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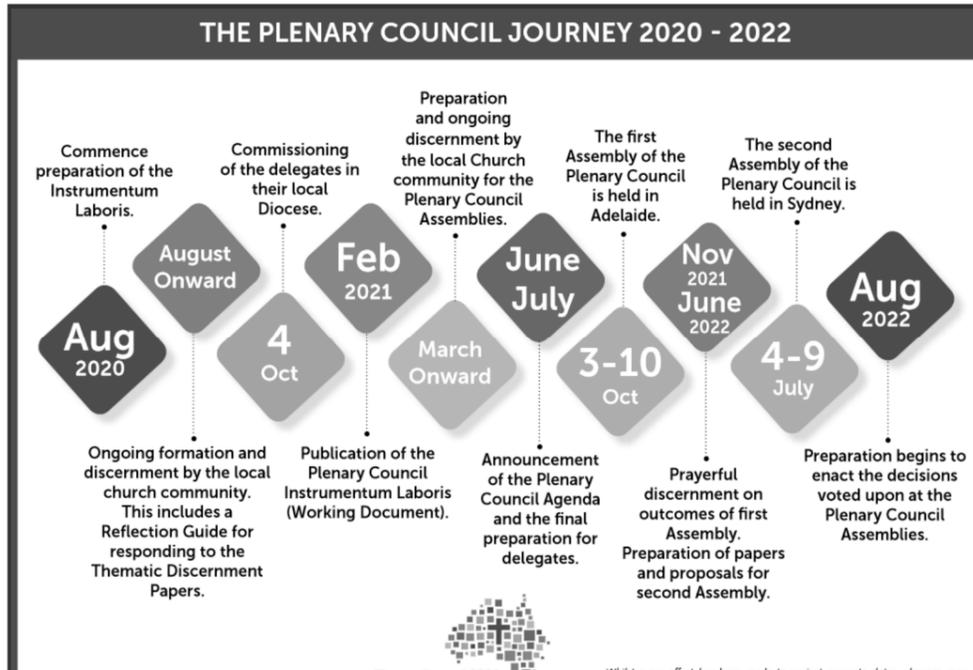
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The new Plenary Council Timeline 2020-2022



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 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
Tues-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-12:00pm

MASS TIMES

St Columba's

No Masses until further notice

Our Lady Help of Christians

No Masses until further notice

Readings for next weekend:

Is 5:1-7
Ps 79:9. 12-16. 19-20. R. Is 5:7
Phil 4:6-9
Mt 21:33-43



27th September 2020 ~ 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Focus on the Scriptures

As we celebrate the fourth week in the Season of Creation, we might ponder again the ways in which Earth cares for us. Vineyards have provided nourishment for countless families in the ancient Mediterranean world since about 10,000 BCE. It is not surprising then that the biblical record frequently references vines and vineyards and that the vineyard becomes a metaphor for God's "workplace". In today's gospel, Jesus tells the story of a father who sends his sons to work in the vineyard. One refuses and then reconsiders: he has the courage to change his mind and engage in life. The second son agrees then fails to do as his father requests: he is not prepared to make his contribution to family life and wellbeing. These siblings find their counterparts in every age. There are those who make an art form of saying yes and failing to follow through with action: such people can seriously undermine the most worthy of projects or plans. And then there are the slow starters, those who take time but eventually come on board.

Jesus' parable is a response to the Temple authorities who are angered by the "amazing things" he does and by the public recognition he receives from the children in the temple. Like the second son, the chief priests and elders profess to do the will of God, but their actions belie their words. Jesus spells out the meaning of the parable as it relates to the disjunction between what they say and what they do. They have rejected the prophet John who came to them "in the way of righteousness". The tax collectors and prostitutes, "sinners" from the perspective of the authorities, accepted John's message, albeit belatedly like the first son, and are making their way into God's empire ahead of the guardians of the religious institutions.

Changing one's mind is seen as a sign of weakness in our society. For evidence of this, one has only to listen to the taunts in parliament when a political leader changes course in the light of new information. Changing one's mind or one's course of action can be an act of great courage and humility, even heroism. This is particularly so if it involves abandoning a self-serving direction for the sake of justice or compassion or the "common good". We have the example of those who refused to politicize the pandemic and chose rather to work for the common good across political affiliations: some have paid a heavy price. Voluntary changes in behaviour come from a change of heart, from what the gospel calls "metanoia". There is always a cost in the pursuit of justice, generally less dramatic than the cost to some in public office who challenge the refusal to act on the climate crisis. Today's parable invites us to bring our actions into line with what we profess, no matter the cost. That is what it means to take up the challenge of working in the vineyard.
Veronica Lawson RSM



Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Sr Tirta Bale cssjb, Benito (Ben) Duka

Anniversaries: We remember: Sr Noreen Torney rsm, Enid Brusaschi, Fiona Morris, Valerie Hocking, Frank Sculley, Lilia Acero Marfori, Aileen Cheesman

We pray: Those in need of our prayers especially Saskiah Gallagher; all the sick and all those struggling with the effects of Covid-19. Sunday, September 27, 2020 is 106th World Day of Migrants and Refugees we especially pray for all migrants and refugees.

