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

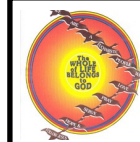
**Aboriginal Stations of the Cross available for purchase**

Within the chapel of Aboriginal Catholic Ministry in Thornbury, in Melbourne's inner north, a set of Indigenous Stations of the Cross are on display, which were created by artist 'John Dunn', a member of the Stolen Generations. These Stations are an exploration of his own journey and they illustrate beautifully how Aboriginal people resonate with the sufferings of Jesus. 10cm x 16cm resource sets are available for parishes, churches and school communities at \$15.00 each. For more information go to <https://art.catholic.org.au/2021/07/13/aboriginal-stations-of-the-cross/>

**COVID Safe Plan**

Checking-in is no longer a requirement. Face Masks are no longer required to be worn in most indoor settings but are recommended, particularly if you have any COVID-19 symptoms. They are also recommended for people who may be vulnerable to COVID-19 and are in settings where keeping a safe physical distance from other people is not possible.

- **If you are feeling unwell or have any symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough or sore throat) please do not attend Mass.**
- **If you are awaiting results of a COVID test, please stay home.**
- **Please use the hand sanitiser available upon entering the Church.**
- **Please do not touch any surfaces unnecessarily.**



**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)



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

**Office:** 306 Gregory St, Ballarat Nth **Phone:** 5331 1012  
**Email:** ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au

**Office:** 480a Gillies Street, Wendouree **Phone:** 5339 2302  
**Email:** wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au

**School Co-Principals:** Bambi Afford & Shaun Mohr  
**School Phone:** 5332 4894

**P O Box** 192, Wendouree  
**School Principal:** Leigh Bradshaw  
**School Phone:** 5339 4726

**Parish Priest:**

Fr Marcello Colasante

**Staffing**

**St Columba's**

Parish Co-Ordinator: Lia Andanar Yu  
Wed-Friday 10:00am –2:00pm

Our 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  
Wednesday 10.00 am Holy Innocents

**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  
Thursday 10.00 am  
Friday 10.00 am Holy Family

**Readings for Next Weekend:**

Nm 6:22-27  
Ps 66: 2-3, 5, 6, 8.  
R. v.2  
Gal 4:4-7  
Lk 2:16-21



**25th December 2022 ~ The Nativity of the Lord ~ Christmas Yr A**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

The readings for the Christmas liturgies vary from celebration to celebration. The prologue to Matthew's gospel provides the first part of the gospel for the Christmas Vigil Mass. The first two words of the gospel (biblos geneseōs) evoke the first words of the Book of Genesis and thus locate the child to be born within the broad sweep of the birth of the cosmos. At the same time, the child Jesus is identified as Messiah or Christos (the anointed of God) and descendant of Israel's ancestors, Abraham and David. His name is symbolic of the salvation or liberation he will bring for "his people". At this time of Earth's distress, we are conscious of our need to be saved from our "sins" which include our capacity to destroy God's world for selfish gain.

The gospel for Midnight Mass (Luke 2:1-14) comes from the great story-teller, Luke, as does the gospel for the early morning Mass (Luke 2:15-20). Luke tells us that Jesus was born into the world of the Roman Empire during the reign of Caesar Augustus. In his lifetime, Augustus was acclaimed by the people as saviour of the world, son of God, and bringer of peace, albeit by violent means. Luke's communities at the end of the first century would have known the achievements and reputation of Caesar Augustus. These early Christians would have recognised in Luke's story of the birth of Jesus a very deliberate attempt to proclaim Jesus rather than Caesar Augustus as the face of God, as saviour of the world and as bringer of the good news of peace. Luke is a master storyteller. He weaves, from Israel's sacred history and from what he knows about Jesus' origins, a wonderful tapestry of life and hope for the world, a tapestry that unites the heavenly, the human, and the animal world in one great act of praise. The violence that brought the "peace" of the Caesars to the Roman Empire has no place in this scene. The peace of Christ is the deep peace of non-violence and reconciliation. It is the peace that satisfies the longing of our hearts.

On Christmas morning, we hear the words of John's prologue. Once more, Earth's genealogy in Genesis 1 is evoked: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. The Word was in the beginning with God." The gospel then asserts that "all things came into being" through the Word and that "what has come into being was life and the life was the light of the people". These assertions prepare the way for the extraordinary statement that the Word was en-fleshed and tented among us. John brings home to us the momentous nature of the incarnation, the deep incarnation that embraces all of God's creation.

- Veronica Lawson RSM

**Responsorial Psalm:(R.)** All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! A holy day has dawned upon us. Come you nations and adore the Lord. Today a great light has come upon the earth. Alleluia!

**Recently Deceased: We commend to God:** Basil Torpy

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Helen Flynn, Julia Duffy, Margaret Maher, Jean McMahan, Lorna Lia

**We pray:** for the people of Ukraine, all who are sick and all in need of our prayers.

**Centralised Baptism Preparation Session** Parents planning to have their child baptised are required to attend a Baptism Preparation Session. Next session will be held at MacKillop and Glowrey Rooms of St. Patrick's Cathedral Hall, 3 Lyons St South, Ballarat, **Thursday February 2, 2023**. You may attend either the **10.00am** or **5.30pm** session.



