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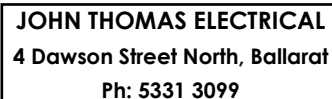
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**Child Safe Church** The Parishes of St Columba's & Our Lady Help of Christians (including Lexton, Miners Rest and Waubra) follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards as directed 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 [wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or [ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au)



Mon-Fri 8.30 am - 6.00 pm  
Saturdays 9.00 am - 5.00 pm  
2 Bridge Mall Ballarat Vic 3350  
Ph: 5331 4900

**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.
- 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).
- Proof of Vaccination needs to be shown to the Covid Marshall & recorded
- 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](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  
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

Office Hours: Tues—Wed  
9:00am—1:00pm

Our Safeguarding Officer:  
Peter Marquand

Our Lady Help of Christians

Parish Co-ordinator and Safeguarding Officer:  
Maree Roache

MASS TIMES (This week)

St Columba's

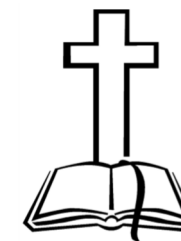
Sunday 10:00 am  
Wednesday 10:30 am  
Anointing Mass

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  
Saturday 6:00 pm  
Friday 10:00 am

Readings for Next Weekend:

Mi 5: 1-4  
Ps 79: 2-3, 15-16.  
18-19. R. v.4  
Heb 10: 5-10  
Lk 1: 39-45



12th December 2021 ~ 3rd Sunday of Advent

Focus on the Scriptures

We are at the midpoint of Advent. Today we celebrate Gaudete Sunday. The principal theme of the day is joy. According to Paul, joy is one of the fruits of the Spirit (cf. Gal 5:22). Such joy is a religious sentiment, not emotional happiness. Along with gratitude, it is the heart's response to God's goodness. Zion is told to shout for joy because it has been saved by God from its enemies and because God is in the midst of the people. The psalm response proclaims the same message; the reading from Philippians announces that the Lord is near. This is cause for joy.

Advent is a time for joy, not primarily because we are anticipating the anniversary of the birth of Christ, but because God is already in our midst (Immanuel). The readings for this Sunday assure us that God is with us, not as a judge but as a Saviour. We rejoice over the saving acts of God that make us confident of God's care and unafraid of whatever may cross our paths. We rejoice in the peace of God that surpasses all understanding. Advent joy is like the delight that fills a woman who has just given birth, even if it occurred in the throes of birthpangs. Advent joy springs from the realisation that the presence of God in our midst can so transform our lives that the promises of peace and security will be fulfilled. Advent joy is the way we live in the tension between already and not yet.

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**Responsorial Psalm:** (R.) Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! The spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia

**Recently Deceased:** We commend to God: Michael Rix, Maureen Casey

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Fr John Martin, Dorothy Vaughn

**We pray:** Those in need of our prayers; all the sick in our Parishes, especially Dan Coutts. For an end to the pandemic.

**Sale of Learmonth Church** Last Saturday the property was successfully auctioned realising \$863,500 (GST Inclusive). Including the earlier sale of the vacant block to rear of the church for \$242,000 (GST Inclusive), the entire property has realised \$1,105,500 (GST Inclusive). The net proceeds of both sales (ie: the amount after GST, costs of subdivision, advertising, agents commission etc) is retained by Our Lady Help of Christians Parish to be used by the Parish. Following the property auction, the contents that remained after returning items to those donor families who requested them were auctioned, realising \$12,601. As a family with artistic, musical and creative design talents, the purchasers of the church, have indicated that they would like transform the property whilst at the same time preserving the structural the integrity of the building. All round this is great result, an outcome which maintains and preserves the patrimony of Our Lady Help of Christians Parish for many years to come. *Fr. Marcello*



**OLHC PARISH FAMILY GROUPS** The leaders of our Parish Family Groups met during the week to review activities over the past year

and to share ideas for 2022. The past two years have been a challenging period with restricted opportunities to meet together but whenever a group held a gathering members thoroughly enjoyed reconnecting with each other. Marg & Geoff McLean are the leaders of the Time Out group and Pauline & Tony Newman lead the Y Worry Group. Parish Coordinators are Sandra & Vin Dillon. New members are always welcome. Should you be interested in joining a group please contact any of the leaders or leave your name at the Parish Office.

**Rite of Election 2022** The Rite of Election will be held on Saturday, February 26, 2022 at 12.30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat. Lunch will follow in the Hall. To assist with planning for the Rite, can you please advise if your parish will have any candidates and/or catechumens participating in the event, email [julie.boyd@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:julie.boyd@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

**Mass of the Oils 2022** The Mass of the Oils will be held on Monday, April 11, 2022 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 6.30pm. Supper will follow in the Hall.

