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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 [wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or

**Pope Francis' Prayer for Peace in Ukraine:** I ask you to pray the Our Father for peace in Ukraine, now and throughout this day. **Our Father...**

Let us ask the Lord to grant that the country may grow in the spirit of brotherhood, and that all hurts, fears and divisions will be overcome. We have spoken about the Holocaust. But let us think too that [in Ukraine] millions of people were killed [1932-1933]. They are a people who have suffered; they have suffered from hunger, suffered from much brutality and they deserve peace.

May the prayers and supplications that today rise up to heaven touch the minds and hearts of world leaders, so that dialogue may prevail and the common good be placed ahead of partisan interests. Please, no more war.

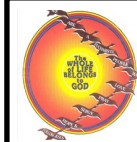


# Laudato Si'



"Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience" (Laudato Si', 217).

*reduce reuse recycle rethink repurpose*



## 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](mailto:ballaratnorth@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](mailto:wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

**P O Box** 192, Wendouree

**School Principal:** Leigh Bradshaw

**School Phone:** 5339 4726

### Staffing

#### Parish Priest:

Fr Marcello Colasante

#### Finance Officer:

Bernadette Prestwood

#### St Columba's

#### Parish Co-Ordinator:

Lia Andanar Yu

Wed-Friday 10:00am -2:00pm

#### 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 (This week)

#### St Columba's

Sunday 10.00 am

Ash Wednesday 9.30 am

#### 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 (Vigil) 6.00 pm

Ash Wednesday 11.00 am

Thursday 11.00 am (Kelaston)

Friday 10.00 am

#### Readings for Next Weekend

Genesis 9:8—15

Psalm 24: 4-9 R. V.10

1 Peter 3: 18—22

Mark 1:12—15



### 11th February 2024 ~ Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

#### Focus on the Scriptures

Today's gospel about a person with leprosy invites us to reflect on the pain of exclusion. We are social beings who need to engage with others and with our environment so that we all seek to be part of family and community. Some are deprived of choice in this respect. Repeated name-calling and labelling are age-old strategies of exclusion. "Illegals" is a label that excludes some of the most vulnerable people in today's world. "Leper" is a label that is used metaphorically of those who are not welcome, of those deemed to be "infectious".

To be a leper in the world of early Judaism was to have some sort of skin disease that excluded a person from community and in particular from public worship. There were strict regulations regarding such lepers (see today's first reading from Leviticus, dating from several centuries before the time of Jesus). Their condition required ritual cleansing by a priest and an offering that cost money. That seems horrifying from our perspective, and it was.

In Mark's story, the man with leprosy approaches Jesus of Nazareth who is not one of the priests. This afflicted person thus cuts across the established procedures. Jesus is "moved with compassion", literally "moved in his gut, or in the depths of his being". In other words, Jesus empathises deeply with the suffering person. He has a physical reaction in the face of suffering. Some manuscripts have "moved with anger". A later scribe probably considered that expression too harsh as an emotion for Jesus and softened the text.

Jesus speaks and acts. He declares that he wills the cure of the man. He actually reaches out and touches him: a bodily encounter brings healing. He then sends the man back to tell the priests "as a proof to them". The verb used for "send back" suggests that the priests had already been approached without success. Jesus, the Galilean healer, succeeds in mediating the power of the God of Israel and so restores this outcast person to life in the community and the community itself to greater wholeness through this healing. The widespread report of Jesus' healing activity will incur the anger of some of the authorities.

For our part, as followers of Jesus, we might reflect on the fact that sickness and disability are not only physical phenomena. They also have social and emotional impacts on individuals and the communities to which they belong. Healing enables people to live again, to be with others and do the things they want to do. It brings new life and integrity to community. Jesus demonstrates that the combination of a compassionate word and a healing touch can work wonders. This was true in the ancient world. It is equally true for us today in the face of a virulent pandemic that continues to take lives and to disrupt family and social engagement. Healing must be all embracing if it is to restore life.

