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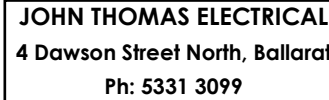
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Child Safe Church The Parishes of St Columba's & Our Lady Help of Christians (including Lexton, Miners Rest and Waubra) follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards as directed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

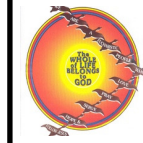


Mon-Fri 8.30 am - 6.00 pm
Saturdays 9.00 am - 5.00 pm
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COVID Safe Plan

- If you are feeling unwell or have any symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough or sore throat) please do not attend Mass.
- If you are waiting results of a COVID test stay home
- You 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 as you enter the foyer
- Ensure that you maintain appropriate physical distancing at all times (1.5 metres).
- A face mask is compulsory 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

Office: 480a Gillies Street, Wendouree Phone: 5339 2302
Email: wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au

School Co-Principals: Bambi Afford & Shaun Mohr
School Phone: 5332 4894

P O Box 192, Wendouree
School Principal: Leigh Bradshaw
School Phone: 5339 4726

Parish Priest:

Fr Marcello Colasante

Staffing

St Columba's

Tues—Wed 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

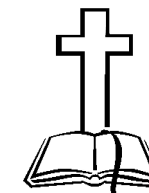
Sunday 10:00 am
Wednesday 10:00 am

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
Saturday 6:00 pm
Thursday 10:00 am
Friday 10:00 am

Readings for Next Weekend:

Is 53:10-11
Ps 32:4-5. 18-20. 22.
R. v.22
Heb 4:14-16
Mk 10:35-45



24th October 2021 ~ 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Focus on the Scriptures

What is it that we fail to see? Today's gospel reading brings to closure a long section of Mark's gospel that focuses on the journey of Jesus and his disciples from Caesarea Philippi in the north to Jericho in the south. Jericho is the final staging point in the journey to Jerusalem where the final act of the gospel drama will be played out. This section of the gospel (8:27-10:52) is prefaced by the story of a blind man who comes to sight in stages. It ends with the story of another blind man, Bartimaeus, who comes from blindness to sight, from insight to greater insight, and who joins Jesus on the journey to Jerusalem. On the intervening journey, Jesus endeavours to lead the Twelve out of their metaphorical blindness into an understanding of what it means to follow a suffering messiah. They remain for some time in their blindness, as subsequent events will demonstrate.

The narrator creates an impression of urgency at this point in Mark's gospel. "They" come to Jericho and then leave. The intervention of Bartimaeus, who tries to attract the attention of Jesus by calling out from the roadside, threatens to delay the journey. When he cries out for "mercy", many try, without success, to silence him. The "many" are people in the crowd who neither share the depth of Bartimaeus' faith nor grasp the nature of Jesus' mission of gathering in "the remnant of Israel, among them the blind and the lame" (Jeremiah 31:8). Those who try to silence Bartimaeus are a bit like the family of Jesus who tried to protect him from himself (Mark 3:31).

When it is clear that the perception of the "many" is not shared by Jesus who tells them to "call him", we have an almost comical scene in which they do a complete about-face. It seems they want to please the authority figure no matter what Bartimaeus offers a stark contrast to these people. He knows that Jesus has the power to bring the mercy of God into his life and the lives of those who wait by the roadside with faith in their hearts. He receives the assurance from Jesus that his faith has made him well or, more literally, has "saved him". Having heard the "call", he follows Jesus "on the way", the journey of faith.

At times we, like Bartimaeus, are aware of our blindness and wait desperately by the roadside for the right person or circumstances to come along and give us the heart to rise up and live the journey of faith. At times, we are like the "many" who think we know what is best for others and who try to silence the voices of those who interfere with our plans. At other times, we, like Jesus of Nazareth, respond to the cries for mercy and stretch out our hands to gather in those whose disabilities might otherwise leave them by the side of the road in the journey of life. Veronica Lawson rsm

Responsorial Psalm: (R.) Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Carmel Hanrahan, June Auchetti, Fr. Denis Dennehy

Anniversaries: We remember: Eileen Gercovich, Joe Van der Linden, Pam Orchard, Kevin Bawden, Harold Keys, Eileen Ferguson, Sr. Therese Lynch RSM, Francis Curran, Peter Crowe, Graham Staley

We pray: Those in need of our prayers; all the sick in our Parishes, especially Dan Coutts, Pat Hogan and Frank McNulty. Children preparing for Sacraments.