**CatholicCare Victoria Giving Tree Appeal** This pandemic has been hard on us all. But as with every disaster, COVID-19 is making the already vulnerable more vulnerable still. Your generous donation to this year's Giving Tree Appeal will provide practical and financial support for struggling Victorian families - from three square meals a day to help with utility bills... every gift you choose helps. To donate go to <https://www.catholiccarevic.org.au/campaign/donate/14/giving-tree-appeal>

St Columba's 19th Dec	(next week)	Sunday 10am
Covid Check In Marshall		
COMMENTATOR		
MINISTER OF THE WORD		
COMMUNION MINISTER		
OVERHEADS		
SACRISTAN		

**Collections at St Columba's** We thank you for your generous support  
 Presbytery: \$ 269.50 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 620.00

**Christmas Liturgies:**

**Wednesday 15th Dec** 10.30 am St Columba's Anointing Mass  
**Thursday 16th Dec** 7.00 pm O.L.H.C Reconciliation  
**Friday 24th December (Christmas Eve)**  
 5:00 pm St Columba's  
 7:00 pm OLHC  
 9:00 pm Beaufort  
**Saturday 25th December (Christmas Day)**  
 8:30 am Waubra  
 10:00 am St Columba's  
No Vigil Mass on Saturday at OLHC  
**Sunday 26th December**  
 8:30 am Beaufort  
 10:00 am St Columba's



**OLHC Parish**

**OLHC Christmas Lunch**

It is essential that a booking is made in order to receive a take-away Christmas lunch. It would be most helpful if this is done by Monday December 20th at the latest

**Phone: 0419 975 914 or Email: [christmaslunchwendouree@gmail.com](mailto:christmaslunchwendouree@gmail.com)**

We are still looking for volunteer drivers who can give one hour on Christmas Day, 11.00am - midday to assist with the delivery of meals to those who do not have transport to come and pick up their Christmas Day Meal. If able to assist please leave your name and contact details at  
**Ph: 0419 975 914 or Email: [christmaslunchwendouree@gmail.com](mailto:christmaslunchwendouree@gmail.com)**  
 and you will be contacted

**The St Vincent de Paul** society will have the Columban calendars for 2022 and Christmas cards for sale at the Vigil Mass every Saturday from November. If anyone is unable to get to this Mass and would like a calendar or cards phone Harry Kennedy 0409943214.

The St Alphonsus Conference of St Vincent de Paul always happy to have new members.  
**Harry Kennedy** President

**Advent Week 3**

God of Compassion  
 Breathe into us solidarity with all who suffer now  
 and the future generations  
 who will suffer because of our environment  
 irresponsibility.  
 Help us to put people before profit and being  
 before having.



**St John of God Healthcare Ballarat - Pastoral Associate Role**

The hospital has exciting opportunities available for dedicated and committed Pastoral Associates to join the Pastoral Services team in promoting the Mission and Values of St John of God Health Care. To view the job description and/or to apply, go to the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/our-diocese/employment/>

**Highways and Byways Small Grants Program 2022** The 2022 Highways and Byways Small Grants Program is now open for applications. The theme is Healing the Land – Healing Ourselves – Together. Grants of up to \$3,000 are available to community organisations, especially in rural and regional areas, for projects that focus on healing the land in holistic ways and increasing opportunities to build community through practical projects, leadership and skills acquisition, and knowledge transfer. For more information go to <https://highwaysandbyways.org.au/grants/>

**Baptism Information** sessions are currently being conducted by individual appointment at the OLHC parish office. Please phone Maree on 5339 2302 for an appointment.

**Can you help?**

The OLHC liturgy committee is seeking someone who can play a keyboard for the Easter Mass Friday 24th December at 7pm. If you can assist please contact Corrie on 0401 478 220.

**Making a Scene at Christmas**—Bridge Market in Bridge Mall December 11th—20th. Display of over 500 Christmas Nativities from more than 60 countries. Gold coin donation. All welcome.

**Vinnies Christmas Kindness Appeal** This Christmas donate to Vinnies. Your gift can change a life. There are families who are experiencing poverty and homelessness this Christmas and your help can provide them with much needed essentials like food, clothing and a place to call home. To donate go to <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/christmas-kindness>



**Anointing Mass** at St Columba's (Ballarat North) at 10:30 am on Wednesday 15th December. All welcome.

**OLHC Parish Reconciliation Service:** Thursday 16th December at 7:00 pm. All welcome.

OLHC 18th Dec	(next week)	Saturday (Vigil) 6pm
LEADER OF SONG		Corrie Harbour
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Volunteer please
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD		John & Val Bourke
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Helen Feely & Tony Bruty
SACRISTAN & REGISTRATION		John & Sue Calistro
Waubra Church cleaning	<b>December</b>	Clare & Kerry Mullane

**Collections at OLHC** We thank you for your generous support  
 Presbytery: \$ 409.60 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,190.00