated with ethically questionable production and research practices, but Pope Francis and the Australian Bishops have advised that it is morally permissible to receive any vaccine made available. More information is available at <https://www.catholic.org.au/coronavirus>. A media release and FAQ information from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference is available from the diocesan website "news" section <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/catholics-in-australia-encouraged-to-receive-covid-19-vaccine/>

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B

First Reading Acts 4:8-12

Peter heals by the power of Jesus.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 117:1. 8-9. 21-23. 26. 28-29. R. v.22

(R.) The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.

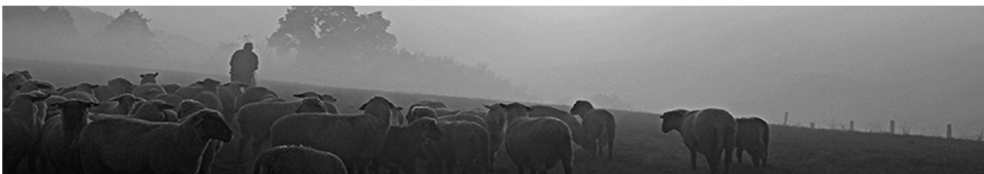
Second Reading 1 Jn 3:1-2

We are children of God.

Gospel Jn 10:11-18

The Good Shepherd.

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



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>

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.

Good Shepherd Sunday: Word Day of Vocations - April 25 (Fourth Sunday of Easter) Today is the World Day of Vocations: Pope Francis tells us: "There can be no greater joy than to risk one's life for the Lord! I would like to say this especially to you, the young. Do not be deaf to the Lord's call. If he calls you to follow this path, do not pull your oars into the boat, but trust him. Let us pray for the young people in our community, and in our families and circle of friends. May our prayers help them to be open to the Lord's call to consecrated life or priesthood."

Pope Francis – Message for 2021 World Day of Vocations. Saint Joseph: "The Dream of Vocation 'God looks on the heart (cf. 1 Sam 16:7), and in Saint Joseph he recognized the heart of a father, able to give and generate life in the midst of daily routines. Vocations have this same goal: To beget and renew lives every day. The Lord desires to shape the hearts of fathers and mothers: Hearts that are open, capable of great initiatives, generous in self-giving, compassionate in comforting anxieties and steadfast in strengthening hopes. The priesthood and the consecrated life greatly need these qualities nowadays, in times marked by fragility but also by the sufferings due to the pandemic, which has spawned uncertainties and fears about the future and the very meaning of life. Saint Joseph comes to meet us in his gentle way, as one of 'the saints next door.' At the same time, his strong witness can guide us on the journey.'"

A prayer request We remember to pray for all our young people in our Diocese and their future. They are the present, future and hope of the Church. God has a plan and hope for all of them to live out their vocational call whatever that may be - marriage, the single life and also amongst them are some who would make a good priest or religious. Holy Hours with prayer before the Blessed Sacrament are good opportunities for the parish to gather in silence to listen, discern and pray for the future of our young people. Let us support them and those entrusted to their formation especially parents, educators and role models, with our prayers.

Enquiry Day for prospective Seminarians at Corpus Christi College - May 22, 2021 An Enquiry Day for any young man who is interested to know more about a Diocesan Priestly vocation will be held at Corpus Christi College Carlton for all dioceses in the province. If you know of anyone who may be interested, please email Edward.moloney@cam.org.au or james.kerr@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Collections at OLHC

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