~ Veronica Lawson RSM

**Responsorial Psalm: (R.)** I turn to you Lord in time of trouble and you fill me with the joy of salvation

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people. Alleluia!

**Recently Deceased: We commend to God:** Miguel Fernandes

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Joy Lange, Neil Woods, Johannes Kors, Peter Baker, Anoja Stanislaus, John Brusaschi, Sr. Ursula Caine RSM, Maureen Shannon

**We pray:** for all in areas of conflict, war and natural disasters, and all in need of our prayers.



**Thank—You** Thanks to the women (no men yet!) who have initiated the first Sunday coffee/tea after Mass ... it is so good to see people standing around in conversation, making connection with those who are known to one another and welcoming the newcomers. A great example of community building!

Sister Geraldine

**Baptism**

This weekend we welcome to our Parish through the sacrament of Baptism:

**Hugo George Morandi** son of Carl and Rebecca.

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

May Hugo grow in faith with the support of her family and our Catholic Community.

**Wisdom At the Cathedral** All are welcome to the first talk for the year in the Cathedral parish's series Wisdom at the Cathedral. Fr Bill Lowry from the Warrnambool parish, will speak on *Discerning God's Will in Your Life*. Learn about the processes employed by the saints and the Lord himself in discerning the Father's will for their lives. The talk and discussion time will go for an hour and will be followed by a cup of tea. 7pm sharp, Thursday 29 February in the MacKillop/Glowrey rooms. Entry by donation. For all enquiries please contact Fiona Bradley on [fionalouisebradley@gmail.com](mailto:fionalouisebradley@gmail.com).

**Mass of the Oils 2024 & 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat**  
The Mass of the Oils this year will incorporate acknowledgement of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat and will be held on Monday, March 25, 2024 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 11.30am (please note change of time). Lunch and displays will follow in the Hall. At the Mass we are inviting 1 – 2 volunteers from each parish to present a symbol or photo that best represents their parish. Many parishes have multiple communities, so the symbol or photo can represent the whole parish or it can be something from the different communities. The symbol/photo framed should be 5in x 7in (12cm x 17.5cm) or for the larger parishes who may need more room, up to 8in x 10in (20cm x 25cm) size framed.

St Columba's Feb 18th		Sunday 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG	Tony Beggs	
COMMENTATOR	Fiona Newton	
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Anthea Hinchey	
COMMUNION MINISTER	Judy Brown	
DIGITAL PROJECTOR	Bruce Chapman	
SACRISTAN	Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe	

