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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 or ballaratnorth@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.



OLHC Parish QR Code



Waubra QR Code



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)



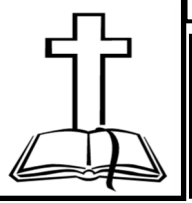
Office: 306 Gregory St, Ballarat Nth **Phone:** 5331 1012
Email: ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ballaratnorthpastoral@ballarat.catholic.org.au
School Co-Principals: Bambi Afford & Shaun Mohr
School Phone: 5332 4894

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
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 10:00 am

Readings for Next Weekend:
Dt 4:1-2. 6-8
Ps 14:2-5. R. v.1
Jas 1:17-18, 21-22, 27
Mk 7:1-8. 14-15. 21-23



22nd August 2021 ~ 22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Focus on the Scriptures
For the last few weeks we have heard a number of readings from chapter 6 of the Gospel of John focusing on the teaching of Jesus that he is the Bread of Life, come down from heaven. This reading is the last in the sequence and shows the reaction to Jesus' teaching. What Jesus has been saying in this discourse is incredibly confronting to his Jewish audience. Jesus asserts that he has come down from heaven – from the Father – and that through knowing him one can know the Father. Jews were the first people to have a concept of one God. This belief did not allow for any spouse or child of God, nor any personal manifestation. They struggled with what Jesus was saying because his claim to have come down from heaven could be seen as blasphemous. No wonder many of them walked away from Jesus and wanted nothing more to do with him!
Jesus gives an interesting response to them. He tells them that it is the spirit that is important, not his human flesh, and that the spirit is what he has been sharing with them through his words and actions. He is trying to say to these faithful Jews, don't be hung up about the fact that I'm here in person, listen to my message as you've never heard it before. It is an interesting thought for our modern audience as well. How often do we fail to hear the message of Jesus because we are dismissive of the way in which it comes to us; the messenger; or the circumstances in which we hear it? The message is all the more confronting when it comes from an unlikely (or even un-likable) source. The message of Jesus is to be found in our everyday encounters with everyday people.
© Greg Sunter



Responsorial Psalm: (R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Your words, Lord, are spirit and life: you have the words of everlasting life. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Marlene Van Vugt and Frank Nichol
Anniversaries: We remember: Bill Maguire, Tess Maguire, Noel McNulty, Terry Beggs, Gwen O'Connor, Kevin Nester, Sean McKinnon, Peter McMahon
We pray: Those in need of our prayers; all the sick in our Parishes. Those preparing to receive the Sacraments of Initiation.

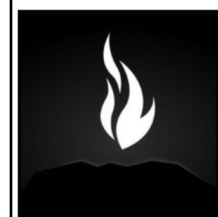
Vinnies launches 2021 Winter Appeal to support homelessness

As Vinnies responds to a growing demand for services following the end of Job Keeper and cuts to Job Seeker, the National Council of St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia is calling for donations to help support the rising number of people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, including children, which have all been exacerbated by the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Society provides vital services and support for individuals and families facing financial hardship. With generous support from the public, Vinnies aims to maintain the dignity of those on the edge and restore hope to people who have fallen on hard times. To donate go to <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/winter-appeal>. Thank you for your financial support.



Expressions of Interest are being sort for membership of the Diocesan Finance Council, the Committee of Management of the Catholic Development Fund and the Board of the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat Foundation Ballarat's Diocesan Finance Council, the Committee of Management of the Catholic Development Fund, and the Board of the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat Foundation are seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified people (women and men) to join the advisory council, the advisory committee as well as the Foundation's Board. We are seeking persons from across the Diocese who have experience in one or more of the following areas: Corporate Governance; Finance, Banking; Legal; and Philanthropy. Successful candidates will demonstrate a genuine commitment to the ethos and values of the Catholic Church, and possess personal qualities of integrity, collaborative approach, sound judgement, and excellent communication skills. More information is available at the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/expressions-of-interest-are-being-sort-for-membership-of-the-diocesan-finance-council-the-committee-of-management-of-the-catholic-development-fund-and-the-board-of-the-catholic-diocese-of-ballarat-f/> or contact Andrew Jirik, Diocesan Business Manager, ph. 5337 7126.

Masses at the weekend we are back, but still with restricted numbers. OLHC is permitted to have 82 attendees. Masks and hand sanitizer use are required.



Reconciliation Preparation for OLHC candidates will commence with the 1st Workshop on Tuesday, August 24th at 7:00 pm. Workshop 2 will be held on 31st August. The celebration of First Reconciliation is scheduled for Tuesday, September 7th at 7:00 pm. Enrolment forms for Reconciliation & First Communion are available through the Parish Office or the church foyer.

Collections at St Columba's We thank you for your generous support
 Presbytery: \$ 513.35 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 3,540.00

| St Columba's 28th Aug | (next week) | Sat 5pm |
|-----------------------|-------------|---------------|
| REGISTRATION | | Volunteer |
| COMMENTATOR | | Vicki Moroney |
| MINISTER OF THE WORD | | Peter Dalton |
| COMMUNION MINISTER | | Ruth Marquand |
| OVERHEADS | | Volunteer |
| SACRISTAN | | Josie Crowe |

Plenary Council Prayer Campaign Fan the Flame: Towards Plenary Assembly One October 2021 "Do not be afraid; only have faith." Mark 5:21-24,35-43. While being conscious of the work to be done, we also have much to be thankful for. There are many signs of hope in that members of the faithful persevere with the practice of the faith... and are living their commitment to love of neighbour in myriad ways. www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fanthefflame/



