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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.
- 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](http://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

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

**P O Box** 192, Wendouree  
**School Principal:** Leigh Bradshaw  
**School Phone:** 5339 4726

**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)**

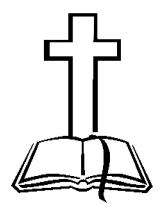
**St Columba's**  
Sunday 10:00 am  
Wednesday 10:00 am

**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  
Friday 10:00 am

**Readings for Next Weekend:**

Bar 5:1-9  
Ps 125. R. v 3  
Phil 1:3-6; 8-11  
Lk 3:1-6



**28th November 2021 1st Sunday of Advent**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

Today's gospel passage, with its vivid description of the end-time signs, may seem a strange choice of reading for Advent and the beginning of the Church year. Its depiction of global devastation has a particular resonance in a post-industrial world faced with climate crisis. Some may be tempted to interpret "apocalyptic" events of today as the judgement of an interventionist God. This is far from the truth. Our mindless exploitation of planetary resources has brought its own judgement and we must struggle together to save our planet from further destruction.

Advent and Christmas are about the coming "in power and great glory" of the One who brings the liberation of God. The earliest Christians believed that Jesus would soon return and bring everything to completion. Some decades after Jesus' death, Luke's community had come to realize that the "final" coming of Christ was not just as imminent as they had expected. They needed to be reminded that a delayed return was no excuse for lack of vigilance. Luke warns against activities and attitudes that de-sensitize the heart or the human spirit. For Luke, an attentive heart and constant prayer for the strength to withstand whatever comes is the proper stance for the Christian believer. An attentive heart will be attuned to the cry of the earth and the cry of those rendered poor by those who exploit the goods of the earth. The image of Jesus coming on the clouds belongs within an ancient understanding of the structure of the world in which God and God's heavenly court are located in the heavens above. It might function in our times as a reminder that the Incarnation, "God's becoming material" (Karl Rahner), is an ongoing cosmic event, not just a once-off event limited to one place and one time.

We might do well to read this gospel passage against the backdrop of today's first reading from Jeremiah that looks to the fulfillment of God's promise of the "virtuous branch for David". The organic metaphor of the branch reminds us of the interconnectedness of God's people and of all being across the ages. The virtue of the expected descendant of David finds expression in honesty and integrity, literally "justice and righteousness/right relationship". Justice in the Hebrew tradition is about redress in the law courts for the most vulnerable. Righteousness is about right relationships as well as the equitable sharing and proper use of Earth's resources. Justice and righteousness are two sides of the one coin. Where they are absent, there is no liberation. Our prayer and practical action this Advent might embrace the plight of the earth itself and the concerns of those who yearn for liberation from various forms of oppression. We might remember those seeking asylum among us and those who have been granted refugee status yet still await the justice of resettlement in our country. Our Advent could make a difference to their Christmas  
Veronica Lawson RSM

**Responsorial Psalm:** (R.) To you, O Lord, I lift my soul

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

**Recently Deceased: We commend to God:** Kevin Hanrahan  
**Anniversaries: We remember:** John Sharry, Bill Smith, Sr. Claire Flanagan RGS, Clare McGoldrick, Adele Carter  
**We pray:** Those in need of our prayers; all the sick in our Parishes, especially Dan Coutts.

**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.

**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?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=facebook&utm\\_campaign=mental-health&utm\\_content=ballarat&fbclid=IwAR26onSC87f6p89AM0li\\_Conf5W\\_cYPyRTwsDKzWwMk4xREnbkTGzUv07ec](https://www.catholiccarevic.org.au/campaign/13/mental-health-and-wellbeing-guide?utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&utm_campaign=mental-health&utm_content=ballarat&fbclid=IwAR26onSC87f6p89AM0li_Conf5W_cYPyRTwsDKzWwMk4xREnbkTGzUv07ec)

**A Day of Prayer for Myanmar** Pax Christi and friends invite you to remember Myanmar in a Day of Prayer on Sunday, November 28, 2021. Suffering and trauma have accompanied the people of Myanmar for decades. On February 1 military government was reimposed. This day is an opportunity to pray with Myanmar in its yearning to be free. An online prayer service is being organised for Advent Sunday, November 29 at 7.30pm Melbourne time. To register for this service and receive the link, and other information, please email Harry Kerr, [ahmkerr@hotmail.com](mailto:ahmkerr@hotmail.com). For further information contact Caesar D'Mello, Pax Christi Victoria, [caesarmdm@gmail.com](mailto:caesarmdm@gmail.com), ph. 0451911941, Sr Geraldine Kearney, Good Samaritan Sister [gkearney@goodsams.org.au](mailto:gkearney@goodsams.org.au), ph. 0438465668, Ko Naing Saulsman, Spokesman CRPH/NUG, [kdrsaulsman@gmail.com](mailto:kdrsaulsman@gmail.com), ph. 0459030105, Greg Thompson, Anglican Board of Mission, [gregfthompson@gmail.com](mailto:gregfthompson@gmail.com), ph. 0438826511, Harry Kerr, Pax Christi Victoria, [ahmkerr@hotmail.com](mailto:ahmkerr@hotmail.com), ph. 0424950852, Denise Nichols, Peacebuilding Initiative, University of Melbourne, [Denisenichols69@gmail.com](mailto:Denisenichols69@gmail.com), ph. 0432378893.

Sr Columba's 5th Dec	(next week)	Sun 10am
LEADER OF SONG		Terry Ranger
COMMENTATOR		N/A
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Volunteer
COMMUNION MINISTER		N/A
OVERHEADS		N/A
SACRISTAN		Volunteer

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**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>

**Year of St Joseph Monthly Reflection** Each month during the year of St Joseph, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference will publish a reflection on the various aspects of St Joseph's life and character. Bishop Gregory Homeming OCD reflects on "St Joseph- A Hidden Life" <https://catholic.org.au/yearofstjoseph>

**Ordination to the Diaconate** Seminarians Matthew Restall and William Lowry will be ordained Deacons for the Diocese of Ballarat on Friday, December 10, 2021 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 7.00pm. All are welcome to attend. Attendance requirements for the Cathedral is QR code or registration upon entry and full vaccination status needs to be provided to the COVID check-in Marshalls.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Have you noticed over the last few days and weeks (in spite of the rain) how busy the birds are? I came across the following images in form of a 'litany'; you may like to add to and pray this 'litany' out of you own experiences...

- Blessed be birds evolved 54 million years ago
- Blessed be bird song
- Blessed be small birds
- Blessed be nesting birds
- Blessed be magpies
- Blessed be endangered birds
- Blessed be all birds choosing to travel long distances
- Blessed be cockatoos
- Blessed be plovers
- Blessed be brlgas
- Blessed be kookaburras
- Blessed are birds that are critical to ecological balance
- Blessed be ....

**Mary Mackillop Heritage Centre & Museum – Christmas Gifts and Accommodation** 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.



**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](mailto:djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or ph. 5337 7121.

**Making a Scene at Christmas:** Bridge Market in Bridge Mall December 4th-5th and 11th—20th. Display of over 500 Christmas Nativities from more than 60 countries. Gold coin donation. All welcome

**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](http://www.thepopevideo.org). Pope's intention for November: **Universal intention – people who suffer from depression:** We pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.

**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>

OLHC 4th Dec	(next week)	Saturday 6pm
LEADER OF SONG		Paul Hogan
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Trish Lawson
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD		Trish Pora
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Marie McMillan and Bev Hayward
SACRISTAN & REGISTRATION		Pauline and Tony Newman

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