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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 or 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 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 (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: 5332 4894
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:
Jer 17: 5-8
Ps 1:1-4 R. 39:5
1 Cor 15:12, 16-20
Lk 6: 17, 20-26

6th February 2022 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr C

Focus on the Scriptures

The gospel reading for this Sunday [Word of God Sunday in Australian Catholic communities] opens with Jesus by the lake shore looking for a little space from the people who are pressing around him to hear "the word of God". For the gospel writer, the word of Jesus is the word of God. The listener/reader has been gradually prepared, in the baptism scene and in the episode in the Nazareth synagogue, to receive this momentous truth. Jesus is the anointed of God who brings good news/God's word to the destitute. The gospel narrative assumes that the crowd by the lake receives his teaching as God's word.

Jesus sees two empty boats and gets into the one that belongs to Simon Peter. The implication is that Jesus knows Peter: he feels free to get into Peter's boat and ask him to move the boat out from the shore. Having gained the distance he needs, Jesus sits down and teaches the crowd from the boat. God's word thus comes to the people from the potentially regenerative waters of the lake and from the boat that is made of precious earth resources. Simon no doubt has one ear on Jesus' teaching as he and his despondent business partners clean the nets and pack up ready to go home without any fish. They have fished all night without a single catch.

Evoking the creation story of Genesis where God's spirit moves over the face of the deep, Jesus invites Simon and his companions to put out into deep water and lower the nets for a catch, even though there is little likelihood of a catch. Simon Peter hesitates, noting that they have laboured without success all night. He nonetheless follows Jesus' instructions. The dramatic result of his attending to Jesus' word brings Simon to his knees: he acknowledges his limitations, his "sinfulness" in gospel terms. Jesus then commissions him to engage fearlessly in a new mission of reaching out beyond his present business enterprise in order to "catch people". This commission is not to be understood as a recruitment drive for the reign of God movement. As the gospel story unfolds we discover that it is, rather, a mission to bring the vulnerable safely to shore where they can know the compassion and justice and the "hospitality" of God.

While Peter and his companions are said to "leave everything" and "follow" Jesus, the subsequent narrative makes it clear that they do not abandon their fishing activities. They simply re-centre their lives on the following of Jesus. In other words, they undertake to live out in their lives the pattern of Jesus' life amid the ordinary concerns of daily life. The previous chapter has provided glimpses of that pattern: bringing good news to the destitute, release to the shattered, healing to the sick and the broken. In our times, we are beginning to realise that the "shattered" that need to be freed include the despoiled Earth, its waters and the endangered species of both land and sea.

Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm: (R.) In the sight of the angels I will sing your praise, Lord
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Come follow me, says the Lord. And I will make you fisher of my people. Alleluia!



Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Gerald Gunther
Anniversaries: We remember: Elizabeth Carey, Marianne Kenna, Bill Martin, Mary Martin, Allan Noone
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/>

A prayer for Queen Elizabeth II on her Platinum Jubilee We pray for Queen Elizabeth II as she celebrates 70 years of service as Queen. May the Lord strengthen her in the Christian faith that has sustained her and may the Holy Spirit grant her wisdom in her service day by day.

Word of God Sunday – this Sunday The Church in Australia celebrates the Sunday of the Word of God on the first Sunday in February – February 6 in 2022. Pope Francis established the day, which is devoted to "the celebration, study and dissemination" of the Word of God. Visit www.catholic.org.au/wordofgodSunday to access resources to help commemorate the day and for suggestions on how to better engage with Sacred Scripture in various ways and settings.

Ballarat Interfaith Network Forum – Sunday, February 6, 2022

Please note that this event has been cancelled.

St Columba's 13th Feb	(next week)	Sun 10am
LEADER OF SONG		
COMMENTATOR	Colleen Wakefield	
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Joanne Van Der Voort	
COMMUNION MINISTER		
OVERHEADS	Bruce Chapman	
SACRISTAN	Volunteer	

Collections at St Columba's

Presbytery: \$ 139.45 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 939.00

Sew and So..... Thursday 10th February 2022, at 1.30pm in St Columba's Church Foyer. Let's begin the year with a positive gathering - please invite anyone who may not know that Sew and So has resumed. Don't worry about the SEW - we will concentrate more on the SO.

Caritas Diocesan Director

We welcome Jillian Hogbin to the position of Ballarat Diocesan Caritas Director, following the retirement of Sue Searls from this role. Jillian can be contacted via email at caritas@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7171.

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.

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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 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. Usual day of work is a Tuesday.

OLHC 12th Feb	(next week)	Saturday 6pm
LEADER OF SONG		Paul Hogan
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Volunteer please
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD		Val and John Bourke
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Pauline Newman and Harry Kennedy
SACRISTAN		Pauline and Tony Newman

Collections at OLHC

Presbytery: \$ 469.70 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,530.00