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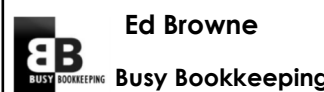
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**Child Safe Church** The Parishes of St Columba's & Our Lady Help of Christians (including Lexton, Miners Rest and Waubra) follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards as directed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

**Links to online Masses in the Diocese**

- **St Mary Mackillop Parish, Western Border:** Check the Western Border Catholic Parish facebook page for links to daily masses on YouTube <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=western%20border%20catholic%20parish>
- **St Joseph's Parish Warrnambool:** Check the St Joseph's Warrnambool facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/stjosephswarrnambool> for links to Masses on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiHcYtCTuk5DivKLWY1bvqg>
- **Sacred Heart Parish, Mildura:** Sunday Masses available on Sacred Heart Parish Mildura YouTube page <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x3WAtskilV8>
- **St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Ballarat:** Mass livestreamed daily at 11.30am can be viewed on Patrick's Cathedral facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/patricks.cathedral.9>



**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 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

Mon-Friday 9:00am -12:00pm

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 Vigil: 5.00 pm

Tuesday: 10:00 am

Wednesday: 10:00 am

**Our Lady Help of Christians**

(Waubra 1st & 3rd Sunday, Lexton 5th Sunday)

Sunday: 10:00 am

Thursday: 10:00 am

Friday: 10:00 am

**Readings for next weekend:**

Zec 9:9-10

Ps 144:1-2. 8-11. 13-14. R. v.1

Rom 8:9.11-13

Mt 11:25-30



**28th June 2020 ~ 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

In the first reading, the Shunemite woman recognises Elisha as a prophet. She is a woman of influence, who was able to convince him to dine with her (see Lydia in Acts 16:15). She was also a woman of means, who could afford to add a room to her home so that the prophet might stay there on a regular basis. Compelled to reward her generosity, the prophet promises: By this time next year you will have a son. There is no magic here, no divination. The only way that Elisha could have made a promise that would eventually be fulfilled would have been through the power of God.

Today's responsorial psalm comes from a royal hymn that praises God's commitment to David (see 2 Sam 7:16). Lovingkindness and faithfulness are technical terms for God's covenant fidelity. Unlike the covenant made with the people through the mediation of Moses (see Exodus 19-21), an agreement which required their compliance to God's law, this covenant imposes no added responsibilities on David or his descendants. These covenant promises are pure gift. The psalmist then turns to the people (vv. 16-17) who will enjoy the blessings that flow from God's lovingkindness and faithfulness. They are brought to praise God for such goodness.

Today Paul explains how Baptism enables believers to participate in the death and resurrection of Jesus. The ritual is itself the re-enactment of his death and resurrection. As they were plunged into the water, they were buried with Christ in death; as they emerged from the water, they rose with him into new life. Paul's real purpose in drawing these lines of comparison between the death and resurrection of Jesus and baptism and new life of the Christians is ethical exhortation. He seeks to encourage them to set aside their old manner of living and to take on a new life of holiness. This may entail hardships, but the cross is the only way to new life.

The gospel reading is an instruction on the demands (vv. 37-39) and rewards (vv.40-42) of discipleship. Jesus insists that if the believers are not willing to measure up to these demands, they are not worthy to become his disciples. This 'cost of discipleship' challenges the ties of kinship which are marked by natural affection. Such bonds must take second place to commitment to him. "Carrying the cross" is probably an allusion to Jesus' own crucifixion. Playing with the idea of finding and losing, Jesus states that to find one's life means to live self-centredly, but to lose oneself in sacrifice will be rewarded with ultimate life. Jesus then promises an assurance of the hospitality of others. Finally, those who offer disciples such hospitality will themselves be rewarded.

