

Please support our loyal advertisers



Prepaid Funerals
Eliminate family stress
Details: 5337 7111



Busy Bookkeeping
Phone 5364 2922
ballarat@busybookkeeping.com.au



Domestic & Commercial cleaning
0402862188/0434746818
admin@mlmclean.com.au



20 Lydiard Street Sth,
Ballarat
Ph: (03) 5331 3711
www.ppt.com.au



139 Bogong Ave,
Invermay Park
Phone: 5331 4510
Mobile: 0418 501 606



Phone: (03) 5332 3069
Mobile: 0418 504 254



11 Neerim Crescent,
Wendouree Industrial Park
Ph: 5339 3122
Open Direct to the Public
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday



402 Sturt Street Ballarat
5331 2233
Best Result Every Time!
BALLARAT | MARYBOROUGH | ARARAT



Address: 1251 Doveton Street
North, Ballarat, 3350
Phone: (03) 5333 3101
www.peterobinfunerals.com.au



4 Dawson Street North, Ballarat
Ph: 5331 3099
We can help you with all your
repairs and installation of:
*Televisions & Television Antennas
* Home Theatres & Projectors
* DVDs & Audio Equipment
* Household appliances
* Public Address Systems
*CCTV Systems



Address: 1114 Doveton Street
North, Ballarat, 3350
Phone: (03) 5333 3911
All hours. Moderate cost



801 Howitt Street WENDOUREE
PH: 5339 5033
127 Gillies Street Sth BALLARAT
PH: 5334 2700
55 Albert Street SEBASTOPOL
PH: 5335 9023

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



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.
- If you are waiting results of a COVID test stay home
- You 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 as you enter the foyer
- Ensure that you maintain appropriate physical distancing at all times (1.5 metres).
- A face mask is compulsory 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.



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

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

School Co-Principals: Bambi Afford & Shaun Mohr
School Phone: 5332 4894

Parish Priest:
Fr Marcello Colasante
Staffing
St Columba's
Tues—Wed 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
Sunday 10:00 am
Wednesday 10:30 am (Anointing)
Thursday 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
Friday 10:00 am

Readings for Next Weekend:
Mi 5:1-4
Ps 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 R.v.6
Heb 10:5-10
Lk 1:39 - 45



12th December 2021 3rd Sunday of Advent

Focus on the Scriptures
The third Sunday of Advent used to be called Gaudete (be joyful) Sunday. It provided a mid-term break within a period of austerity or penance in preparation for Christmas. Advent is no longer a penitential period, but rather a reflective time of expectation and hope. The invitation to rejoice nonetheless remains part of the Advent liturgy. This invitation is explicit in the first two readings and implicit in the gospel.

There are ethical demands in the time of waiting. Three times John the Baptist is asked, "What must we do?" In line with Luke's emphasis on the universality of God's saving power, the responses are directed to "all the people". Those with even minimal food (something to eat) and clothing (two tunics) are told to share. Tax agents, caught up in a system notoriously open to abuse, are to be honest. Soldiers are given three directives that provide some insight into the negative way the military was perceived: no extortion, no blackmail, and no complaints about wages. The third directive probably derives from the fact that soldiers were better off financially than most others. It is in no sense a prohibition on demands for just wages. In Luke's depiction of John, there is no critique of the harsh Roman taxation system or of the presence of the Roman army. Here as elsewhere, Luke seems to be seeking acceptance for the Christ movement within the Roman Empire by demonstrating that it is no threat to the occupation and its values.

Luke's John situates himself in relation to Jesus, the anointed agent of God's liberation. John describes the one to come in much more fiery terms than the Lukan Jesus turns out to be. His description is more like a self-portrait, especially in light of the fact that John addresses the crowds who flock to him as a "brood of vipers" or "children of snakes" (Luke 3:7). In contrast with John's water-baptism "for the forgiveness of sins", Jesus will "baptise" with the Holy Spirit and fire. Fire, as we well know in this dry land of ours, is a challenging symbol, both friend and foe. In the first-century Manual of Discipline from the Qumran community by the Dead Sea, water, refining by fire, and "a holy Spirit" are listed together as the instruments of God's saving and purifying action.

John, who may have been a member of the Qumran community, presents his own role as preparatory to that of Jesus, the Spirit-filled, powerful and enduring agent of God's refining and purifying work in the world. We know our own ongoing need for a "baptism" with the Holy Spirit and fire. We prepare the way by doing what we must: sharing our goods, treating others with dignity, justice and forgiveness as well as responding to the cry of the earth. The question "What then must we do?" is one that we might ask ourselves each day in the face of a changing world order.

