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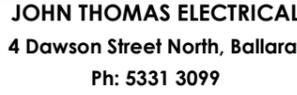
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**Child Safe Church** The Parishes of St Columba's & Our Lady Help of Christians (including Lexton, Miners Rest and Waubra) follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards as directed 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



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**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  
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**  
Saturday 5:00 pm  
Wednesday 10:00 am  
Friday 10:30 am Funeral

**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**  
Sunday 10:00 am  
Thursday 10:00 am  
Friday No Mass

**Readings for Next Weekend:**  
Acts 10:25-26. 34-35. 44-48  
Ps 97:1-4. R. see v.2  
1 Jn 4:7-10  
Jn 15:9-17



**2nd May 2021 ~ Fifth Sunday of Easter (B)**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

Again and again, life's experiences teach us that, as members of the Earth community, we cannot make it on our own. We need one another, other living beings, the sun, the soil, the water and everything else that formed from exploding stars in the distant past. The gospel reading reminds us that as baptised Christians we are not just intimately interlinked but that the source of our unity is the Risen Christ. As limbs and leaves and sap of the same vine, we simply cannot survive in isolation.

The vine image picks up one of the most potent biblical images for God's relationship to the people of Israel. It is an image of life and growth, of colour and vibrancy. It holds the promise of a life-sustaining grape harvest that is ultimately transformed into wine, the biblical symbol for joy. God brought Israel "the vine" out of Egypt (Psalm 80:9). For the prophet Isaiah, Israel is also a vineyard planted and nurtured by God (5:1-7; 27:3). For Jeremiah, Israel is the choice vine "of fully tested stock" planted by God (2:21).

The Johannine Jesus makes the claim: "I am the true vine/vineyard" and God is the "vinegrower". He goes further: "I am the vine/vineyard and you are the branches". The potency of this image resides in the fact that a vine without branches is inconceivable. It draws us into the mystery of the mutual interchange of life between us and the risen Christ, into the mystery of God. It also invites us to acknowledge our interconnection with the whole of the Earth community, to nurture the wonderful biodiversity of our planet, and to accept the inevitability of "pruning" if we are to "bear fruit" and "become disciples".

"Pruning" can take various forms. A chance encounter, a sudden inspiration, a word from a friend, an unexpected illness, a confronting story: any such experience can bring us to our senses and serve as a "pruning" device. The first reading for today recounts the story of Saul of Tarsus who is "pruned" quite dramatically through his encounter with the Risen Christ on the road to Damascus. He is transformed from persecutor to defender of Christ and Christ's followers. Saul becomes a disciple and "bears much fruit". The Greek-speaking Christian Jews are suspicious, even murderous, when he tries to preach the gospel among them. Peace ensues, however, and the movement takes hold in the regions where Jesus had first preached the gospel. It is worth reflecting on the cultural diversity that characterised earliest Christianity and the tensions that had to be resolved between different language groups or groups of different ethnic origin for the gospel to flourish and bear fruit. John's gospel is written against the backdrop of such "pruning" within the early communities. Sometimes the requisite "pruning" is hearing respectfully a point of view that differs from one's own. **Veronica Lawson rsm**



**Responsorial Psalm:** (R.) I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.  
**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit. Alleluia!

**Recently Deceased: We commend to God:** June De Beer, Fr. Peter Jones S.J., Denise Collins, Rosa Hill

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Christopher Waight, Catherine Anderson

**We pray:** Those in need of our prayers; all the sick in our Parishes especially Jan Mullaly, Francis Dorrington and Pat Hogan. For the success of the Plenary Council. For children beginning their preparation for Sacraments of Confirmation (OLHC) and First Eucharist (St Columba's)

**St Columba's St Vincent de Paul** would like your prayerful support, as we seek to find new members to enable us to continue to support the needy in our Ballarat North community. If you would like to discuss this with someone on the committee, speak with Josie or Tim after Mass, or contact the Parish Office, Thank you.