Diane Bergant CSA



**Recently Deceased: We commend to God:** Kevin Linane, Bill Dowlertime

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Alice O'Donnell, Theo Harry, Bob Pywell, Jim Gercovich

**We pray:** Those in need of our prayers; our RCIA & RCIC candidates, all the sick and housebound

**Weekend Masses** have recommenced as follows Saturday Vigil at **5.00 pm** at **St Columba's** and Sunday morning at **10.00 am** at **Our Lady Help of Christians** for **20** attendees. Mass will recommence at St John the Baptist Waubra next Sunday **5th July 8.30 am** for **20** attendees

For contact tracing purposes registration will be required. You will need to register for these Masses as well as Mass during the week; Tuesday and Wednesday St Columba's & Thursday and Friday at OLHC all at 10:00am.

The state government has held back on the easing of restrictions, so please disregard what we said last weekend about an increase in numbers. We are to remain at 20 for all Masses until at least the 19th July. As contact details ie: name and phone number are still required, it will be appreciated that if you intend coming to Mass, that contact be made during office hours with the respective Parish Office prior to doing so. If you leave a message please ensure you leave your contact number.

**Please note** that we are trying to accommodate all requests for Mass attendance but we may not always be able to. Each week we have more requests than places, so please, if you are able to attend during the week please do so, and leave the weekend Masses for those who have weekday commitments. Dispensation from Sunday Mass attendance issued by the Bishops of Victoria are still in place. Please follow social distancing at all times and use hand sanitizer as you enter and leave the Church. St Columba's is also open for private prayer 9am -5pm Monday-Friday, please use hand sanitizer as you enter and leave the church. Thank you.

**Plenary Council Update** The journey to the Plenary Council 2020 continues. While it's in a context more different than we could have ever expected, the need to pray, discern and listen to the Holy Spirit and each other is more important than ever.

**New Assembly Dates announced:** Have you heard the news? We've locked in our new dates for the Plenary Council Assembly 1 and 2!. Read the full media release here: <https://mediablog.catholic.org.au/dates-locked-in-for-plenary-council-assemblies/#more-8501>

**Discernment Papers:** The six discernment papers have been released and are available to be read. The National Plenary Facilitation Team will soon release resources to assist parishes and communities to explore each of the papers. Here in the diocese, we will endeavour to look at one paper for a month. For the month of July (you can start in June, of course), we will look at **HOW IS GOD CALLING US TO BE A CHRIST-CENTRED CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA**

**THAT IS Missionary & Evangelising?** *'Mission' is God's initiative and proceeds from the Trinity, whose love overflows in creation and redemption. The Word and Spirit are present and active in the unfolding of the universe and in all human history, as evidenced in the goodness and truth found in all cultures and societies. The incarnate Son of God through his life, ministry, death and resurrection revealed God to us and redeemed us in a unique and unsurpassable way through his paschal sacrifice. His evangelising activity gave birth to the Church which is the visible manifestation of the Gospel command to "Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations" (Mt 28:19). Have a read of the discernment paper, think about your parish and the diocese in general. We welcome any comments. Please send through to [jane.collins@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:jane.collins@ballarat.catholic.org.au). [Read the discernment paper](#) Visit [the Missionary and Evangelising theme's page](#).*

**Diocesan Pastoral Development Coordinator position available** Position information available from the diocesan website [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)

**Collections at St Columba's** **We thank you for your generous support**  
1st Collection: \$ 94.95 2nd Collection (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 689.00  
Easter Offerings: \$

**Baptism Preparation** sessions for Parents for children aged up to 7 years wishing to have their child/children Baptized are recommencing soon. Register your interest by phoning Judith at St Columba's Parish Office or Maree at OLHC. First session will be on Tuesday 30th June at 11am.



