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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.



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 (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 Vigil 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 (Funeral) 2.00 pm
Friday 10.00 am

Readings for Next Weekend:
Wis 2:12, 17-20
Ps 53:3-6. 8. R. v.6
Jas 3:16 - 4:3
Mk 9:30-37



12th September 2021 ~ 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Focus on the Scriptures

After Jesus spoke of a future involving personal suffering and political rejection Peter remonstrated with him. Jesus in turn rebuked Peter, explaining that such thinking was not of God. Much of the import of this short exchange seems to hinge on the openness of Jesus' assertions. Peter reacted not only to what Jesus said but the way he said it. Jesus' warnings were not given in secret but declared openly.

It is rather understandable that Peter was worried. Perhaps he thought that Jesus would attract unwanted attention from the authorities, or that his gloomy talk would put off potential followers. Either way, Jesus was having none of it. The truth, however dangerous or unpopular, should not be hidden.

Hearing this Gospel during the Season of Creation we might contemplate what truths get hushed up today. Do we encourage our leaders to speak openly about pollution and climate change, or do we collude in their silences? Does our society condemn or condone littering? Are our parishes in environmental denial, or models of sustainability and ecological responsibility? Ultimately, facing even the darkest future with hopeful action is a key part of Jesus' message. Christ's followers are called to bear their share of the cross and face tomorrow's problems today.

© Nick Brodie



Responsorial Psalm: (R.) I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! My only glory is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, which crucifies the world to me and me to the world.
Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Charlie Mallia, Sr Anne McMillan

Anniversaries: We remember: Margaret Hall, Danny Frawley, Elizabeth & Edmund Goodger, Giuseppe Finocchiaro, Michael Crowley, Joseph Davis, Nancy Davis, Basil Gregory, Walter Salo, Bill Armstrong, Chris Haintz Snr, Kevin McLaughlin, Kath Mora, Muriel Mugavin, Steven Molloy

We pray: Those in need of our prayers; all the sick in our Parishes, especially Greta Kelly, Dan Coutts, Jan Mullaly, Pat Hogan and Frank McNulty. For our RCIA candidates. Children preparing for Sacraments.

Season of Creation – September 1 – October 4, 2021 The Season of Creation is the time of year when the world's 2.2 billion Christians are invited to pray and care for creation. This prayerful season runs annually from September 1 through to October 4 – the Feast of St Francis of Assisi. The Season of Creation is dedicated to prayer, reflection and celebration of God as Creator. It also celebrates and reflects prayerfully on the gifts of creation and the mission given to us by God to care for creation and respond to its needs and crises today. This year our theme is 'A Home for All? Renewing the oikos of God' (one of the meanings for the ancient Greek word oikos is home.) Oikos is a home for all but our common home, the Earth, is now in danger because of people's greed, exploitation, disrespect, disconnection and systematic degradation. Resources to assist celebrate the Season of Creation are available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/catholic-earthcare-ballarat-diocese/season-of-creation-2021/>

Commission Climate Change Forum – Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission On November 6, 2021 the Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission will host a Climate Change Forum in Ballarat. Through this forum, we celebrate the launch of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Social Justice Statement 2021-2022 Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor. We are inviting you to share what you have for ecological justice. Do you market a product that is about sustainable practices and clean living? Maybe you know a thing or two about how to reduce carbon emissions. Do you have a particular skill in embracing nature and celebrating all things in the natural environment? We want to show the community what people are doing and this is an opportunity for you to share! It could be anything from how to make bees wax wraps, how to compost food scraps to how to recycle and make your own paper. Perhaps you have a wealth of gardening skills and can set up a stall to showcase them. Maybe you have information about how to save power and water. Get in touch with us and let us know what you've got! We would love to hear from you. Email social.justice@ballarat.catholic.org.au.

Treasuring Our Later Years' (Reflection series via ZOOM), 6 x Wednesdays, 22 September to 27 October 2021, 12.45pm-3pm. Facilitated by Nicole Rotaru rsm, this series offers participants the opportunity to explore new possibilities that ageing offers daily. It will include input, conversation and the opportunity to depth and integrate reflections and learnings through personal reflection and creative expressions. Topics covered include: ageing; spirituality; relationships; meaning; gratitude; death. Cost \$180 for the series, or \$30 per session. Bookings and payment via Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation website at www.heartoflife.melbourne For more information, contact email: secretary@heartoflife.melbourne or tel: (03) 9890 1101.

Masses following the recent announcement from the State Government we are permitted to regather for Masses but with the restricted number of 20 persons only. You will need to register to attend a Mass at the weekend and we will not be following our roster system while Mass numbers are restricted.