**Vinnies Christmas Kindness Appeal** Aussie families are struggling to survive the increasing cost-of-living pressures this Christmas. Your generosity can provide urgent relief for a family who's doing it tough this Christmas and give them hope for a better future. To donate go to <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/christmas-appeal>

**Caritas Australia - Take action on climate change** As climate change damages our homes and land, the impact on our neighbours in the Pacific is extreme. Our voices, together, can get governments and polluters to take action to achieve climate justice and protect our common home. Sign the pledge at <https://www.caritas.org.au/act/climate-change-action/> to support Caritas Australia's climate action campaign.

**2023 Pilgrimage to the Holy Land** Expressions of interest are invited to join a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, June 11th - 24th 2023 - Jordan, Petra, Dead Sea, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Capernaum, Sea of Galilee, Jerusalem, Mt of Olives, Jericho, Qumran. Fully escorted, all inclusive pilgrimage accompanied by Fr Justin Driscoll and arranged through Lifestyle Travel in Ballarat. Contact Fr Justin for further information (Daylesford 0448 220 685) or [info@lifestyletravel.com.au](mailto:info@lifestyletravel.com.au)

**Parish Office hours over the Christmas period** Lia and Maree will both be taking leave during the month of January. Whilst the parish offices will not be staffed during this time, please make contact via email or phone parish offices (St Columba's 5331 1012. OLHC—5339 2302). In an emergency please contact St Patrick's Cathedral 5331 2933

St Columba's 1st Jan	(next week)	Sun 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG	~musicians on break in January~	
COMMENTATOR	Judy Brown	
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Fiona Newton	
COMMUNION MINISTER	Colleen Wakefield	
DIGITAL PROJECTOR	Bruce Chapman	
SACRISTAN	Volunteer please	

**Collections Last Weekend St Columba's** Thank you for your contributions  
 Presbytery: \$ 242.20 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,565.00

**Diocesan Christmas Appeal 2022** Our Christmas Appeal is one way in which the Diocese can respond to the many communities from near and far who turn to us for assistance. Christmas this year will have extra demands as we continue recovering from the pandemic and struggle with ever increasing costs of daily living. Thank you for your generous support of last year's appeal which was distributed as follows:



Appeal for Ukraine	\$10,000	
Catholic Mission	\$ 5,000	
Caritas Australia	\$ 5,000	
Nazareth House Ballarat	\$ 5,000	
Diocese of Lismore Flood Appeal	\$ 5,000	
St Vincent De Paul Victorian Flood Appeal	\$ 5,000	
St Columban's Mission, Peru	\$ 5,000	
Australian Catholic Religious...		
Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH)	<u>\$ 2,000</u>	\$42,000

In commending the Diocesan Christmas Appeal to you, an opportunity to contribute will be given at Mass on Christmas Eve.

**Thank you!** A sincere thank you to all involved in supporting the liturgical life of St. Columba's Parish. Many thanks to the generous parishioners who share their gifts of time and talents with our community. Your contribution enriches our celebrations. Thank you, too, to St Columba's school staff and students for their on-going support of our parish throughout the year. May God continue to bless you all!

**Competition for Jubilee 2025 Hymn** The Dicastery for Evangelization invites entries for the Hymn for the Holy Year 2025, encouraging interested persons to set to music a provided text which expresses the essence of the Jubilee event. Interested participants in the competition are invited to set to music a text proposed by the Dicastery's Section for Fundamental Questions regarding Evangelization in the World, which expresses the essence of the jubilee event. The hymn is intended to have a liturgical purpose and should be capable of being sung by a Church congregation and by a schola cantorum. Entries close on March 25, 2023. More information available from <http://www.evangelizatio.va/content/pcpne/en/news/giubileo-2022-09-19.html>



*Fr Marcello, along with Lia and Maree, wish all the members of our community a blessed and peaceful Christmas season and a safe and happy New Year! God bless!*

**OLHC Parish Wendouree Christmas Day Lunch** OLHC Parish Wendouree volunteers are hosting lunch on Christmas Day in the Parish Hall, 482 Gillies Street, Wendouree from 12.00noon – 2.00pm. Bookings are essential as seating is limited, ph. 0419 975914. Transport to the Hall is available. If you are able to volunteer on this day, please phone the number listed to register your availability.

**Praying with Pope Francis** The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) is an international movement that is more than 170 years old. Each month, the Pope puts forward a prayer intention and asks Catholics around the world to join him in prayer. These intentions cover all sorts of areas of life, encouraging faith, renewing hope and calling us to loving service. Praying each month 'The Pope Video' forms part of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network – view at [www.thepopevideo.org](http://www.thepopevideo.org)

**Pope's intention for December:** For volunteer not-for-profit organisations: We pray that volunteer non-profit organisations committed to human development, find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

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

**Christmas Mass Times throughout the Diocese of Ballarat** Please see: <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/christmas-mass-times-in-the-diocese/> or go to <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/> and check respective parish mass times.

OLHC 31st December	(next week)	Saturday 6.00pm
LEADER OF SONG	Vin Dillon	
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL	Kath Leonard	
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Trish Lawson & Jennifer Lawson	
COMMUNION MINISTERS	Helen Rieniets & Pauline Newman	
SACRISTAN	Lyn Gray & Kylie Gray	

**Collections last Weekend OLHC** Thank you for your contributions  
 Presbytery: \$ 351.95 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 265.00