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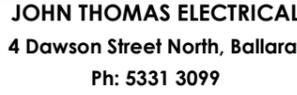
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**Child Safe Church** The Parishes of St Columba's & Our Lady Help of Christians (including Lexton, Miners Rest and Waubra) follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards as directed 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 [wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or [ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:ballaratnorth@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.



St Columba's Parish QR Code



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](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) (select Parish)



**Office:** 306 Gregory St, Ballarat Nth **Phone:** 5331 1012  
**Email:** [ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or [ballaratnorthpastoral@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto: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](mailto: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:**

2 Kgs 4:42-44  
Ps 144:10-11, 15-18. R. v.16  
Eph 4:1-6  
Jn 6:1-15



**18th July 2021 ~ 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

In every life, there is need for a balanced rhythm of work and re-creation. With so much pain and suffering in our world at the moment, the demands of living a gospel way of life can overwhelm us and cause us to act as though everything depends on us. While we can never really escape the responsibility of being there for those in need, today's gospel reminds us that there is a time for being out on mission and a time for being with the one who calls and sends us.



The apostles have been busy—preaching, healing and driving out the "demons" as instructed. They now report back to Jesus with an account of their activities and are invited to take time to rest and recuperate. "Come away to a desert place all by yourselves and rest a while" is the invitation that Jesus extends to them. The reference to desert evokes the wilderness of Sinai through which the people of Israel travelled for forty years. For the contemporary reader, it evokes the diversity of life in the desert, on the one hand, and the desertification of so much of the earth's surface as a result of tree-clearing and mindless destruction of forests on the other.

The "rest" that Jesus proposes is short-lived: the crowds pursue him. His response to these crowds is a physical one: he is "moved with compassion". The Greek verb for being moved with compassion suggests a "gut" reaction in Jesus: he is physically affected in the depths of his being by the plight of the people who are "like sheep without a shepherd", and he is ready to do something about it. As the story continues, we find Jesus inviting his disciples to accept responsibility for relieving the hunger of the people in the desert. "You give them something to eat" is his instruction to those who would turn the people away.

Like the Israelites of old, the afflicted Earth community in any age needs good leaders or "shepherds" who will "practice justice and righteousness in the land", as the first reading from the prophet Jeremiah reminds us. The Hebrew word for justice in this context refers to justice in the law courts. The word for righteousness is about right relationship at every level. Jesus demonstrates for his disciples and for us what justice and righteousness entail.

As the gospel story unfolds, we find that Jesus' disciples are well-meaning, though slow to learn. They are a bit like us in that. The more we take time to reflect, however, the more likely we are to respond with the compassionate heart of the "shepherd", and the more likely we are to achieve lasting justice and right relationship in a world of unconscionable disparities and unprecedented displacement of peoples and of other-than-human species. We might advocate at this time for a more equitable distribution of vaccines so that all may know the saving power of God.  
Veronica Lawson rsm

**Responsorial Psalm:** (R.) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me. Alleluia!

**Recently Deceased:** We commend to God: All who have died recently

**Anniversaries:** We remember: Linda Gregory, Maurie Murphy, Veronica Flynn

**We pray:** Those in need of our prayers; all the sick in our Parishes especially Fr Alex Lim, Dan Coutts, Jan Mullaly and Pat Hogan. Children preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and our RCIA candidates

**Vinnies launches 2021 Winter Appeal to support homelessness** As

Vinnies responds to a growing demand for services following the end of Job Keeper and cuts to Job Seeker, the National Council of St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia is calling for donations to help support the rising number of people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, including children, which have all been exacerbated by the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Society provides vital services and support for individuals and families facing financial hardship. With generous support from the public, Vinnies aims to maintain the dignity of those on the edge and restore hope to people who have fallen on hard times. To donate go to <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/winter-appeal> Donations can be left at the Parish Offices during office hours.



**Expressions of Interest are being sort** for membership of the Diocesan Finance Council, the Committee of Management of the Catholic Development Fund and the Board of the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat Foundation Ballarat's Diocesan Finance Council, the Committee of Management of the Catholic Development Fund, and the Board of the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat Foundation are seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified people (women and men) to join the advisory council, the advisory committee as well as the Foundation's Board. We are seeking persons from across the Diocese who have experience in one or more of the following areas: Corporate Governance; Finance, Banking; Legal; and Philanthropy. Successful candidates will demonstrate a genuine commitment to the ethos and values of the Catholic Church, and possess personal qualities of integrity, collaborative approach, sound judgement, and excellent communication skills. More information is available at the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/expressions-of-interest-are-being-sort-for-membership-of-the-diocesan-finance-council-the-committee-of-management-of-the-catholic-development-fund-and-the-board-of-the-catholic-diocese-of-ballarat-f/> or contact Andrew Jirik, Diocesan Business Manager, ph. 5337 7126.

