

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

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.
- ◆ Ensure that you maintain appropriate physical distancing at all times (1.5 metres).
- ◆ Whilst a face mask is not compulsory they are recommended.
- ◆ Please use the hand sanitiser available upon entering the Church.

We appreciate your assistance in helping stop the spread of the virus.

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Pope's intention for February - We pray that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Prayer for Peace and Justice in Ukraine

God of peace and justice,
who change the hardened heart and
break the power of violence,
we entrust the people of Ukraine to you.

Protect them in this time of peril;
let them know not death but life,
not slavery but freedom.

You are Father of all;
we are brothers and sisters.
Give us the strength to live that truth in love,
choosing peace not war.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

LIVING THE GOSPEL

Death for Life

The gospel writer paints the picture that Jesus is fully conscious of the implications of his return to Judea. As the events of the Passion unfold through this gospel, the reader has a very clear impression in their mind that if Jesus had not come to Judea; had not raised Lazarus; then he would not have been arrested and crucified. The reader is also drawn into the revelation that the sacrifice of Jesus was not solely for Lazarus but rather for all humanity. This realisation leads the reader to the ultimate humbling conclusion that if the sacrifice of Jesus was for people then the reader themselves is also the recipient of that sacrifice.



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

School Co-Principals: Bambi Afford & Shaun Mohr

School Phone: 5332 4894

Office: 480a Gillies Street, Wendouree Phone: 5339 2302

Prayer Line: 5339 2302

Email: wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au

P O Box 192, Wendouree

School Principal: Leigh Bradshaw School Phone: 5339 4726

The Parishes acknowledge that the Aboriginal people of Australia are our first nation people and the traditional owners and custodians of the land.

26th March, 2023 - 5th Sunday of Lent Time (A)

Focus on the Scriptures

As a metaphor, death can stand for many things. The prophet Ezekiel witnessed the death of the nation. The gospel reports the death of Lazarus. Although Paul refers to the mortal character of our physical bodies, he is more concerned with spiritual life and death. Death attacks each one of us in all three of these ways. We are all mortal and subject to physical death; we are all sinners and must deal with the implications of spiritual death; we are all subject to the consequences of social sins such as terrorism, violence, group hatred, greed and ecological exploitation. The question before us is whether or not we are going to allow death to reign in our lives and in our communities.



All three readings for this Sunday, as well as the psalm response, point out our inability to raise ourselves out of the deaths that afflict us. In the passage from Ezekiel, it is God who promises to open the graves of the people; the people are helpless to do anything. The psalmist cries to God from out of the depths of pain and helplessness. Acknowledging human propensity to sin, Paul credits the Spirit of God with transforming death into life. Finally, it is Jesus who calls Lazarus out of the grave and returns him to his life. We can see that God does not leave us to languish in our various deaths. Instead, God offers us new life out of the tombs. All of this is accomplished through the mercy and compassion of God.

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Parish Priest:
Fr Marcello Colasante

Staffing

St Columba's
Office Hours: Wed—Friday
10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Parish Co-ord: Lia Andanar Yu
Safeguarding Officer:
Peter Marquand

Our Lady Help of Christians
Parish Co-ordinator and
Safeguarding Officer:
Maree Roache
Office Hours: Wed-Fri 9–1pm

MASS TIMES (This week) St Columba's

Sunday 10:00 am
Wednesday 10.00 am (Anointing)

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
Tuesday 10.00am (Funeral)
Thursday 10.00am
Friday 10.00 am

Readings for Next Weekend:

Palm Sunday

1st Reading: Is 50:4-7
Psalm: 21:8-9. 17-20. 23-24. R. v.2
2nd Reading: Phil 2:6-11
Gospel: Mt 26:14 – 27:66

Responsorial Psalm: With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die for ever. Lord Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Brendan O'Brien, Sister Sheila Belleville,

Anniversaries: We remember Dianne Duffy, Neville Broatch, Basil Clark, Peter Molloy, Nell Molloy, Tina Marshall, Kaylene Jarvis, Isaac Lund, Maria Tochetti, Lawrence Norbury, Len Hyatt, Bill Walsh, Des Ryan, Peter Leonard, Juianne Spice, Adele Byrne, Fr. Joseph Tran



Project Compassion Fifth Sunday of Lent

Project Compassion brings together Australian schools, parishes and supporters to raise funds for people in vulnerable communities across the world. This year, we introduced you to the story of four inspiring people whose lives have been transformed with your generous support: Laxmi, Tereesa, Priscilla and Thu.

Today, they are creating a better world for their families, their communities and for all future generations.

Project Compassion is a demonstration of the faith, empathy and generosity of our supporters. It is the lifeblood of Caritas Australia – without it, we could not do the vital work we do. Thank you for helping transform lives today and for all future generations.

