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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)



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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.



St Columba's Parish 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](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) or [ballaratnorthpastoral@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto: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](mailto: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  
Thursday 10.00 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  
Friday 10:00 am

**Readings for Next Weekend:**  
Jos 24:1-2. 15-18  
Ps 33:2-3. 16-23. R. v.9  
Eph 5:21-32  
Jn 6:60-69



**15th August 2021 ~ The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

**Focus on the Scriptures**  
A visit to the Dormition Abbey in Jerusalem in 1973 was a moment of enlightenment for me, a moment to reflect on Mary's life, her death and her "assumption" to the fulness of life in God. Just over five years ago, the Greek Orthodox Church of the Dormition in Aleppo, Syria, was badly damaged by an underground explosion, yet another victim of a cruel war. The news report of that tragedy reminded me that Orthodox Christians and Eastern Catholics have long celebrated the "Holy Sleep" or "Dormition" of the Virgin Mary. Mary's "sleep", the reunion of her whole being with God, is celebrated as the feast of the "Assumption" in the Latin Rite. On November 1, 1950, Pope Pius XII defined Mary's assumption as a dogma of the Catholic faith, a dogma grounded in tradition.

Today's gospel offers the story of the young pregnant Mary travelling "in haste" from her home town of Nazareth to a town in the hill country of Judaea, some 130 kilometres to the south, to be with her cousin Elizabeth who is also pregnant. The details of that long and demanding journey are left to our imagination. In the loving embrace of the two women, the Spirit-filled life gestating within Mary encounters and physically affects the life that is coming to birth in Elizabeth. Elizabeth's words resound throughout the ages in the prayer we know as the Hail Mary: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb..." These words are addressed by one prophetic woman to another prophetic woman. Elizabeth recognises that Mary is blessed by God because she believed that God's promise to her would be fulfilled. Elizabeth gives expression to the faith that is to be embraced by all those who accept that Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Mary of Nazareth, is the Holy One of God (Luke 1:35). The lives of both women have been transformed through the power of God's Spirit. The birth of their children will usher in an unprecedented event in human history.

Elizabeth's proclamation of the blessing of God on Mary is found daily on the lips of countless faith-filled Christians across the globe. In our times, God's blessing on the Earth community can only become a reality when, like Mary, we open our hearts to a world in need, when we learn to read the signs of the times and work together to address the underlying causes of global distress. This gospel story invites us to ponder the various ways that God calls us to sustain life. We might turn for inspiration to Mary who, as theologian Elizabeth Johnson reminds us, is "truly our sister". Though pregnant, Mary was prepared to do "the hard yards", the whole 130 kilometres, to be with an older cousin in need. Celebrating this feast might mean doing the hard yards by "being there" for someone in need despite the personal cost.  
Veronica Lawson rsm



**Responsorial Psalm:** (R.) The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold.  
**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Mary is taken up to heaven, and the angels of God shout for joy.

**Recently Deceased:** We commend to God: Sonja Gavranic  
**Anniversaries: We remember:** John Brusaschi, Lesley Bigarelli, Mary Ursula Caine rsm, Mavis McKeegan, Judith Johnstone, Neil Woods, Jack Nutthall  
**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> and St Columba's Church foyers. 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. Please register to attend a weekend Mass until restrictions are further lifted.

**Bishop Paul's Visitation at St Columba's** been rescheduled to next week 20-23rd August. We will have the same schedule as previously advertised:

Friday meet and greet with PPC & Finance Committees, Saturday evening vigil 5pm and Sunday morning Mass 10am. He has also made himself available for individual interviews if you would like to meet with him.

You will need to register for the 5pm and 10am Mass via the office.

**Collections at St Columba's We thank you for your generous support**

Presbytery: \$ Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 180.00

St Columba's 21st August	(next week)	Sat 5pm
REGISTRATION		Judith
COMMENTATOR		Colleen Wakefield
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Ann Lacey
COMMUNION MINISTER		Peter Marquand
OVERHEADS		Bruce Chapman
SACRISTAN		Volunteer

**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. (Instrumentum Laboris #193) [www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fanthefflame/](http://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](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au)

**CSSV Mission Inspired Leadership Program 2021**The Mission Inspired Leadership program is a professional development opportunity for senior leaders (Board members, CEOs, senior/executive managers and emerging leaders) in the Catholic social services sector and other affiliated organisations within health and education. It is designed for busy people so it is set up as four 1.5 hour workshops over four months. A mix of practical knowledge, conceptual challenge, and reflective practice, the program is a chance to spend a few hours hearing from experienced, relevant and highly skilled facilitators. It is a space to consider, share and encourage each other in the mission that all our organisations are a part of. This year each of these sessions will be run online via zoom, with an additional face-to-face 'cocktail' networking event in Melbourne for local participants in late November. Further information and sign up can be had here: <https://css.org.au/events/mil2021/>

**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](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.

**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](http://www.aidtochurch.org/legacies)

**Congratulations** to Emmi Rose Considine, daughter of Thomas and Nicole, who will be Baptized on Saturday evening during the vigil at St Columba's Parish. We pray she will grow in faith with the loving support of her parents, godparents and our parish community.



**RCIA update** Hailey and Keely will be received into the Church next Saturday evening during the Bishop's visit. Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare for this special day.



**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>

**Confirmation Candidates St Columba's** 48 candidates have been preparing by attending workshops over the past few weeks. They will receive the Sacraments during the next two weeks. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.



**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. Check it out at <https://2021.mohmv.com.au/>.

**Collections at OLHC We thank you for your generous support**

Presbytery: \$ Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 160.00

OLHC	(next week)	Sunday 10am
LEADER OF SONG		Sue Searls
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Lyn Gray
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD		Zeena Lazarus
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Val & John Bourke
SACRISTAN & REGISTRATION		John & sue Calsitro