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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

Checking-in is no longer a requirement. Face Masks are no longer required to be worn in most indoor settings but are recommended, particularly if you have any COVID-19 symptoms. They are also recommended for people who may be vulnerable to COVID-19 and are in settings where keeping a safe physical distance from other people is not possible

- **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**
- **Please use the hand sanitiser available upon entering the Church.**
- **Please do not touch any surfaces unnecessarily.**



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

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
Tuesday: 10.30 am (Funeral)
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
Tuesday 2.00 pm (Funeral)
Thursday 10.00 am
Friday 10.00 am

Readings for Next Weekend:

Jos 5:9-12
Ps 33: 2-7 R. v 9
2 Cor 5: 17-21
Lk 15: 1-3, 11-52



20th March 2022 ~ Second Sunday of Lent Yr C

Focus on the Scriptures

Today's gospel begins with two warnings about the need for repentance. It ends with a parable about an unproductive fig tree and a faithful "gardener God". The warnings include two examples of untimely deaths, one reported to Jesus and then used by him to illustrate the urgent need for repentance, the other reported by Jesus as a further illustration of his point. With respect to the first example, Jewish history recounts instances of Pilate's cruelty, but makes no mention of his execution of Galileans and the mingling of their blood with their sacrifices. Neither is there any other record of the collapse of the Siloam tower and the resultant death of eighteen people. Jesus insists that those killed are no more sinful and no more deserving of death than any of their fellow Galileans or Jerusalemites. They are certainly not being punished for their sins and those who make such a link between suffering and sin have got it all wrong.

So why does Jesus twice assert, "If you do not repent you will all perish in the same way" or "you will all perish as they did"? The answer seems to lie in the constant need for self-reflection and the missed opportunity for conversion or reconciliation in the case of sudden and unexpected death. In other words, Jesus is telling his listeners, "Do not be caught unawares; turn your life around in the direction of the gospel while you are alive and well". The Greek verb "to repent" literally means to think again. It can have the sense of expanding one's vision or one's horizons, to think beyond the narrow confines of one's own interests and one's own little world. To repent is to see the big picture. In the context of Jesus' teaching, it is a call to take seriously the message of God's empire or reign which embraces the whole Earth community.

The parable of the unproductive fig tree in the vineyard approaches the same topic from another angle. The owner of the vineyard wants to get rid of a fig tree that fails to bear fruit after three years. From an economic perspective, his position is perfectly reasonable: why should a non-fruiting fig tree continue to sap the goodness of the soil? Why not go for more vines, more grapes, more wine, and forget about the fig tree? The faithful or constant gardener, on the other hand, is like the womb-compassionate God of Israel who cares about the soil itself and wants to give the fig tree another chance, to turn it around and assist it to bear fruit. At this mid-point in our Lenten journey, we might get in closer touch with our compassionate "gardener" God and open ourselves to a more expansive understanding of the pain of the planet. If we were truly to heed and live the Word of God for today, we might begin to hear, not lament, but cries of gratitude from Earth's regenerated beings.

Veronica Lawson RSM

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

Gospel Acclamation: Glory to you, Word of God Lord Jesus Christ! Repent, says the Lord: the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Glory to you, Word of God Lord Jesus Christ!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Frank Danaher, Sheila Prendergast

Anniversaries: We remember: Sr Mary Lynch RSM, Bryan Deady, Anne Cheesman, Marie Green, Annie Sullivan, John McNamara, Connie Vincent, Brian Troy

We pray: for the people Ukraine: Come Holy Spirit – destabilise our desires for conflict and lead us to peace! For those inundated by flooding throughout the low-lying suburbs of Brisbane, as well as Gympie, Maryborough, Ipswich, and Sunshine Coast regions of South-East Queensland and the Northern,

Prayer Creator God, We pray for all whose lives have been disrupted by the floods that have devastated the country. We pray for those who have lost their lives, their homes, and their livelihoods. Be with and sustain those whose entire world has been torn apart and washed away. Grant them patience and hope that eventually they can rebuild their lives and start afresh.



We are grateful to the emergency flood workers and all those who were heroes in helping those in distress during the floods. May they continue their missions of mercy.

Be with those who are caring for flood victims that their compassion and presence will be life-sustaining. May they continue their missions of mercy. We are thankful for those who serve others and pray for strength, courage and healing to all those affected.