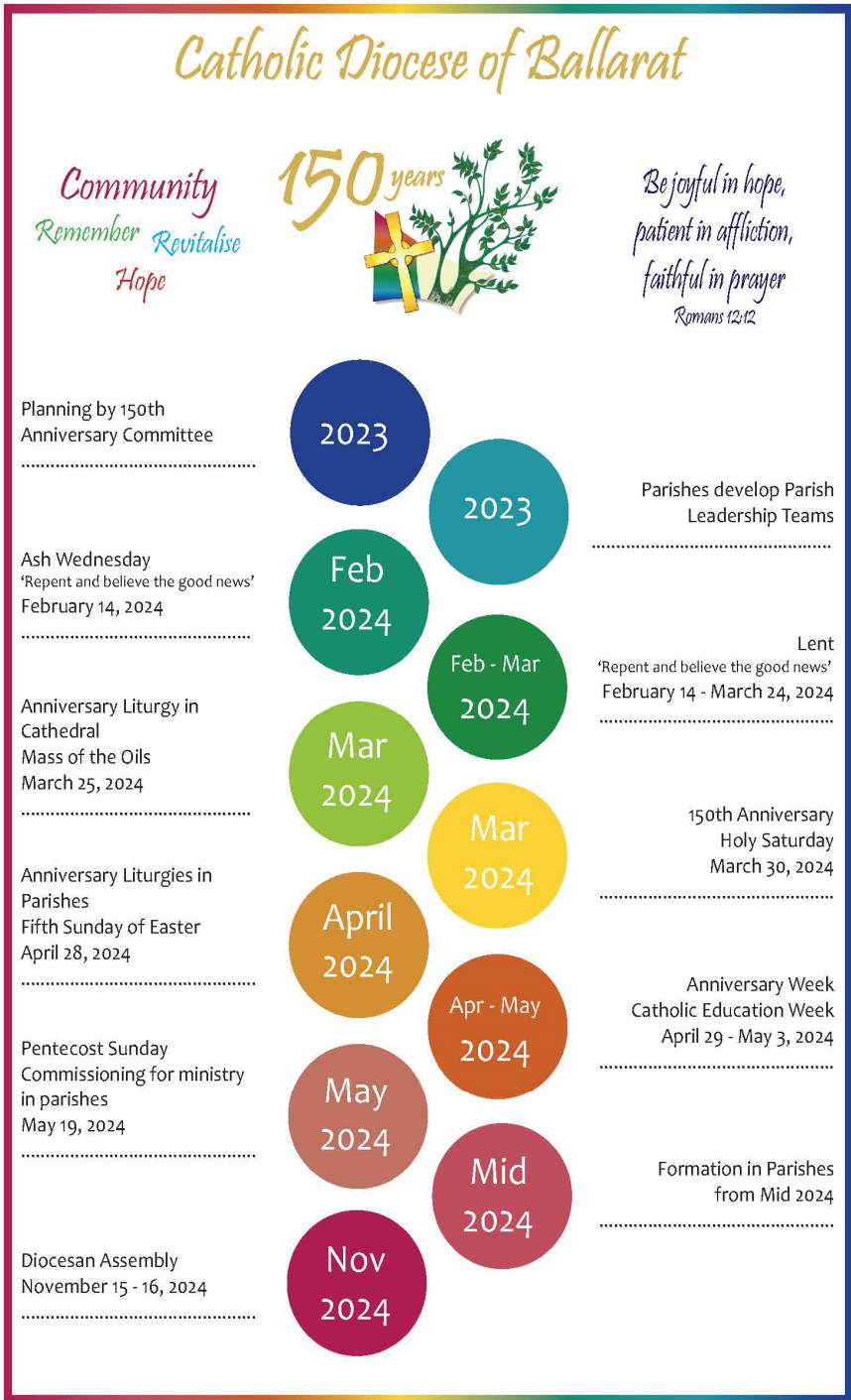
**Collections Last Weekend Columba's** Thank you for your contributions.

Presbytery: \$ 388.60 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 670.00

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

*The Parishes of St. Columba's Ballarat North and Our Lady Help of Christians Wendouree recognise the traditional owners of parish lands. We acknowledge their ancestors with respect and we are committed to working for justice and reconciliation.*

**150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat** The Diocese of Ballarat will turn 150 on March 30, 2024. This year there will be many events to acknowledge this significant anniversary. Keep up-to-date at the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/our-diocese/150th-anniversary-of-the-diocese-of-ballarat/>



**Project Compassion**  
**Sunday**  
**10 & 11 February**



Please take home a Project Compassion box or set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and **for all future generations**.

With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction.

Project Compassion 2024 reminds us that the good that we do today will extend and impact the lives of generations to come. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **for all future generations**.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by calling 1800 024 413.



**World Day of the Sick: Sunday, February 11, 2024** In his message to mark the 32nd World Day of the Sick on February 11, Pope Francis reflected on the way serious illness could cause

vulnerability, uncertainty and insecurity. For resources and to read Pope Francis' message, go to the diocesan website [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)

**Pope's intention for February- For the terminally ill:** Let us pray that the sick who are in the final stages of life, and their families, receive the necessary medical and human care and accompaniment.

OLHC Feb 17th	(next week)	Saturday 6.00pm
LEADER OF SONG	Sue Searls	
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL	Elly Green	
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Trish Pora & Laureen Rhodes	
COMMUNION MINISTERS	Val Bourke & Harry Kennedy	
SACRISTAN	John & Sue Calistro	

**Collections Last weekend OLHC** Thank you for your contributions.

Presbytery: \$ 435.40

Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,565.00