Table 4 Birthplace, Indigenous Status & Language

St Columba's	Parish 2016	Parish 2011	Diocese 2016	Aust 2016	Diocesan Group	Aust Group
Born overseas in English-speaking country 6	2.1	2.0	2.3	5.6	3	5
Born overseas in non-English-speaking country (%)	5.3	4.6	6.5	19.1	3	4
Immigrants from non-English-speaking countries arriving in Census year or previous 3 years	9	10	624	106,428	4	5
Catholics of Australian Indigenous origin	27	16	1,310	133,528	3	4
Speak language other than English at home (%)	4.9	4.1	5.8	20.4	2	4
Not proficient in English7 (%)	0.3	0.3	0.6	2.6	5	5

Our Lady Help of Christians	Parish 2016	Parish 2011	Diocese 2016	Aust 2016	Diocesan Group	Aust Group
Born overseas in English-speaking country 6	1.9	2.0	2.3	5.6	4	5
Born overseas in non-English-speaking country (%)	6.2	5.8	6.5	19.1	3	4
Immigrants from non-English-speaking countries arriving in Census year or previous 3 years	23	15	624	106,428	2	4
Catholics of Australian Indigenous origin	41	60	1,310	133,528	2	3
Speak language other than English at home (%)	5.2	3.4	5.8	20.4	2	4
Not proficient in English 7 (%)	0.4	0.2	0.6	2.6	4	5

Notes:
 6. New Zealand, United Kingdom, Ireland, United States, Canada and South Africa.
 7. Percentage of all Catholics who reported that they spoke English not well, or not at all.

It's St Mary's 10th Anniversary and you're invited! To mark the 10th anniversary of the canonisation of Mary MacKillop, Australia's first Saint, the Sisters of Saint Joseph invite you to celebrate the wonderful life and inspirational legacy of Saint Mary of the Cross. The Sisters have created commemorative prayers, videos and a global vigil in of honour Mary throughout September and October <https://www.sosj.org.au/10th-an>

St Vincent de Paul Society, "Assist a Student" Program for Victoria The program assists very poor students in countries to our north to attend school who may otherwise, without this assistance, not be able to afford to attend. It is aimed at breaking the poverty cycle the student finds themselves in and it encapsulates the Vincentian message of "a hand up, not a hand out". A \$100 donation provides access to education. Any administrative costs are met by the Australian St Vincent de Paul Society. For more information go to [https://www.vinnies.org.au/page/Our Impact/International Impact/Assist a student today/](https://www.vinnies.org.au/page/Our%20Impact/International%20Impact/Assist%20a%20student%20today/)

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Current COVID Restrictions: Bishop Paul has communicated to the people of the Ballarat Diocese informing us that together with the other bishops of Victoria, he has been making representations to government for an easing of the restrictions in relation to places of worship. He has proposed that places of worship should at least be treated in the same way as other places where people can gather socially. In the coming week, bishops and other religious leaders will have further meetings with government. It is hoped these meetings will bear fruit so that we will be able to gather again in our churches.

We do need to safeguard the community's health, yet we have shown that we can observe the necessary precautions for physical health at the same time as we celebrate the liturgy, which contributes so much to the spiritual and mental health of the community. Bishop Paul prays particularly that we will soon be able to share the Eucharist, source and summit of the Christian life, but at this time **it is not possible for us to gather for Mass.** It is still possible for parishes to live-stream Mass, however this can only involve up to five people. The provisions do not allow us to gather in our churches to celebrate Mass as we would dearly wish to.

Funerals will be able to have up to 20 people gathered, plus those required to conduct the funeral.

Weddings will be able to have up to 10 people gathered (including the couple and two witnesses), plus the celebrant.

Baptisms cannot be celebrated until there is a further easing of restrictions. For those seeking to celebrate the sacrament of **Reconciliation**, this can be done by contacting the priest directly to make an appointment.

Anointing of the Sick remains possible in Hospitals and Aged Care facilities. Priests are permitted to visit these institutions when a person's condition has been designated 'end of life.' The priests will continue to be available to offer pastoral and sacramental care for the sick and the dying in their own homes.

In the coming week we will consider how our churches may be opened for private worship in ways that operate within the government guidelines. The seriousness of the potential health risks and the penalties for breaching the law demand a very considered approach and a workable system. In the meantime the mission of Christ that we have been given to serve, reach out, care for each other and pray continues.

Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission Mental Health Webinar

The Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission is hosting a zoom webinar for anyone who wants to know more about mental health in Australia and to empower participants to understand mental health, the supports available here in Australia and provide an opportunity to reach out, encourage hope and bring fullness of life to those we love and care for. The Zoom webinar will be held on Sunday, October 4, 2020 from 2.00pm – 3.00pm. For more information, registration details go to the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/social-justice/>

'Walking with Wisdom' Contemplative Sessions (via Zoom) – Thursdays, 10am-12.30pm (AEST) on 8, 15, 22 & 29 October 2020. We invite you to join us for a series of contemplative sessions with Carole Carmody rsm and Marlene McGrath, providing opportunities for Deep Listening: to oneself at this unique time in our lives; to Divine Wisdom in the Heart, and in the Hearts of Others; and to engage in a gentle, creative response. Join for one or all sessions. \$85 for the Series or \$25 per session. Bookings at www.trybooking.com/BLILH. Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation, tel 03 9890 1101, www.heartoflife.melbourne



Readings for Twenty sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time A

First Reading Ez 18:25-28 A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 24:4-9. R. v.6

(R.) Remember your mercies, O Lord.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.

Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:

for you are God my saviour. (R.)

2. Remember your mercy, Lord,

and the love you have shown from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth.

In your love remember me,

because of your goodness, O Lord. (R.)

3. The Lord is good and upright.

He shows the path to those who stray,

he guides the humble in the right path;

he teaches his way to the poor. (R.)

Second Reading Phil 2:1-5 A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.

Gospel Mt 21:28-32 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

The Gospel of the Lord

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