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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

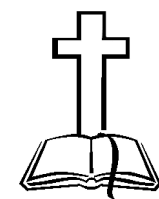
MASS TIMES (This week)

St Columba's
Sunday 10:00 am
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 10.00 am
Friday 10.00 am

Readings for Next Weekend:

Is 43: 16-21
Ps 125 R. v 3
Phil 3: 8-14
Jn 8:1-11



27th March 2022 ~ Fourth Sunday of Lent Yr C

Focus on the Scriptures

Unfailing forgiveness and arms open to welcome back wayward sons and daughters is a key motif in today's gospel story. There is no room in the hearts of Jesus' critics for such forgiveness. From their perspective, upright law-abiding people should exclude "sinners" from their company. In a first-century Jewish context, it was easy enough to be a sinner. Whole groups of people, depending upon their occupation, fell into that category simply because they failed to observe one or more of the 618 prescriptions of the law. Jesus' response to his critics is the story of a parent whose adult children lose their way. One son finds his way back to the centre of family life and the support of the wider community while the other more law-abiding son seems to place himself outside the family circle, holding on to the resentment he feels at his sibling's return.

We need to attend to the gaps in the story: there may be daughters as well as sons in the family; there is surely another parent, a mother who shares the heartache of her husband when their younger son requests his share of the estate. To make such a request in this context is tantamount to wishing his parents dead. The older brother is not disadvantaged: he is assured of a two-thirds share according to the law as well as the ongoing love and support of his family, as his father makes clear.

The contrast between the young man's acquisitive nature and his parents' capacity to relinquish substantial property in the interests of relationship is striking. No motive is offered for the son's readiness to break all his ties and get as far away as he can. In the distant country, he squanders both his inheritance and his identity. A "severe famine" becomes the catalyst for his change of direction. Famine in any age means devastation of the earth that can lead to displacement, to broken relationships and even to global conflicts. In turning back, the young man shows no real interest in a restored relationship with his family or ancestral lands.

Rather, he devises a plan that will put food in his belly. He composes a speech about having sinned against his father and against God and about being prepared to share the status of the servants. Thanks to the expansive heart of an extraordinarily compassionate parent, he does not have to deliver the speech he has prepared. Famine becomes feast. So it is with our merciful God. We abandon, we even betray. We waste the bounty of Earth. Our motives for returning to the sources of love and community are very mixed, and yet our merciful God is ever ready, with our cooperation, to turn famine or flood into feast. For that to happen in our times, we must turn away from our acquisitive, wasteful ways and respond as one to the pain of our planetary home.

Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm: (R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord
Gospel Acclamation: Praise and honour to Lord Jesus Christ! I will rise and go to my Father and tell him; Father I have sinned against heaven and against you. Praise and honour to you Lord Jesus Christ!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Tina Marshall
Anniversaries: We remember: Kaylene Jarvis, Isaac Lund, Maria Tochett, Lawrence Norbury, Len Hyatt, Bill Walsh, Des Ryan, Peter Leonard, Juianne Spice, Adele Byrne, Fr. Joseph Tran
We pray: for the people Ukraine, those inundated by flooding throughout the low-lying suburbs of Brisbane, as well Sunshine Coast regions of South-East Queensland and the Northern, North-Eastern and Southern communities of New South Wales

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 3rd April | (next week) | Sun 10am |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| LEADER OF SONG | | Volunteer |
| COMMENTATOR | | Colleen Wakefield |
| MINISTER OF THE WORD | | Ruth Marquand |
| COMMUNION MINISTER | | Volunteer |
| DIGITAL PROJECTOR | | Mark Lacey |
| SACRISTAN | | Volunteer |

Collections Last week at St Columba's Thank you for your contributions
 Presbytery: \$ 240.05 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 635.00

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: **Rosie Elizabeth Wakefield** daughter of Drew and Andrea

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

May Rosie 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/>

St Joseph's Church Derrinallum Final Mass An invitation is extended to parishioners and former parishioners, their families and friends and any interested members of the community, to attend the Final Mass following the closing of St Joseph's Church in Derrinallum. The Mass will be celebrated at 11.00 am on Sunday April 24 to be followed by Light refreshments. To assist with catering kindly reply to Gerard Fitzgerald 0409863079 or Kathy Bell 0499555607

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 – Fourth Sunday of Lent



From her life as a child soldier in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rosalie is now a business owner, a community leader and a role model for other ex-combatants seeking to readjust to civilian life. Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 and help women like Rosalie to succeed in the future, providing hope For All Future Generations. 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, 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. Rosalie's Story: March 29 at 7.30pm (Sydney Time); March 30 at 11.00 am (Sydney time); March 31 at 2.30 pm (SydneyTime).

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



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/

| OLHC 2nd April | (next week) | Saturday 6pm |
|------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|
| LEADER OF SONG | | Corrie Harbour |
| PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL | | Kath Leonard |
| MINISTER OF THE WORD | | Jennifer Adams and Trish Lawson |
| COMMUNION MINISTERS | | Trish Pearce and Pat Dillon |
| SACRISTAN | | Kath Leonard and Anne Slattery |

Collections Last Week at OLHC Thank you for your contributions
 Presbytery: \$ 507.60 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,158.25