Veronica Lawson RSM

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: Maureen Casey
Anniversaries: We remember: Bernard Righetti, Stan Sheehan, Greg Roberts, Joan Richardson, Maisie Lamb, Eileen Segrave, Ron Morgan, Nance Reidy
We pray: for in need of our prayers especially those who have no-one to pray for them

CatholicCare Victoria - Free Mental Health & Wellbeing Guide

CatholicCare Victoria has been supporting the Ballarat community for almost 45 years. To help in these tough times, we've developed a free guide to mental health and wellbeing, created by regional Victorians, for regional Victorians. Download your copy today at <https://www.catholiccarevic.org.au/campaign/13/mental-health-and-wellbeing-guide?>

OLHC Parish Wendouree Christmas Day Lunch OLHC Parish Wendouree volunteers will be preparing free, hot Christmas meals for people to collect on Christmas Day. This is the 30th year the parish has provided Christmas lunch for those in need. Bookings are essential, ph. 0419 975 914 or email christmaslunchwendouree@gmail.com. Arrangements can be made for those unable to collect meals.

Christmas Liturgies

Wednesday **15th Dec** 10.30 am Anointing Mass Ballarat North
 Thursday **16th Dec** 7.00 pm Reconciliation Wendouree

Christmas Eve:

Friday **24th Dec** 5.00 pm Mass Ballarat North
 7.00 pm Mass Wendouree
 9.00 pm Mass Beaufort

Christmas Day:

Saturday **25th Dec** 8.30 am Mass Waubra
 10.00 am Mass Ballarat North

Feast of the Holy Family:

Sunday **26th Dec** 8.30 am Mass Beaufort
 10.00 am Mass Ballarat North

Mary, Mother of God

Saturday **1st Jan** 9.00 am Mass Wendouree

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>

A Climate that Reflects Justice: 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 Columba's 18th Dec | (next week) | Sun 10am |
|-----------------------|-------------|------------|
| LEADER OF SONG | | Tony Beggs |
| COMMENTATOR | | N/A |
| MINISTER OF THE WORD | | Volunteer |
| COMMUNION MINISTER | | N/A |
| OVERHEADS | | N/A |
| SACRISTAN | | Volunteer |

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

Parish Nativity Scenes The coordinators of the "Making a scene at Christmas" nativity displays are asking parishes to send in photos of their nativity scenes so they can be added to an online display, which will featured on the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat website. Please email these images to jane.collins@ballarat.catholic.org.au. Looking forward to receiving the beautiful images of the many nativity scenes around the diocese.

Mary Mackillop Heritage Centre & Museum With Christmas coming up, please consider supporting the work of the Sisters of St Joseph by purchasing a 2022 Josephite Calendar (\$8.00) and/or a present from the Museum Gift Shop (communion & confirmation gifts, devotional items, Vatican Library collection, rosary beads, holding crosses, candles, cards, statues, crucifixes, books and Peruvian handmade items) <https://www.mmhc.org.au/facilities/gift-shop/>. Accommodation is available at the Mary Mackillop Heritage Centre for events like the Boxing Day Test, Australian Open or the theatre in the heart of Melbourne. For those staying in the apartments, there is free onsite parking located across from Fitzroy Gardens and the Cathedral. Contact Kate for accommodation enquiries, ph. 9926 9300.

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/>

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.

Yours 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 for 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

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



Advent: Online Learning Our online learning partner, Dayton University, is offering two new Advent classes beginning November 28. *Advent: A Holy Waiting* is designed as an e-retreat experience. Participants will find enrichment for the season through scripture, spiritual reading and listening, group discussion, prayer, and sacred music; and *Let This Be the Time: Spiritual Essentials for Life's Second Act* explores the needs of people in their later lives: what is happening and how to maximize these times for the deepening of our spirituality. Registration is open until November 25. More information or to register please go to the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/pastoral-ministry/lay-pastoral-ministry-program/> or email djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7121.

Praying with Pope Francis The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) is an international movement that is more than 170 years old. Each month, the Pope puts forward a prayer intention and asks Catholics around the world to join him in prayer. These intentions cover all sorts of areas of life, encouraging faith, renewing hope and calling us to loving service. Praying each month 'The Pope Video' forms part of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network – view at www.thepopevideo.org. Pope's intention for December: **Evangelisation - Catechists:** Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God. May they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the spirit. November:

CatholicCare Victoria Giving Tree Appeal The 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>

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: This Sunday we welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism **Archer Peter Johnson** son of Matthew and Rebecca. May Archer grow in faith with the support of his family and our Catholic Community.

| OLHC 18th Dec | (next week) | Saturday 6pm |
|----------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| LEADER OF SONG | | Corrie Harbour |
| PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL | | Volunteer please |
| FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD | | John and Val Bourke |
| COMMUNION MINISTERS | | Helen Feely and Tony Bruty |
| SACRISTAN & REGISTRATION | | John and Sue Calistro |

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