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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 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.
- You no longer need to preregister for Masses. Please ensure you arrive 10 minutes before Mass to register your attendance.
- Contact tracing is required for all Masses. Please use the QR code on the door or sign the register in the foyer (please add your phone number if you are a visitor).
- Ensure that you maintain appropriate physical distancing at all times (1.5 metres).
- A face mask is optional whilst visiting the Church (you should carry it with you as per State Government guidelines)
- Please use the hand sanitiser available upon entering the Church.
- Please do not touch any surfaces unnecessarily.
- Once Mass has concluded, please leave the Church immediately afterwards to allow for cleaning of all surfaces.

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



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
Tuesday: 9am—12 noon

Wed-Friday 9:00am –1:00pm

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

Wednesday 10:00 am (Anointing)
Thursday 7:00 pm
Sunday 10:00am (Easter)

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

Friday 3:00pm
Saturday 7:00pm (Easter Vigil)

Readings for Next Weekend:

Acts 10:34, 37-43
Ps 117:1-2, 16-17, 22-23.
R. v.24 Col 3:1-4
Jn 20:1-9



28th March 2021 ~ Passion Sunday (B)

Focus on the Scriptures

The gospel account of the suffering and death of Jesus opens with the story of an insightful but unnamed woman who pours out healing ointment on the head of Jesus. We might reflect on the Eucharistic character of her actions of breaking and pouring and of Jesus' assurance that what she has done will be told in memory of her. She did "what she could". The story of her support for Jesus is sandwiched between two stories of opposition: an assassination plot on the part of the religious authorities, and the foreshadowing of Jesus' betrayal at the hands of a close follower. Status does not guarantee goodness or insight.

As the story unfolds, we hear that, despite his earlier instruction to "stay awake", Jesus' closest followers fall asleep when he most needs them. Worse than that, they betray, deny, and abandon him. Some Galilean women remain faithful. They have followed him and looked after him on the long journey from Galilee to Jerusalem. They become witnesses to his death and burial. These women will also discover the empty tomb and take the message of the resurrection to the male disciples. A foreign passer-by, Simon, whose sons are known to the Markan community, shoulders part of the burden. An ordinary Roman soldier realises and proclaims that Jesus is of God.

The story has come full circle: the first verse of the gospel announced the beginning of the good news of Jesus, the Christ and the Son of God. Now the reader understands what it means to make such a proclamation. The final chapter is to be celebrated next weekend. The mystery is to be lived every day of every week. As we enter into the holiest week of the liturgical year, we might consider our call to bring the power of Christ's redeeming love to those who suffer crucifixion in our own times: those whose health systems cannot cope in this time of pandemic; the more-than-human Earth community that suffers the effects of climate change; the desperate asylum seekers who await release after years in detention; the war-torn lands of Yemen and Syria.

Veronica Lawson rsm



Responsorial Psalm: (R) My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! Christ became obedient for us even to death dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Isaac Lund, Lawrence Norbury

Anniversaries: We remember: Len Hyatt, Maria Tochet, Fr Joseph Tran, Bill Walsh, Des Ryan, Peter Leonard, Julianne Spice, Adele Byrne

We pray: Those in need of our prayers; all the sick in our Parishes especially Jan Mullaly and Pat Hogan. For the success of the Plenary Council

Holy Week Liturgies in time of Covid-19 There will be a few changes this year as to how we will celebrate our Holy Week Liturgies:

Palm Sunday—you will need to bring your own palm, none will be provided. We will not gather in the foyer for the entry into Jerusalem (Ballarat North).

Holy Thursday—no washing of the feet and no procession to the Altar of Repose. The Blessed Sacrament will remain in the tabernacle. We invite people to stay and pray quietly in the Church until 9pm when the Church will be locked for the evening.

Good Friday—No Stations of the Cross walk up to Black Hill Lookout in the morning, *Way of the Cross* at Waubra will commence at 10:00 am. Registrations commence at 9:30 am. During the Passion at 3pm veneration of the Cross, you will be invited to bow before the Cross.

Easter Vigil—commences outside (with fire). Please dress warmly.

You can now for each of these ceremonies via Trybooking. Please ensure you are booking for the correct Mass. You may also book via the office.

Mass of the Last Supper St Columba's <https://www.trybooking.com/BPRSY>

Good Friday 3pm at OLHC <https://www.trybooking.com/BPWBN>

Easter Vigil at OLHC <http://www.trybooking.com/BPWBW>

Easter Sunday at St Columba's <https://www.trybooking.com/BPTZV>

HOLY WEEK CEREMONIES

Reconciliation	Tuesday 30th March 7pm	OLHC
Anointing Mass	Wednesday 31st March 10am	St Columba's
Mass of the Last Supper	Thursday 1st April 7pm	St Columba's
Good Friday Passion	Friday 2nd April 3pm	OLHC
Holy Saturday Vigil	Saturday 3rd April 7pm	OLHC
Easter Sunday Mass	Sunday 4th April 8.30am	Waubra
	Sunday 4th April 10am	St Columba's



Holy Week

Collections at St Columba's

We thank you for your generous support

1st Collection: \$ 245.40 2nd Collection (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$1,495.00



Project Compassion For over half a century, generations of Australians have participated in Project Compassion, supporting vulnerable communities before, during and after natural disasters, conflicts and crises – making it one of the nation's longest running charity campaigns. **Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 to help continue empowering vulnerable communities around the world lift themselves and their communities out of poverty.** You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

