

St Columba's Parish

27th December 2020

306 Gregory St, Ballarat North Phone: 5331 1012

Email: ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au

School Web: www.scballarat.catholic.edu.au



Parish Priest:

Fr Marcello Colasante

Staffing

St Columba's

Pastoral Associate:

Judith O'Sullivan

Our Safeguarding Officer:

Peter Marquand

Our Lady Help of Christians

Parish Co-ordinator and

Safeguarding Officer:

Maree Roache

MASS TIMES

St Columba's

Saturday 5:00pm

Wednesday 10:00am

Our Lady Help of Christians

Sunday 8.30 am

Waubra 1st & 3rd Sunday;

Beaufort 2nd & 4th Sunday;

Lexton 5th Sunday

10.00 am Wendouree

Friday (New Year's Day) 10am

Focus on the Scriptures

Feast of the Holy Family Year B

In today's Gospel, Mary, having given birth, is regarded as ritually unclean. She could not take part in public worship until she was 'purified'. This involved offering up a couple of pigeons which she and Joseph had to buy.

No wonder that, at the Cleansing of the Temple, Jesus shatters the cages in which the pigeons were kept! He was angry with a Temple system which saw Mary that way, which thought of all women giving birth that way. Indeed, his whole ministry is full of instances when women breach religious and cultural taboos in his presence, because of his presence.

This Feast of the Holy Family gives us the opportunity to thank God for our mothers who, like Mary, helped fulfil God's plan for humankind by birthing us into the world.

We could pause for a moment to pray that the Church changes rules and structures which confine women in cages built from ideologies foreign to the Gospel, lest those rules become swords which pierce Mary's soul.

© Fr Michael Tate



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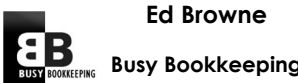
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Child Safe Church The Parishes of St Columba's & Our Lady Help of Christians (including Learmonth, Lexton, Miners Rest and Waubra) follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards as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

Please register with the Parish Office during office hours to attend a weekend Mass. You do not need to preregister for a weekday Mass. Please ensure you arrive 10 minutes before Mass; doors will be locked prior to commencement. Contact tracing is required for all Masses.

Ensure that you maintain appropriate physical distancing at all times (1.5 metres).

A face mask is optional whilst visiting the Church (your face mask may be removed when consuming Communion or reading, but must be worn again immediately afterwards).

Please use the hand sanitiser available upon entering the Church.

Please do not touch any surfaces unnecessarily.

Please remain in the designated area of the Church (in or near your seat at all times).

Once Mass has concluded, please leave the Church immediately afterwards to allow for cleaning of all surfaces.

We appreciate your assistance. The fines for non-compliance with Government Regulations may be imposed on the Parish are up to \$100,000.