If you have not already donated and wish to do so, you can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes/envelopes available from your parish, by visiting <https://www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion> or by calling 1800 024 413.



Vinnies (Victoria) Back to School Appeal

More than 1 million Victorian students headed back to – or started – school this year. For a rising number of their families, it's getting harder to find the funds to ensure that their children have everything they need in order to learn and grow. The Vinnies Education (Back-to-School) Appeal – which launched on February 1 – is needed now more than ever. To donate go to <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-vic/back-to-school-appeal-vic-2023>



Australian Catholics Autumn 2023 issue

"Touring the world of Jesus" is now available. For those interested, several copies are at the church foyer.



OLHC Singing Practice

This Thursday, 30th March at 7.00 pm is the final practice of the new Mass Setting for our Easter liturgies. Look forward to seeing you there.

Palm Sunday Walk for Justice - Ballarat

This year's walk will call for Justice for Refugees: Permanent visas for all, fair processes and income support for people who are seeking recognition as refugees. While the change of government at the federal election last year has brought hope for more compassionate policies, thousands of refugees and people seeking asylum are still in limbo waiting for certainty about their future. Walk with us this Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023.

Gather at View Point, Lake Wendouree at 2.00 pm

Speakers: Refugees with lived experience, support workers from Ballarat Community Health and Ballarat Council Multicultural Sector. The walk finishes in front of Loreto College finish in front of Loreto College at the viewing area for the rowing.



(Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans). Take the bitterness out of chocolate

Easter chocolate is already on the supermarket shelves, so let's recommit to using our chocolate dollars to buy slavery-free chocolate this year. It's also the right time to tell our families, friends and communities about the exploitation of children in chocolate production. Encourage them to start buying slavery-free chocolate now – and to keep going after Easter. You can find the Be Slavery Free Chocolate Scorecard at <https://www.beslaveryfree.com/chocolate>. The scorecard published in 2022 and updated before Easter, features most of your favourite brands and explains how they rate in several key areas including child labour, payment of a living income and the impact on climate. Look for these symbols to purchase slave-free chocolate.



Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans Online National Gathering: May 3, 2023

ACRATH invites you to join their national gathering (online) on Wednesday, May 3, 2023. The theme is from St John's gospel – "I have come that you may have life and have it to the full". Further details of the event will be published on the ACRATH website but save the date now.

Mission: One Heart Many Voices Conference 2023 – May 3-5, 2023

The Mission: One Heart Many Voices conference, "Lead, Act, Now" will be held from May 3-5, 2023 in Sydney – face-to-face and online. Registration details, the program and more information is available at <https://2023.mohmv.com.au/>

EASTER LITURGIES

March 29	10.00 am	Anointing Mass	St Columba's
Monday April 3	6.30 pm	Mass of Oils	St Patrick's Cathedral (followed by supper in the hall)
April 4	7.00 pm	Reconciliation	OLHC
HOLY WEEK			
April 1	Palm Sunday	6.00 pm	OLHC Wendouree
April 2		8.30 am	St John the Baptist, Waubra
		10.00 am	St Columba's, Ballarat North
April 6	Holy Thursday	7.00 pm	St. Columba's, Ballarat North
April 7	Good Friday	10.00 am	Way of the Cross, Waubra
		3.00 pm	OLHC Wendouree
April 8	Easter Vigil	7.00 pm	OLHC Wendouree
April 9	Easter Sunday	8.30 am	Beaufort
		10.00 am	St. Columba's Ballarat North



Centralised Baptism Preparation Session

Parents planning to have their child baptised are required to attend a Baptism Preparation Session. Next session is on Holy Thursday at MacKillop and Glowrey Rooms of St. Patrick's Cathedral Hall, 3 Lyons St South, Ballarat, **Thursday, 6th of April 2023 at 10.00am**. There will be just the **one Baptism preparation morning session in April**.

The Church gives the faith to your children through Baptism and you have the task to make it grow...." - Pope Francis

St Columba's 25th March	(next week)	Sunday 10:00 am
LEADER of SONG		Terry Ranger
COMMENTATOR		Min Myers
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Anthea Hinchey/Bruce Chapman
COMMUNION MINISTER		Colleen Wakefield
DIGITAL PROJECTOR		Vicki Moroney
SACRISTAN		Barb Brown/ Norah Moloney/ Josie Crowe

Collections at St Columba's	Thank you for your generous support
Presbytery: \$398.70	Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$425.00

OLHC 1st April 2023	(next week)	Saturday 6:00 pm
LEADER OF SONG		Paul Hogan
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Veronica Stott
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Vin Dillon, Zeena Lazarus
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Pat Dillon, Trish Lawson
SACRISTAN		Kath Leonard, Ann Slattery
Waubra Church cleaning	April:	Sharon and Marty Moran

Collections at OLHC	We thank you for your generous support
Presbytery: \$473.80	Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$355.00