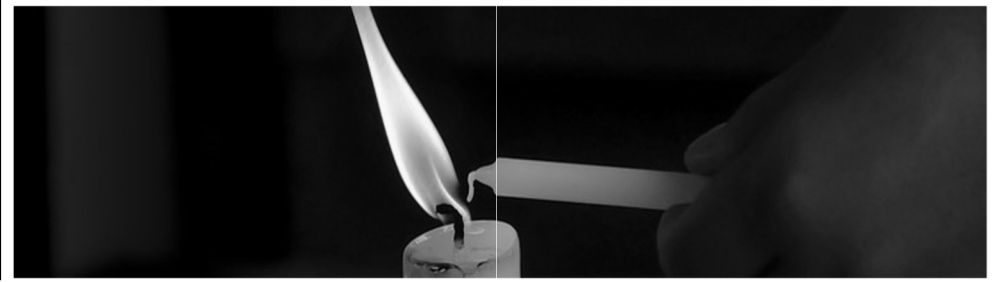
Social Justice Sunday We celebrate Social Justice Sunday on the 29th of August. The Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement, *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*, invites us to join in responding to Pope Francis' invitation to take a seven-year journey towards total ecological sustainability guided by seven Laudato Si' Goals. The Statement provides theological foundations to ground and inspire our efforts to care for creation while responding to the needs of the disadvantaged and excluded. More information: ACBC Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace, Tel (02) 6201 9845 or www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au

Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Virtual Learning Program Our partner, Dayton University, offers low-cost online study (\$50usd) and formation for employed or volunteer lay workers in parish and other ministries. Study subjects over 3 and 5 week cycles. Study Cycle 6 begins August 22. Registrations are open now until August 13 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.

Aid to the Church in Need Australia: Please consider leaving an eternal legacy. By remembering ACN in your will you leave a lasting legacy of faith, hope and love. Your offering assists us to keep the light of faith shining brightly in a world which cries out for the peace that only Christ can offer. Visit www.aidtochurch.org/legacies

Oceania Pastoral Ministry Webinar - Being Alive in the Spirit Leisa Anslinger, Associate Director for Pastoral Vitality for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and the founder of Catholic Life and Faith, a centre for evangelization, stewardship, and servant leadership development, will join local presenters as we share how we continue to be Alive in the Spirit. The webinar will be held on Tuesday, August 24, 2021 from 10.00am – 11.30am (AEST) is open to everyone who seeks continual renewal in the Spirit. For more information go to <https://aliveinthespirit.com.au/oceania-webinar-with-leisa-anslinger/>

Major earthquake hits Haiti Caritas Australia's thoughts and prayers are with the people of the Haiti who have been devastated by a 7.2 magnitude earthquake. Over 1,400 people have died and thousands more left injured. Homes, churches and schools have been damaged in the quake, and reports indicate that more than 30,000 families have been left homeless. The country also continues to grapple with COVID-19, poverty, and ongoing political instability and violence. There is immediate and urgent need for food, water, shelter, hygiene kits and first aid on the ground. To provide support, you can donate to Caritas Australia's Emergency Response Appeal. Donate today at www.caritas.org.au or by calling 1800 024 413 toll free.



Year of St Joseph Monthly Reflection 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. Lara Kirk, Marriage, Family and Relationships Co-ordinator for the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn, reflects on "The Holy Family" <https://catholic.org.au/yearofstjoseph>

Our Diocesan Community – Issue 2 2021 ODC Issue 2, 2021 is available for collection from the church foyer,

National Day of Prayer – The Church Together: Sunday, August 22, 2021 The team at the National Day of Prayer & Fasting, in consultation with many church leaders and prayer networks, including Bishop Philip Huggins and the National Council of Churches, is calling Australia to unite in prayer in the light of the current COVID-19 crisis. The theme is found in this beautiful liturgical prayer: "Lord have mercy — Jesus have mercy". We encourage you to pray in your own church and in your own way at this time. To facilitate a national prayer focus, the team at the National Day of Prayer & Fasting are providing the following prayer resources and opportunities: * Every day from Monday 16 – Sunday, August 22 a Daily Devotion will be sent out to those who register. Each Daily Devotion will include a prayer from a different Church leader. * Every night from 8.00pm AEST, Monday 16 – Sunday, August 22 a nightly Prayer Call will take place with input from a different church leader each night.* On Sunday, August 22 from 9.00am – 9.00pm the National Day of Prayer & Fasting team will host a Zoom Prayer call featuring Church leaders and Indigenous Christian Leaders. Come for a short while or come for a long while. Let us join in prayer for our nation. * Register at <http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org.au/LordHaveMercy/>

"Mission: one heart many voices" Virtual Conference Inspired by Jesus, this conference will focus on themes of encounter on the margins, inclusion, governance and syndality and challenge you to consider contemporary Mission in light of Pope Francis' teaching, witness and vision of liminal leadership in mission. The Conference is from September 1-3, 2021 and is being convened by Catholic Religious Australia in conjunction with Catholic Mission. Perhaps your parish may wish to host a forum and invite members of your community to attend and share this experience together. An opportunity not to be missed. <https://2021.mohmv.com.au/>.

OLHC Garden: The garden at OLHC is in need of renovation and rose-pruning. If you are able to assist in any way please contact Sandra Dillon (0438 448 942) or John Calistro. We anticipate 2 hours followed by take-away pizza and a drink (all COVID-safe of course). If you can help for a single time or each time, this will be appreciated enormously and will make the area more welcoming.



Collections at OLHC We thank you for your generous support
 Presbytery: \$ 600.90 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 2,100.00

| OLHC 29th August | (next week) | Sunday 10am |
|----------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| LEADER OF SONG | | Corrie Harbour |
| PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL | | Robyn Clark |
| FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD | | Mario Cordioli |
| COMMUNION MINISTERS | | Bev Hayward & Pauline Newman |
| SACRISTAN & REGISTRATION | | Geoff & Marg McLean |