Adaptation from prayer at <https://www.spiritualityandpractice.com>

Caritas Australia Ukraine Crisis Appeal In a matter of weeks, millions of people have fled the conflict in Ukraine. Our long-standing partner, Caritas Ukraine, is on the ground, supporting people in need during this unfolding humanitarian crisis. Help provide urgent humanitarian assistance including shelter, food, clean water, medicine and psychological support to people affected by this crisis. Donate today at www.caritas.org.au/ukraine or call 1800 024 413 toll free. Keep up to date on the latest activities by Caritas agencies on the ground www.caritas.org.au/ukraine-news

Pope Francis' Prayer for Peace in Ukraine I ask you to pray the Our Father for peace in Ukraine, now and throughout this Day. Let us ask the Lord to grant that the country may grow in the spirit of brotherhood, and that all hurts, fears and divisions will be overcome. We have spoken about the Holocaust. But let us think too that [in Ukraine] millions of people were killed [1932-1933]. They are a people who have suffered; they have suffered from hunger, suffered from much brutality and they deserve peace. May the prayers and supplications that today rise up to heaven touch the minds and hearts of world leaders, so that dialogue may prevail and the common good be placed ahead of partisan interests Please, no more war.

| St Columba's 27th March | (next week) | Sun 10am |
|-------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| LEADER OF SONG | | Volunteer |
| COMMENTATOR | | Peter Marquand |
| MINISTER OF THE WORD | | Bruce Chapman |
| COMMUNION MINISTER | | Volunteer |
| DIGITAL PROJECTOR | | Vicki Moroney |
| SACRISTAN | | Volunteer |

Collections Last week at St Columba's Thank you for your contributions
 Presbytery: \$ 265.00 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,570.00

Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program – Online Study

Our partner, Dayton University, offers low-cost (\$50usd) online study and formation for employed or volunteer lay workers in parishes. Study cycles are over 3 or 5 weeks. The next Cycle of 2022 begins March 7. There are 39 subjects to choose from – find one that interests you! Registrations are open now. More information is available on 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

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.

Baptism: This weekend we welcome to our Parish through the sacrament of Baptism: **Herbie James Trevenen** and **Esse Leanne Trevenen** son and daughter of Grant and Ebony and **Reuben Archer Mahar** son of Joel and Ashlea

“The Church gives the faith to your children through Baptism and you have the task to make it grow....” Pope Francis

May Herbie, Esse, and Rueben grow in faith with the support of her family and our Catholic Community..

Position Vacant: St John of God Healthcare Ballarat -

Pastoral Practitioner The hospital has an exciting opportunity available for a dedicated and committed Pastoral Practitioner to join our Pastoral Services team in promoting and providing holistic pastoral services to patients and clients. <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/our-diocese/employment/>



Vinnies Flood Appeal: Vinnies are accepting donations for those affected by the flood disaster. The website offers opportunity to donation to Queensland, New South Wales or both. To find out more go to https://www.vinnies.org.au/page/Find_Help/Flood_appeal/

Mass of the Oils 2022 All are welcome to attend the Mass of the Oils to be held on Monday, April 11, 2022 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 6.30pm. Supper will follow in the Hall. Any COVID restrictions applicable at this time will apply to the Mass of the Oils.

Choir for Mass of the Oils 2022 Singers and musicians in the diocese are invited to join the music group which is being formed for the Mass of the Oils on Monday, April 11, 2022. Practice times are Sunday, March 27, Sunday, April 3 and Sunday, April 10 from 6.00pm – 7.00pm (following 5.00pm Mass). Please contact Julie Boyd in the Pastoral Ministry Office to register your interest julie.boyd@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7159

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 March: **For a Christian response to bioethical challenges:** We pray for Christians facing new bioethical challenges. May they continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action.

Project Compassion – Third Sunday of Lent



Janice 44, is a proud Wagilak woman, a traditional dancer, who tells stories through movements handed down over generations. With your support, Janice and the Djilpin Arts Aboriginal Corporation support the community to generate income and employment, while keeping culture alive. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow "For All Future Generations". You can donate

through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your Parish or by visiting www.lent.caritas.org.au or by calling 1800 024 413.

Conversations about Project Compassion 2022

Explore the stories, programs and issues for each week of Project Compassion with our Caritas Conversations. These one-hour sessions are open to individuals over the age of 18 as well as parish, youth and community groups. Biru's Story: March 15 at 11.30am (Sydney Time); March 16 at 2.30pm and 10.00pm (Sydney time for WA); March 17 at 11.30am (SydneyTime).

Register at <https://calendly.com/conversations-about-pc-22>

Collections and Stewardship

For safety reasons we suspended passing the 1st and 2nd collection plates (but all contributions are gratefully received). You are most welcome to donate in the church by placing cash or stewardship envelopes at the front of the altar.

| OLHC 26th March | (next week) | Saturday 6pm |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| LEADER OF SONG | | Vin Dillon |
| PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL | | Elly Green |
| MINISTER OF THE WORD | | Ena Bruty, Vin Dillon |
| COMMUNION MINISTERS | | Tony Bruty and Jennifer Adams |
| SACRISTAN | | Margaret and Geoff McLean |

Collections Last Week at OLHC Thank you for your contributions
 Presbytery: \$ 417.90 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,255.00