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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)

**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
- Contact tracing is required for all Masses. Please use the QR code or enter your details in the register as you enter the foyer
- 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.

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](mailto:ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

Office: 480a Gillies Street, Wendouree Phone: 5339 2302  
Email: [wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto: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 No 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

Thursday No Mass

Friday No Mass

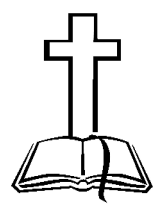
**Readings for Next Weekend:**

Sir 27:4-7

Ps 91:2-3, 13-16 R. v 2

1 Cor 15: 54-58

Lk 6: 39-45



**20th February 2022 Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr C**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

The classic message of today's gospel is addressed to those who listen. To hear and respond to the heart of the message that follows, namely to love your enemies and to do good to those who hate you, calls for an extraordinary expansiveness of spirit only possible in those who are totally open to the power of God's Spirit working in their lives. It is not easy to love one's enemy particularly when the enemy, the one subtly undermining or manipulating you, comes in the guise of friend. Yet, even in the face of subtle enmity, the message is clear: do not respond in kind, respond instead with love, compassion and unreserved forgiveness. It is also important to rise above the pettiness of the other and refuse to be a victim. To the one who takes away your coat, you offer your shirt as well. In this way, the real power remains with the one who is too expansive to retaliate.

Luke's late first century communities were well acquainted with the Jewish traditions that informed their faith, even if many were not themselves Jewish. The Jewish Christians in the community as well as the "God-fearers" who accepted Jesus of Nazareth as Saviour and Christos or Messiah had been introduced to the God of steadfast love (hesed) and womb-compassion (rahamim). They believed that God was concerned about justice in the legal system (mishpat) and right relationship (sedeqah) between people and nations, ever ready to forgive those who turn away from injustice and wrongdoing. The songs and prayers of the Jewish heritage reminded them constantly of the compassionate ways of God in their history and in their personal lives. When the Lukan Jesus tells these people to be merciful or compassionate as God is compassionate, they know what he means. They also know the cost of compassion in situations where retaliation is the more spontaneous instinct. God-like compassion remains the stance required of Christian disciples in the face of opposition and hatred, even the opposition that comes in the guise of friendship.

Compassion, forgiveness and love of enemies are rare commodities in international politics and in the resolution of global conflicts as well as in personal relationships. Sadly, the major trouble spots on our globe witness to constant retaliation and face-saving measures that harden positions and exacerbate division. There is ample evidence that hatred, fuelled by injustice, is begetting violence in many parts of the world. And yet the only way to break the cycles of violence that perpetuate death and destruction is the way of compassion and love. God-like compassion requires that we, as nations and as individuals, let go of past hurts, examine our tenaciously held opinions, try to see the world from the perspective of those we mistrust and work for peace that is grounded in love. Refugees who have suffered the indignity of life in detention on Manus Island or Nauru continue to yearn for such God-like compassion.

Veronica Lawson RSM

**Responsorial Psalm:** (R.) The Lord is kind and merciful

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! I give you a new commandment; love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia!

**Recently Deceased: We commend to God:** Angelina Procaccino, Sr Anne Forbes RSM, Laurie Halloran

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Kevin Carroll, Rod Lacey, Mary Mahar, Kevin McLaughlin, Elaine Drake, Mary McCluskey, Steven Fitzpatrick

**We pray:** for all who are sick including Jacinta Wilson

**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?>

**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>

**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/>

**Position Vacant: Parish Co-ordinator** The Parish of St Columba's Ballarat North is seeking a Parish Co-ordinator to ensure the efficient operation of the Parish Office, part time 16 hours (0.4) per week. Duties will include reception and administration as well as coordinating Sacramental Programs for Confirmation, Reconciliation, (Junior and Senior), First Eucharist and Rite of Christian Initiation of Children (RCIC). An understanding of the rituals, traditions, practices and values of the Catholic Church is essential to this role. Please contact the Parish Office on (03) 5331-1012 for a position description. Applications including a covering letter and addressing the Key Selection Criteria close on Friday, March 4, 2022 and should be addressed to the Parish Priest, St Columba's Parish, 306 Gregory St Soldiers Hill Vic 3350. email:ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au

St Columba's 27h Feb	(next week)	Sun 10am
LEADER OF SONG		Volunteer
COMMENTATOR		Bruce Chapman
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Min Myers
COMMUNION MINISTER		
DIGITAL PROJECTOR		Mark Lacey
SACRISTAN		Volunteer

**Collections Last week at St Columba's**  
 Presbytery: \$ 263.85      Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 2,405.00

**Caritas Appeal for Tonga**

Tonga is reeling after the violent underwater volcano eruption triggered tsunamis, destroyed telecommunications and blanketed the country in ash and rock. Roads, bridges and homes are damaged. Water supplies have been contaminated by volcanic ash and saltwater. Tonga needs your support urgently. Give now to help with emergency response. Donate at <https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/pacific/>

