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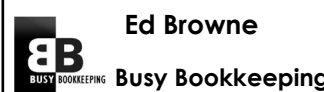
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Child Safe Church The Parishes of St Columba's & Our Lady Help of Christians (including Lexton, Miners Rest and Waubra) follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards as directed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

Presbytery: Phone 5332 4324



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

Visiting Priest: Fr Gary Jones

Staff at St Columba's
Pastoral Associate: Judith O'Sullivan
Wed—Friday 9:00am -1:00pm

Staff at OLHC
Parish Co-ordinator: Maree Roache
Wed & Friday 9:00am—1:00pm

Safeguarding Officers
St Columba's: Peter Marquand
OLHC: Maree Roache

Mass times: St Columba's

Saturday Vigil: NO MASS
Sunday: NO MASS
Wednesday: NO MASS

Mass times: OLHC

Saturday Vigil: NO MASS
Sunday: NO MASS
(1st & 3rd Sunday, Lexton 5th Sunday)

Tuesday: NO MASS
Thursday: NO MASS
Friday: NO MASS

Readings for next weekend:

Acts 1:1-11
Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6
Eph 1:17-23
Mt 28:16-20



17 May 2020 ~ Sixth Sunday of Easter (A)

Focus on the Scriptures

Although this week's gospel passage comes from the Last Supper discourse, it is the perfect reading for this time in the liturgical cycle. In next week's liturgy we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord and the following week we celebrate Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples. This week's reading is the perfect precursor to these coming weeks. Prior to this section of the Last Supper discourse, Jesus has told the disciples that he will be leaving them. He alludes to that fact again in this section but also spells out that he will ask the Father to send to the disciples another advocate (sometimes translated as paraclete or counsellor). By referring to the Spirit as 'another' advocate or paraclete, Jesus names himself as having been an advocate. The Spirit is to continue the work that Jesus has begun in and with the disciples, standing as witness and strength for them to help them when the world turns against them.

Jesus says to the disciples that 'In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live.' Christian people believe that Christ continues to be present in the world even though he is no longer physically present. Jesus' reference to 'the world' is a reference to those who do not believe. It is only those who believe who continue to recognise and affirm his ongoing presence in the world. Whilst the Spirit, the advocate or paraclete, will act in the world to bring about the reign of God, it is in the hearts and minds of those who believe where the Spirit will act most strongly.

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Recently Deceased: We commend to God: John Kennedy

Anniversaries: We remember: Brian Molloy

We pray: Those in need of our prayers; for the Plenary Council process in Australia, our RCIA & RCIC candidates, all the sick and housebound, Doctors, Nursing staff, teachers & all essential services staff

Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program – now open for new participants 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. Study over 5 weeks per subject. Study Cycle 4 begins May 24. Registrations open now until May 13. More information at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or email kim.butler@ballarat.catholic.org.au ph. 0407 523 424.

2020 - It's the fifth anniversary of Laudato Si' Pope Francis invites you to celebrate Laudato Si' Week which takes place May 16-24. Go to <https://laudatosiweek.org/> for more info



Update to Joan Chittister Melbourne Event Due to the current travel restrictions the evening with Sr Joan Chittister on September 8, 2020 has been postponed and will be rescheduled to a date in 2021. Sr Joan considers Australia her first priority when international travel commences. As soon as we have a firm date, we will contact everyone. Your tickets will be valid for that event. If you do not want to hold them or give them to someone else. To have your ticket refunded please contact rsvp@garrattpublishing.com.au

COVID 19 Fee Relief for School Families The Catholic Education Office Ballarat have provided information for families experiencing difficulty paying school fees during the COVID-19 crisis. See the video on their website <https://ceob.edu.au/>