**ACU Centre for Liturgy Presents: Rev Prof Mark R. Francis CSV "The Challenge of Intercultural Liturgy in the Era of Pope Francis" (free online public lecture)** The Australian Catholic University (ACU) Centre for Liturgy will host the President of the Catholic Theological Union, Rev Prof Mark R. Francis CSV, in a free online public lecture broadcast live from Chicago, USA on Monday July 20 from 10.00am - 11.30am (AEST) via Zoom: "The Challenge of Intercultural Liturgy in the Era of Pope Francis." Registration is essential by July 15, 2020 at <https://www.acu.edu.au/about-acu/institutes-academies-and-centres/acu-centre-for-liturgy/pastoral-training/event-registration-july-2020>

**Sacraments 2020** in light of restrictions still being in place for the number of people permitted to attend places of worship, a decision was made in consultation with the Principals of our two schools, to suspend the Sacraments of Confirmation, Reconciliation and First Eucharist. We will endeavour to accommodate all families from this year and next in 2021. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact one of the Parish Offices.

**Australian Catholic Men's Gathering** The Australian Catholic Bishop's Conference National Catholic Men's Gathering for 2020 is now being offered as an online event for registered participants on Saturday, July 31. The aim of the program is to inspire and encourage all Catholic men with a vision for personal discipleship, service and mission in the family, parish, diocese and the world. This modified program will be delivered in four pre-recorded sessions of approximately 1 hour in length. Each session will offer input from a variety of speakers and musicians, along with a response and questions for group discussion or individual reflection. The program offers flexibility so that you may participate individually or gather with others from your parish/diocese or men's ministry group. This is a free event. For the event program and registration information go to [www.catholicmensgathering.com.au](http://www.catholicmensgathering.com.au)

**St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat - Alpha Online** St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Ballarat offers the opportunity to join the Alpha program online every Wednesday from July 1 - September 9, 2020 from 7.00pm - 8.00pm. Please register your interest with Jess at [alpha.jess@icloud.com](mailto:alpha.jess@icloud.com)

**Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program - Registrations now open** Low-cost online study and formation for lay workers in parish and other ministries; employed or volunteers. Sacraments, Scripture, Youth Ministry, Liturgy, Leadership and more. The next cycle begins July 12. Study is 5 weeks. Registrations open now until July 8. More information at [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) or email [kim.butler@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:kim.butler@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or ph. 0407 523 424.

**SVDP St Columba's Winter Appeal** As we will be unable to take up our usual collections after weekend Mass for our annual winter appeal, this year we invite you leave your donation in the Church in the basket provided or you are welcome to leave an envelope marked "Winter Appeal" in the Parish Office. We thank you in advance for your generosity.

## Readings for Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time A

**First Reading** 2 Kgs 4:8-11, 14-16 A reading from the second book of the Kings

One day as Elisha was on his way to Shunem, a woman of rank who lived there pressed him to stay and eat there. After this he always broke his journey for a meal when he passed that way. She said to her husband, 'Look, I am sure the man who is constantly passing our way must be a holy man of God. Let us build him a small room on the roof, and put him a bed in it, and a table and chair and lamp; whenever he comes to us he can rest there.'

One day when he came, he retired to the upper room and lay down. 'What can be done for her?' he asked. Gehazi (his servant) answered, 'Well, she has no son and her husband is old.' Elisha said, 'Call her.' The servant called her and she stood at the door. 'This time next year,' Elisha said 'you will hold a son in your arms.'

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 88:2-3, 16-19. R. v.2

(R.) Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;  
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.  
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,  
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. (R.)
2. Happy the people who acclaim such a king,  
who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face,  
who find their joy every day in your name,  
who make your justice the source of their bliss. (R.)
3. For it is you, O Lord, who are the glory of their strength;  
it is by your favour that our might is exalted:  
for our ruler is in the keeping of the Lord;  
our king in the keeping of the Holy One of Israel. (R.)

**Second Reading** Rom 6:3-4, 8-11 A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

**Gospel** Mt 10:37-42 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.

'Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me.

'Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will have a prophet's reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy man because he is a holy man will have a holy man's reward.

'If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

The Gospel of the Lord

The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers.

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