**Alpha @ St Patrick's Parish** Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that create a safe and honest space, online or in person, where people can explore life, faith and meaning. It is a safe environment for anyone and everyone who wants to explore life and the Christian faith, ask questions and share their point of view. Alpha is free and everyone is welcome! From Wednesday, July 14, 2021 at 7.00pm (for 11 weeks) in the MacKillop/ Glowrey Rooms, 3 Lyons Street South, Ballarat. For more information, please contact [alpha.jess@icloud.com](mailto:alpha.jess@icloud.com)

**Collections at St Columba's We thank you for your generous support**

Presbytery: \$ 462.80 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 2,705.00

St Columba's 24th July	(next week)	Sat 5pm
REGISTRATION		Judith
SACRISTAN		Norah Moloney
COMMENTATOR		Bruce Chapman
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Fiona Newton
COMMUNION MINISTER		Judith
OVERHEADS		Stephen Lewis

**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 – view at [www.thepopevideo.org](http://www.thepopevideo.org). Pope's intention for July: July universal intention – social friendship: We pray that, in social, economic and political situations of conflict, we may be courageous and passionate architects of dialogue and friendship.

**Plenary Council Prayer Campaign** Fan the Flame: Towards Plenary Assembly One October 2021 "Do not be afraid; only have faith." Mark 5:21-24,35-43.

While being conscious of the work to be done, we also have much to be thankful for. There are many signs of hope in that members of the faithful persevere with the practice of the faith... and are living their commitment to love of neighbour in myriad ways. (Instrumentum Laboris #193) [www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fanthe flame/](http://www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fanthe flame/)



**CTC - Ethical Issues and Human Ageing studies** Catholic Theological College is offering a course on "Ethical Issues and Human Ageing" over six Saturdays 31 July; 7 and 28 August; 11 September; 9 and 23 October from 10.00am – 12.00pm and then 2.00pm to 4.00pm. The course can be taken for personal enrichments or credit towards a post-graduate award. For more information go to <https://units.divinity.edu.au/scheduled-unit/DT9633C-3770> or email [registrar@ctc.edu.au](mailto:registrar@ctc.edu.au)

**Social Justice Sunday** We celebrate Social Justice Sunday on the 29th of August. The Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement, *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*, invites us to join in responding to Pope Francis' invitation to take a seven-year journey towards total ecological sustainability guided by seven Laudato Si' Goals. The Statement provides theological foundations to ground and inspire our efforts to care for creation while responding to the needs of the disadvantaged and excluded. More information: ACBC Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace, Tel (02) 6201 9845 or [www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au)

**CSSV Mission Inspired Leadership Program 2021** The Mission Inspired Leadership program is a professional development opportunity for senior leaders (Board members, CEOs, senior/executive managers and emerging leaders) in the Catholic social services sector and other affiliated organisations within health and education. It is designed for busy people so it is set up as four 1.5 hour workshops over four months. A mix of practical knowledge, conceptual challenge, and reflective practice, the program is a chance to spend a few hours hearing from experienced, relevant and highly skilled facilitators. It is a space to consider, share and encourage each other in the mission that all our organisations are a part of. This year each of these sessions will be run online via zoom, with an additional face-to-face 'cocktail' networking event in Melbourne for local participants in late November. Further information and sign up can be had here: <https://css.org.au/events/mil2021/>



**No Masses this weekend due to the current restrictions in Victoria.**

**'Discernment Seminar' via Zoom & in-person, 14 x Tuesdays, 9.15am -11am (AEST), 20 Jul - 16 Nov 2021.** This seminar focuses on the movements of God's Spirit and spirits not-of-God in our lives and in our ministries. Discernment of spirits and discernment of God's will are explored. The series is led by Paul Beirne (MA, MDiv, DMin, PhD, Cert Spir Dir, Supervisor: Australasian Assoc of Supervision), Director of Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation. Cost \$450. Book and pay via <https://www.trybooking.com/BSUVX> ,tel (03) 9890 1101 or email [secretary@heartoflife.melbourne](mailto:secretary@heartoflife.melbourne).

**Can you help?** A young student named Niki is studying at Fed Uni and is need of accommodation in Ballarat. If you can help her please call her directly on 0474146119. Thank you

**Australian Catholic Men's Gathering 2021** As an initiative of the Australian Catholic Bishops, the National Catholic Men's Gathering aims to inspire and encourage all men with a vision for personal discipleship, service and mission in the family, parish/diocese and the world. The online program hopes to reinforce that it is important to gather as men in the faith environment of the Church and be challenged to ensure the Gospel is alive in our homes, parishes/dioceses and our communities. In this Year of St Joseph, the National Catholic Men's Gathering is again being offered as a free event for registered participants. The 2021 program will focus on St Joseph and will include a pre-recorded introductory session, three pre-recorded sessions and a final commissioning, all available from Saturday, July 31, 2021. To read about this year's speakers go to <https://www.nce.catholic.org.au/catholicmen>

**"Mission: one heart many voices" Virtual Conference** Inspired by Jesus, this conference will focus on themes of encounter on the margins, inclusion, governance and synodality and challenge you to consider contemporary Mission in light of Pope Francis' teaching, witness and vision of liminal leadership in mission. The Conference is from September 1-3, 2021 and is being convened by Catholic Religious Australia in conjunction with Catholic Mission. Perhaps your parish may wish to host a forum and invite members of your community to attend and share this experience together. An opportunity not to be missed. Check it out at <https://2021.mohmv.com.au/>. Discount for registrations prior to 1st August

**Collections at OLHC We thank you for your generous support**

Presbytery: \$ 339.25 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,295.00

OLHC 25th July	(next week)	Sunday 10am
LEADER OF SONG		Sue Searls
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Volunteer please
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD		Frank Hogan
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Helen Feely & Connie Greenhalgh
SACRISTAN & REGISTRATION		Pauline & Tony Newman