Stewardship Envelopes In this uncharted world of COVID—19 Pandemic it is most uncertain when Places of Worship will reopen to the public for Liturgical celebrations. Should you wish to maintain your contributions you are most welcome to hand your envelopes into the office during office hours. Alternatively if you are comfortable with Internet Banking we can provide you with the appropriate bank account details for contributions to be made in this way. Continuing your generous contributions at this difficult time is greatly appreciated. Caritas Lenten envelopes or boxes can also be left at the office. Thank you

Message from Pope Francis to Pray the Rosary in May Pope Francis has asked Catholics to make a special effort to pray the Rosary during May and has composed two new prayers asking for Our Lady's intercession to help end the COVID-19 pandemic. You can find them at the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Church Opening following the recent announcements regarding lifting of some of the restrictions in regard to places of worship. We can now allow the church to be opened each day from 9am—5pm for private worship from Monday 25th May. You will need to sign in as you arrive, use hand sanitizer and sit away from anyone else in the Church. If there are more than 10 people in the church, you will need to wait until someone leaves or return later. Due to the difficulty of managing the 10 person limit we have decided to wait until the number has been raised until we recommence offering of Masses in the Parish.

Heart to Heart e-Seminars Archbishop Chris Prowse, Canberra-Goulburn Diocese, is presenting these 30 minute e-seminars over four weeks, leading you into a deeper relationship with Christ during this time of isolation <https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/hearttoheart/>

World Communications Day – May 17, 2020 This Sunday, May 17, the Church in Australia will celebrate World Communications Day. It is observed a week earlier in Australia because of our liturgical transfer of the Feast of the Ascension from Thursday to what is elsewhere the Seventh Sunday of Easter. Pope Francis' message for the 54th World Communications Day 2020, which was released in January, focuses on the topic of storytelling. Read the message on the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/news/fx-articles.cfm?loadref=102&id=2799&categoryid=101>

Managing Coronavirus Together – Stakeholder Pack “Testing” The Victorian Council of Churches has forwarded information from the Victorian Government to keep Victorians informed about the outbreak of COVID-19 and is providing translated information in up to 48 languages. Access to translated information is particularly important for people who are isolated from friends, family and their usual support network. Making sure people understand what they can do to reduce their risk of coronavirus, is key to slowing its spread. Information provided by the Victorian Government is the most relevant source of information for people living in Victoria. The pack is available from the office.

Pentecost Pilgrimage Catholics are invited to join others worldwide on a spiritual pilgrimage to Pentecost. Register for free to receive a series of talks which are uploaded twice a week from speakers around the world, including from Australia Archbishop Porteous (Hobart), Fr Ken Barker MGL, Founder and Moderator of the Missionaries of God's Love, Robert Falzon, Cofounder of menALIVE, and Daniel Ang, Director of Parish 2020, Sydney Archdiocese. Go to <https://www.pentecostpilgrimage.com/>

Readings for the Sixth Sunday of Easter Year A

First Reading Acts 8:5-8. 14-17 A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 65:1-7. 16. 20. R. see v.1

(R.) Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

1. Cry out with joy to God all the earth,

O sing to the glory of his name.

O render him glorious praise.

Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds! (R.)

2. 'Before you all the earth shall bow; shall sing to you, sing to your name!'

Come and see the works of God,

tremendous his deeds among men. (R.)

3. He turned the sea into dry land, they passed through the river dry-shod.

Let our joy then be in him;

he rules for ever by his might. (R.)

4. Come and hear, all who fear God.

I will tell what he did for my soul:

Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer

nor withhold his love from me. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Pt 3:15-18 A reading from the first letter of St Peter

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

Gospel Jn 14:15-21 A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever,

that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive

since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him,

because he is with you, he is in you. I will not leave you orphans;

I will come back to you. In a short time the world will no longer see me;

but you will see me, because I live and you will live.

On that day you will understand that I am in my Father

and you in me and I in you. Anybody who receives my commandments

and keeps them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me

will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

The Gospel of the Lord

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Collections at OLHC		We thank you for your generous support	
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