Catholic women invited to national consultation Catholic women are invited to participate in a national consultation with two bishops and to mark their diaries for a national gathering in September. The national consultation, which will take place on March 27 via Zoom, invites women to articulate and celebrate their contribution to and vision for the mission of the Catholic Church in Australia. More information available from the diocesan website or <https://mediablog.catholic.org.au/catholic-women-invited-to-national-consultation/>

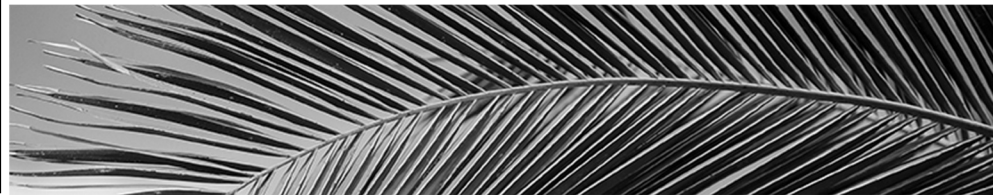
Lenten Resources - Week 5 The Sandhurst Diocese kindly shares their Lent 2021 leaflets which invite reflection on excerpts from Pope Francis' "Let us Dream", together with insights and suggestions for action from one of the Australian Plenary Council Thematic Discernment papers. The leaflets are for individual reflection or small group reflection and discussion. The theme for week 5 is, "How do we discern what God is asking?" These leaflets are available for download from the diocesan website Liturgy Resources page <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/liturgy-sacraments/liturgy-resources/>

Healing Our World Retreat – St Clement's Retreat Centre Galong NSW

If you have an interest in the global health crisis and ecosystem restoration you would find this retreat beneficial. An Australian Ecumenical Response to the health crises drawing on: *Laudato Si'* - On Care for our Common Home & 7-year action plan; *Fratelli Tutti* - Fraternity & Social Friendship; The Economy of Francesco - A Response to the world's inequalities; United Nations Decade of Ecosystem Restoration from 2021-2030. Retreat run from October 5-8, 2021 and program cost is \$300. Accommodation options are ensuite room \$400 or shared facilities \$350. To register or expressions of interest email info@stclement.com.au or ph. 02 6380 5222.

Areté Centre for Missionary Leadership Effective and enduring ministry requires sound theological knowledge coupled with the dynamic and life changing encounter with the living God. The Arété Centre brings together these two realities to aspire pastoral and ministry leaders to excellence in servant leadership, to live up to their God-given potential and to grow in knowledge needed for the Church's mission in the world today. The Arété Centre is for those who wish to tap into the crucial exponential factor that can take their ministry to the next level of power and efficiency. More information available from www.aretecentre.org

Congratulations to Poppy Mae Powell, daughter of Emma and Andrew; who will be Baptized on Saturday evening at St Columba's Parish. We pray that she will grow in faith with the loving support of her parents, godparents and our Parish community.



Year of St Joseph Monthly Reflections Each month during the year of St Joseph, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference will publish a reflection on the various aspects of St Joseph's life and character. Robert Falzon reflects on how St Joseph may have responded to his astonishing call to be the foster-father of Jesus and spouse of Mary. What does it mean for fathers and husbands in today's world? <https://catholic.org.au/yearofstjoseph>

Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Virtual Learning Program Our partners, Dayton University offer low-cost online study and formation for employed or volunteer lay workers in parish and other ministries. Study subjects over 3 and 5 week cycles. Study Cycle 3 begins April 11. This cycle is mostly 3 week courses. Registrations are now open for new and returning participants. For more information go to www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or email djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7121.

Year of the Family Pope Francis launched the "Amoris Laetitia Family Year" on March 19, the 5th anniversary of the publication of his Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris laetitia*, a document on the beauty and joy of love in the family. The year will conclude on June 26, 2022 on the occasion of the 10th World Meeting of Families in Rome with the Holy Father. The launch was a virtual event entitled, "Our Daily Love", organised by the Vatican Dicastery for the Laity, the Family and Life, the Diocese of Rome and the Pontifical John Paul II Theological Institute, all based in Rome. The event is available to view online at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCk14OUXU7_LBguDrPZQKsng

We pray for women and families impacted by violence Catholic Social Services Victoria have provided a number of resources to assist with the prevention of the devastating impact of violence against women and families. They have developed a poster with some key telephone numbers that can be placed in your parish or school office should someone seek help — on a noticeboard to catch someone's eye, or sent around electronically to increase awareness of options and what services are available to assist someone if they are facing issues of domestic violence. Go to <https://www.css.org.au/Article-View/Article/23892/Pope-Francis-prayer-intention-for-February-for-women-who-are-victims-of-violence#.YD71cWgzaCg>

Celebrating 60 years of Catholic Education in Wendouree - Save the Date Our Lady Help of Christians School, Wendouree will celebrate 60 years of Catholic Education in Wendouree on Friday, October 15, 2021. Register for event updates on the OLHC Wendouree school website www.olhcwendouree.catholic.edu.au or by contact the school office, ph. 5339 4726.

Aid to the Church in Need Australia As we approach the Holy Season of Easter consider offering up a Mass for your loved ones and supporting priests in need. The Mass will be offered up for your intentions by priests in the poorest parts of the world who have no other means of support. You can also send them a Mass card. Visit www.aidtochurch.org/ways-to-give/mass-offerings

Amnesty Group of Ballarat invites you to join us on a Palm Sunday Justice Walk in support of refugees: Sunday 28th March, Meet at 2:00 pm at View Point, Lake Wendouree and walking to the Olympic Rings.

Collections at OLHC

We thank you for your generous support

1st Collection: \$ 639.00 2nd Collection (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 617.00