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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

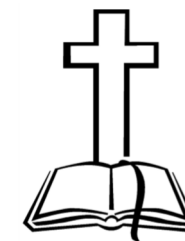
Sunday 10:00 am  
Wednesday 10:00 am

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  
Saturday 6:00 pm  
Thursday 10:00 am

Readings for Next Weekend:

Sir 3: 2-6, 12-16  
Ps 83 : 2-3, 5-6, 9-10 R. v.5  
Col 3: 12-21  
Lk 2: 41-52



19th December 2021 ~ 4th Sunday of Advent

Focus on the Scriptures

This little gospel story tells us that 'the baby in Elizabeth's womb leaped' and not merely leaped, but leaped 'for joy'. Is this just poetic hyperbole?

We know that beautiful music can have a wonderful effect on life in the womb. Good vibrations. Here, the presence of Jesus, being carried by Mary in her pregnancy, had a wonderful effect on the life carried by Elizabeth. Very good vibrations.

From the moment of the conception of Jesus, good vibrations reverberated out to all human beings. The good news is that you and I and every human life ever conceived is visited by Our Risen Lord Jesus Christ, and we receive that visit as Original Blessing.

There is a further and consoling truth. Every mother or father who has lost a baby too early needs to know that the same extraordinary sense of Our Lord's presence was felt by your baby. That Divine Presence conferred a powerful Original Blessing on that little life within the womb, and that same Presence accompanied your baby into the everlasting embrace of Divine Love in Heaven.

We could pause a moment to pray using the very words of Elizabeth, reciting:

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.  
Blessed art thou among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb,  
Jesus.  
Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners  
now and at the hour of our death.  
Amen.

© Fr Michael Tate; [mtate@bigpond.com](mailto:mtate@bigpond.com)



**Responsorial Psalm:** (R.) Lord, make us turn to you ; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord; may his will for me be done. Alleluia

**Recently Deceased:** We commend to God: Frank Murphy

**Anniversaries:** We remember those who have anniversaries occur about this time

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

**Diocesan Christmas Appeal 2021** is one way which the Diocese of Ballarat responds to many communities near and far who turn to us for assistance. Often these requests come through people who have personal links with the Diocese. Your generous support of last year's appeal raised **\$33,000** which was distributed as follows:

Catholic Mission	\$ 5,000
Caritas Australia	\$ 5,000
Nazareth House Ballarat	\$ 5,000
Mallee Family Care Christmas Appeal	\$ 5,000
CatholicCare Victoria Christmas Appeal	\$ 5,000
Act of Peace	\$ 2,000
Raise the Rent Ballarat	\$ 2,000
Wendouree West Exodus Community	\$ 2,000
Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH)	\$ 2,000

Whilst many demands are placed on our generosity at this time of year, the 2021 Christmas Appeal is commended to you for your support. You may contribute by leaving your donation in the Bowl marked **"Christmas Appeal"** which will be at the front of the sanctuary on Christmas Eve/Day.

**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>

**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 to follow

**Synod of Bishops** Catholics across Australia are invited to participate in a period of local consultation for the next international Synod of Bishops, which has the theme, "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission". The People of God are invited to use a guided, prayerful reflection method to consider a series of questions and make submissions via an online portal. Those submissions will help the Bishops develop a national report to support the global process leading to an international gathering in 2023. Find out more at <http://www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch>

St Columba's 26th 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: \$ 238.15 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 2,030.00

### Christmas Liturgies:

#### 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

#### Saturday 1st January (New Year's Day) - **Mary Mother of God**

9:00 am OLHC

**Please note:** as of 11:59 pm Wednesday 15th December, Proof of Vaccination Status to attend worship is no longer required. QR code check-in required. Wearing of a mask is not required, but is recommended.



### 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)**

#### OLHC Parish

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

#### BAPTISMS



### WELCOME

Welcome Eloise Mae Christie, daughter of Monique and Matthew, baptised at St John the Baptist Waubra on Sunday. May Eloise groups in faith with the support of her family and the Catholic Community.

### Advent Week 4

God of Justice  
 Empower us to work together as one global community  
 To find creative and just solutions to protect those Most vulnerable in our world  
 And all of creation for future generations.  
 Move us into action for climate justice and to restore your creation.  
 Amen



**OLHC Parish Office:** will be unattended from Thursday 23rd December until Thursday 27th January. Please email or leave a phone message, should you require assistance.

### 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/>

### 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>



**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 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.



*Fr Marcello wishes OLHC and St Columba's parishioners a very blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year, and pray that 2022 will be a year of blessings for you and your family.*

OLHC 24th Dec	(next week)	Christmas (Vigil) 7pm
LEADER OF SONG		Corrie Harbour
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Volunteer please
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD		Kylie Gray
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Pauline Newman & Harry Kennedy
SACRISTAN & REGISTRATION		Anne Slattery, Tony & Pauline Newman.
Waubra Church cleaning	January:	Clare & Kerry Mullane

**Collections at OLHC** We thank you for your generous support  
 Presbytery: \$ 349.30 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,425.00