Catholic Mission Month Catholic Mission Australia has launched its annual World Mission Month Appeal, focusing on the work of the Good Shepherd Sisters in Thailand supporting children from vulnerable and disadvantaged backgrounds through the Kindergarten Centre. For more information go to <https://www.catholicmission.org.au/catholic-mission-launches-world-mission-month-appeal>

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Mass times: The impact of COVID-19 has resulted in reduced numbers of worshippers attending Mass in each parish. The number of people who have returned can be accommodated by the provision of one Mass in each Parish. On 10th March a combined gathering of parishioners from both parishes was held meeting to discuss Mass times. On 9th June representatives of each Parish Council met to share their thoughts.

Both gatherings were candid, cordial and respectful recognising that whatever decision is made not everyone will be pleased with the outcome. Embracing change is difficult.

Consensus was reached that neither parish seemed particularly concerned about whether they had the vigil Mass or the morning Mass; but for it to be the same time each week to give people a degree of certainty and predictability in organising their own personal routines. Across the 6 Ballarat Parishes, 4 Vigil Masses are celebrated, some in close proximity to each other. It seems reasonable that a vigil Mass be celebrated in Wendouree to cater for people who live in the North Western side of Greater Ballarat. And beyond.

With effect from the weekend of **9th/10th October 2021** the following Mass Times will apply:

Wendouree Saturday Vigil **6.00 pm**
Ballarat North Sunday **10.00 am**

Ballarat Clergy Support Fund Annual Appeal Collection for Sick and Retired Priests



Collection for Sick and Retired Priests

The Ballarat Clergy Support Fund relies on your generosity to enable it to continue supporting our sick and retired priests. You are still able to contribute, by using the special envelope provided, or in an envelope marked "Ballarat Clergy Support Fund".

A credit card facility is available for your convenience, and contributions over \$2.00 are tax-deductible.

CARING FOR THOSE WHO CARED FOR US – THE CHURCH COMMUNITY'S RESPONSIBILITY

Interfaith Forum at Ballarat – Sunday, September 12 The Ballarat Interfaith Network are hosting a forum, "Death, Sanctity of the Human Body, and Organ Donation" to be held on Sunday, September 12, 2021 from 2.00pm - 4.00pm at St Patrick Cathedral's Hall, Ballarat. Speaker topics are organ donation, blood donation and interfaith perspectives - Aboriginal, Baha'i, Christian, Hindu, Muslim, Sikh. Registration is essential, ph. 0400 650 234. This is a COVID compliant event – masks, QR check in, social distancing. Donor registration is available - bring Medicare card to facilitate.

From Bishop Paul From September 20, 2021, Fr Gary Jones, currently Parish Priest of Creswick and Daylesford, will become Parish Priest of Mortlake and Terang. For most of this year, Fr Mick McKinnon has been serving the communities of Mortlake and Terang while he has been waiting for an opportunity to travel to Peru for ministry there in collaboration with the Columbans. Fr Mick has recently received notification that he will be able to travel. I offer my thanks to Fr Mick for his care for the parishioners of Mortlake and Terang for these past months. He will continue as Administrator of these parishes until September 19.



Vale Sr Anne McMillan died peacefully at St John of God Hospital Wednesday, 8th September. Anne has been unwell for several months. In her early ministry she taught in Parish Schools in Ballarat and Robinvale. Her most significant contribution in the Ballarat Diocese was introducing the RCIA program. She was also involved in pastoral planning, liturgy and adult education. There are many throughout the Diocese who will be saddened by her death. May this great woman of Mercy rest in peace. The funeral arrangements will be provided at a later date. The funeral will be livestreamed from St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat.

Safeguarding Sunday This weekend, the Catholic Church in Australia marks Safeguarding Sunday, on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise and apologise for the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings. We recommit to practices that support survivors and make the Catholic Church and its ministries the safest possible place for children and people at risk. You can find out more about the Church's work in this area at: www.catholic.org.au/safeguardingsunday

Prayer for Safeguarding Sunday 2021

Gracious God, you love and care for all of your children, especially the smallest and most vulnerable. We entrust to you the lives of children and adults at risk who have been sexually abused, and whose trust and innocence have been destroyed. Help us to hear their cries of pain and to take responsibility for those whose lives have been broken. Help us to recognise the hurt felt by those wounded by abuse, and the failure to be heard. We pray that with the help of your grace communities and families will find understanding and support, so that now and in the future their wounds may be healed and they may find lasting peace. Let your grace and love fall gently now upon our children and adults at risk, giving them the inner strength, peace and resilience to seek out assistance when required. We ask this prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen

Bishops of Victoria stand in solidarity with our Afghani communities across Victoria The Catholic Bishops of Victoria have expressed their solidarity and support for the local Afghan community and their families back home in a joint statement. Read the statement on the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/cssv-stands-in-solidarity-with-our-afghani-communities-across-victoria/>

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