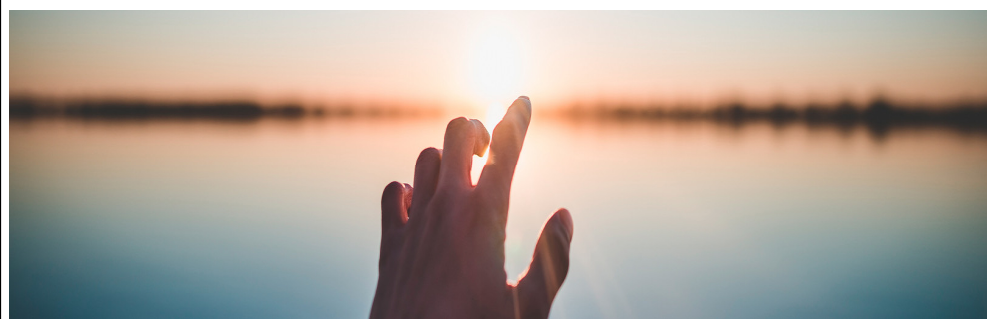
**Caritas Prayer for Tonga and the Pacific**

Loving God,  
 we hold before you in our hearts the people of Tonga in this time of need. We know that the communities of the Pacific often experience fragility. Now, with a volcanic explosion leading to both a Tsunami and degradation of land and water through ash, we ask that your people find strength and feel closer to you than ever. They are communities of great faith. May they turn to you for peace and reassurance. May they turn to each other for comfort and community. And may they turn to us for support and solidarity. We all share this mysterious world which you have entrusted to our care, as one family. May your Holy Spirit give us wisdom and courage and fill us with the gift of Hope. Amen.

**Lenten Program—The Spirit and the Cross** Daily reflections from Ash Wednesday to Good Friday, Easter Monday to the 2nd Sunday of Easter. These daily reflections invite the reader to contemplate a verse from the Scripture reading of the day, followed by a quote from Pope Francis and a prayer. Books cost \$7.00 each. If you would like to journey through the Season of Lent and conclude with the 2nd Sunday of Easter by purchasing a book kindly register your name on the order form in the foyer of St Columba's or Our Lady Help of Christians or call Sue Searls on 0403902921 by **Thursday 24th February**. Vin Dillon has kindly offered to facilitate a weekly Zoom session each Wednesday morning during Lent for those who wish to participate in a group. If you wish to join this group, please indicate this on the form also.

**Study Tour of the Biblical Lands** Olive Tree Travel have planned a study tour of the Biblical Lands from December 3-14, 2022. This tour is focussed on the Gospel of Luke engaging the narrative in the contextual landscape, escorted by Dr. Rosemary Canavan of Catholic Theological College Melbourne. For more details visit [www.olivetreetravel.com.au/upcoming-events](http://www.olivetreetravel.com.au/upcoming-events).

**Annual Retreat** Fr. Marcello and the priests of the Dioceses will be on retreat from Monday 21st Feb to Friday 25th Feb. Should something arise that can't wait contact may be made with St Patrick's Cathedral



**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 February: **For religious sisters and consecrated women:** We pray for religious sisters and consecrated women - thanking them for their mission and their courage. May they continue to find new responses to the challenges of our times.

**Collections and Stewardship Reminder** For safety reasons we suspended passing around the 1st and 2nd collections plates (but still welcome all donations). You can donate in church by placing cash or stewardship envelopes in the plates at the front of the sanctuary. Alternatively if you are comfortable using internet banking you may deposit contributions to the Presbytery and Parish Bank Account. Kindly contact the office for details.

**Project Compassion 2022** February 26-27, 2022 is Project Compassion Sunday - the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. Get your Project Compassion 2022 activities off to a good start, ensuring your whole parish is engaged with this year's theme, "For All Future Generations." Many parishes find it is a great help having a parishioner/s, parish social justice team or youth group working with them as their 'Caritas Parish Representative/s'. This person or team could create Project Compassion displays, distribute materials, photocopy and staple, organise the use of films and prayer reflections and arrange other appropriate ways to maintain Project Compassion's message during Lent. To help you find a Caritas Parish Representative, the PC22 includes advertisement bulletin notices and a parish flyer, as well as a guide for new Parish Representatives website <https://www.caritas.org.au/resources/project-compassion/?audi-ence=Parish&resourceTopics=Project+Compassion+2022includes>. Your Diocesan Director, Jillian Hogbin, is also happy to assist your community, please email [caritas@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:caritas@ballarat.catholic.org.au). Usual day of work is a Tuesday.

OLHC 26th Feb	(next week)	Saturday 6pm
LEADER OF SONG		Sue Searls
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Volunteer please
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD		Harry Kennedy
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Helen Rieniets and Trish Lawson
SACRISTAN		Kath Leonard and Anne Slattery

**Collections Last Week at OLHC**  
 Presbytery: \$ 338.85      Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,445.00