**Diocesan Liturgical Commission Membership** is currently seeking new members from all areas of the diocese. Membership is for an initial term of three (3) years with the option of two further terms (3 years per term). The Commission meets five times per year in Ballarat. Video linking facilities are available for meetings. All members of the Commission must hold a current Working with Children check or VIT (Victorian Institute of Teaching) registration. The Charter of the Liturgical Commission is available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/liturgy-sacraments/diocesan-liturgical-commission/>. Expressions of interest can be forwarded to [liturgy@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:liturgy@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

**Get vaccinated for the common good** Vaccination against COVID-19 is a morally good thing, providing protection for the person vaccinated and the wider community. Some COVID-19 vaccines are associated with ethically questionable production and research practices, but Pope Francis and the Australian Bishops have advised that it is morally permissible to receive any vaccine made available. More information is available at <https://www.catholic.org.au/coronavirus>. A media release and FAQ information from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference is available from the diocesan website "news" section <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/catholics-in-australia-encouraged-to-receive-covid-19-vaccine/>

**Contact tracing** please ensure you sign in using the QR code if you have a phone app to do so. To assist us in managing the numbers in the Church please also sign in at the registration desk. It is a state government requirement that we keep all records for 28 days, after which time they are destroyed. We thank you for your assistance.

**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#.YD7lcWgzaCg>

**Collections at St Columba's**

**We thank you for your generous support**

1st Collection: \$ 271.40 2nd Collection (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,170.00

St Columba's 8th May (next week)	Sat 5pm
REGISTRATION	Judith
COMMENTATOR	Jennifer Adams
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Terry Ranger
OVERHEADS	Volunteer please
SACRISTAN	Josie

**A way to re-ignite the spark** An invitation to all in the diocese to join a conversation about faith during and after COVID-19, looking at people's experiences, where to next and how does the Plenary Council fit in. Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 7.00pm via zoom – you can zoom in yourself or perhaps organise a zoom gathering in your local community and join together. Please register with Jane Collins [jane.collins@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:jane.collins@ballarat.catholic.org.au) and details will be sent.

**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](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) or email [djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or ph. 5337 7121.

**A prayer request** We remember to pray for all our young people in our Diocese and their future. They are the present, future and hope of the Church. God has a plan and hope for all of them to live out their vocational call whatever that may be - marriage, the single life and also amongst them are some who would make a good priest or religious. Holy Hours with prayer before the Blessed Sacrament are good opportunities for the parish to gather in silence to listen, discern and pray for the future of our young people. Let us support them and those entrusted to their formation especially parents, educators and role models, with our prayers.

**Enquiry Day for prospective Seminarians at Corpus Christi College - May 22, 2021** An Enquiry Day for any young man who is interested to know more about a Diocesan Priestly vocation will be held at Corpus Christi College Carlton for all dioceses in the province. If you know of anyone who may be interested, please email [Edward.moloney@cam.org.au](mailto:Edward.moloney@cam.org.au) or [james.kerr@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:james.kerr@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

**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](http://www.olhcwendouree.catholic.edu.au) or by contact the school office, ph. 5339 4726.

**OLHC Confirmation** program has commenced. Confirmation will be celebrated on Sunday 23rd may at 10:00 am. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers. Workshop 1 will be held on Tuesday May 4th at 7:00 pm in the Mercy Centre (M-Pac).



**Baptism at OLHC** Welcome into the parish family Maggie Mae Munari, daughter of Emma and Ashley, and Pippa Cathie Anderton, daughter of Pamela and David. May Pippa and Maggie flourish in the loving care of family and our parish community.

**Palms Australia** Share your skills to help develop the capacity of overseas organisations and the abilities of their people. Low-income communities seek sustainable solutions to poverty, not through money or gifts, but by building self-reliance. All trades and professions are called to assist this mission. Enquire now to properly prepare for a placement in 2022. Join our online Info Zoom on 2 May, visit [palms.org.au](http://palms.org.au), or call Palms now on 02 9560 5333

**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/UCk14OUXU7LBguDrPZQKsng>

**Marriage Encounter Weekend** An opportunity to spend a weekend improving your communication. Come and learn how to keep/rekindle the passion in your relationship and how to keep your love growing! The weekend we offer is based around Catholic values but couples of all faiths are welcome. The next residential weekend is on 21 -23 May 2021 in Wantirna South (Book early to avoid disappointment. Information/Bookings: Phone Mercy & James 0409 183 676 or **Email:** [vicbookings@wwme.org.au](mailto:vicbookings@wwme.org.au) **Website:** [wwme.org.au](http://wwme.org.au)



**Our Diocesan Community** magazine is available in the church foyer for collection by parishioners.

**Annual Mass Count:** The Diocesan Annual Mass count commences this weekend, and will continue for throughout May.

**Collections at OLHC**

**We thank you for your generous support**

1st Collection: \$ 323.00 2nd Collection (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 500.00

OLHC 9th May (next week)	Sunday 10am
LEADER OF SONG	Corrie Harbour
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL	Elly Green
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Zeena Laurence
COMMUNION MINISTERS	Bev Hayward & Pauline Newman
SACRISTAN & REGISTRATION	Geoff & Marg McLean