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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 Vigil T.B.A

**Our Lady Help of Christians**  
**Waubra** 1st & 3rd Sunday T.B.A  
**Beaufort** 2nd & 4th Sunday 8.30 am  
**Lexton** 5th Sunday 8.30 am  
**Wendouree**  
Sunday T.B.A

**Readings for Next Weekend:**

Nm 11:25-29  
Ps 18:8. 10. 12-14. R. v.9 Jas 5:1-6  
Mk 9:38-43. 45. 47-48



**19th September 2021 ~ 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

Who are the righteous? This is a question that holds little interest today. We are more concerned with the successful and the famous. We want people to be honest, at least in their dealings with us, but we are more apt to applaud those who are clever. We commend people for making a good deal, for knowing how to get ahead or striking it rich. We extol the beautiful, the strong, the self-assured, those who have made a name for themselves, those who entertain us. We encourage people to be ambitious. Seldom is popularity based on righteousness.

Yet righteousness is a pillar of the reign of God. Those who would enter that reign must be gentle and merciful, faithful and sincere, lovers of peace. They must be willing to take the last place, to be the servant of all. The righteous are not often held in high regard. They are often ridiculed and even persecuted. When they are considered a reproach to the standards of society, they may even be put to death.

There are times when we might be inclined to envy and resentment, not wanting to feel morally inferior, and we might relish the opportunity of putting the virtue of others to the test. We may say that we want to draw forth their strengths, when we really hope their weaknesses will be revealed and they will prove to be no better than we are. Sometimes the righteous have nowhere else to turn but to Jesus, whose life they are following and into whose death they have been plunged.

© Dianne Bergant

**Responsorial Psalm:** (R.) The Lord upholds my life

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! God has called us with the gospel to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

**Recently Deceased:** We commend to God: Greta Kelly

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Norm Donehue, Damian Van Den Linden, Mick McNamara, Kath Sullivan, Leonie Kelly, Francis Curran, Jack Clancy, Steven Molloy

**We pray:** Those in need of our prayers; all the sick in our Parishes, especially Dan Coutts, Jan Mullaly, Pat Hogan and Frank McNulty. Children preparing for Sacraments. For an end of the pandemic.

**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](mailto: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](http://www.heartoflife.melbourne) For more information, contact email: [secretary@heartoflife.melbourne](mailto:secretary@heartoflife.melbourne) or tel: (03) 9890 1101.

**Masses** following the recent announcement from the State Government, there will be no Masses until these restrictions have been lifted.

**Pastoral Associate Position at St Columba's** Judith has accepted a position in the Christchurch North Parish and it is her desire to return to New Zealand and to commence in that role as soon as possible. With the current difficulty in finalizing travel arrangements, she is unsure when she will be able to fly. She may not get a lot of notice before she will need to leave so we would appreciate your understanding during this time. Please keep Judith and her family in your prayers. We will advertise her position in due course.

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Presbytery: \$ 109.40 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 2,240.00

**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**

**Plenary Council – Continuing the Journey**

The last twelve or so months of our Plenary Council Journey has required many unplanned changes due to the impact of COVID-19 and the restrictions which do not allow people to gather. With the publication of the Plenary Council agenda, we can however reflect and pray with the sixteen questions that form the agenda. With this in mind, we extend to people in the diocese an invitation, another opportunity, to engage in the process and to listen deeply to the voice of the Spirit. PLEASE SEE THE ST COLUMBA'S WEBSITE FOR HANDOUT. Please feel free to complete this individually or after lockdown as part of a small group depending on COVID restrictions. It can be printed out, then emailed or posted back in or you can just send answers via email to [pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au). Any submissions will be forwarded to the Diocesan Members to the Plenary Council.

As we are not able to gather as a community at this time due to COVID restrictions, this opportunity to respond may be a way for you to spend some quiet time in reflection, thinking about the agenda of the Council and the future of the Church, on your life and prayer life. It may be of comfort to know that others from your faith community may be reflecting on this at a similar time.

Another way of "Continuing the Journey" is taking part in the national prayer campaign and in a special way support the Plenary Council. As the first Assembly in October 2021 draws nearer, all people are invited to become 'Prayer Partners' to accompany the Members and invoke the Holy Spirit on this historic gathering for the Church in Australia. The "Fan the Flame" resources have been designed so they can be used by individuals or by parishes with groups of any size and in any setting. They include material for each week as well as material that can be used at any time to support prayerful preparation for the Plenary Council. Resources can be accessed at <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fanthefflame/>

Fan the Flame: 'Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me;' Mark 9:30-37 Our parishes in particular are challenged to renew the formation of children, young people and families who may not be strongly connected to the Church but who still have an 'instinct for the faith' which prompts them to seek the sacraments or engage in part with of the Church's life. (Instrumentum Laboris #133) <http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fanthefflame/>

**Congratulations** to Hailey Eeles and Keely Keating who were received into the Catholic Church on Tuesday evening at St Columba's. This was a small and intimate Mass for them, their sponsors, friends and family. Please continue to pray for them as they begin this next stage of their journey in faith.

**Are You Called to be a Spiritual Director? A Pastoral Supervisor? Or a compassionate listener to others?** We invite you to a Taster Session (via Zoom), on Saturday 2 October 2021 at 9.30am-11am AEST to explore whether one of these ministries may be for you. Come and experience in a facilitated group via Zoom: a) the Siloam Program for the Formation of Spiritual Directors, b) the Emmaus Supervision Program, or c) Let the Heart Listen. Each of these courses is available in 2022 in-person (Covid-permitting) or via Zoom. To register for the free Taster event, please click the link on our home page at [www.heartoflife.melbourne](http://www.heartoflife.melbourne), or contact us at [secretary@heartoflife.melbourne](mailto:secretary@heartoflife.melbourne) or tel (03) 9890 1101.

**Migrant & Refugee Sunday 2021 – September 26** Pope Francis has chosen the theme, Towards An Ever Wider "We", for the 107th World Day of Migrant and Refugees, commemorated in Australia on Sunday, September 26, 2021. Download the 2021 kit from the Australian Catholic Migrant & Refugee Office <https://www.acmro.catholic.org.au/resources/migrant-refugee-kit/booklet>

**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>

**Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program – Online Study** Our partner, Dayton University, offers low-cost (\$50usd) online study and formation for employed or volunteer lay workers in parishes. Study cycles are over 3 or 5 weeks. Cycle 7, the last for 2021, begins October 10. Registrations are open now until October 1. The first Cycle for 2022 will begin on January 16. For more information ph. 5337 7121 [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)

**Prayer during time of PANDEMIC**

Loving God, Your desire is for our wholeness and well being. ...

We pray: may love, not fear, go vital.

Inspire out leaders to discern and choose wisely,

aligned with the common good.

Help us to practice social distancing and reveal to us

new and creative ways to come together

in spirit and in solidarity.

We ask this in the name of Jesus

with the prayers of Our Lady of Mercy

and inspired by Catherine McAuley.

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