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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
- 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](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 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:**

Gen 15:5-12, 17-18  
Ps 26:1, 7-9, 13-14. R. v 1  
Phil 3: 17-41  
Lk 9: 28-36



**6th March 2022 First Sunday of Lent Yr C**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

Lent is a time for personal as well as group reflection, a time for entering into the "wilderness" or "desert place" and grappling with the mysteries of life. While deserts are often depicted as uninhabited or desolate regions, anyone who has spent time in such places knows that the desert supports a rich diversity of other-than-human life. Human retreat to the wilderness can be an opportunity to encounter God in the unfamiliar and to understand oneself in relation to the other-than-human. It can reveal to us our capacities for right relationship with God, with each other, and with the Earth. Right relationship resides in "power-with" rather than "power-over".

In Israel's story, the wilderness is the place of testing for God's people: "Remember the long way that your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness...testing you to know what was in your heart" (Deuteronomy 8:2). Jesus is "filled with the Holy Spirit" and, like so many human beings before and since, is "led by the Spirit" into the wilderness to be "tested" there. ["Tested" is a more accurate translation of the Greek peirazein than the usual "tempted"].

The three-fold drama of the testing of Jesus in the wilderness is about the proper exercise of power and about trust in a loving God. In refusing to turn the stones of the wilderness into bread in order to satisfy his own hunger, the Lukan Jesus demonstrates that he is not prepared to exercise power over the other-than-human Earth, even if he had the capacity to work such magic. By refusing to accept the "glory of all the kingdoms of the world", he shows that power over the human communities of the Earth is not "of God" and that worship belongs to God alone. Finally, in refusing to cast himself from the parapet of Israel's holiest shrine, the Jerusalem Temple, he makes it clear that he is not prepared to test the power of God to rescue him from a self-inflicted death or to use God's holy place to such ends. The Lukan Jesus passes the tests that the people Israel failed in the wilderness of Sinai.

Adelaide priest, Michael Trainor, in a wonderfully sensitive reading of Luke's gospel, detects three ecological ethical principles in today's gospel reading: 1) Earth is to be cared for and treated respectfully, not ravaged through greed; 2) All ecological and environmental engagement is grounded in and enhanced by one's communion with God; and 3) Earth's resources are to be respected by all and not usurped as a means of power and control by one over another (About Earth's Child 2012, 107-109). These principles derive from the story as a whole with its three-fold testing and from Jesus' three-fold response to these tests. As Earth's people and Earth's bounty are exploited to wage war in Ukraine, we pray with all our being that peace and order will prevail.

Veronica Lawson RSM

**Responsorial Psalm:** (R.) Be with me, Lord, when I am trouble

**Gospel Acclamation:** Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

**Recently Deceased: We commend to God:** Paul Rhodes, Simon Scarff, James Petrie, Stephanie Carswell

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Michael Mahar, Marija Gavranic, Brian Perkins, Kevin Tradrew

**We pray:** for the people Ukraine: Come Holy Spirit – destabilise our desires for conflict and lead us to peace!

**Caritas Australia Prayer for International Women's Day – March 8, 2022**

Gracious God, we pray for ourselves and all women around the world. Strengthen us to stand in solidarity with our sisters experiencing poverty and injustice. Open our hearts to listen and serve. Give us the courage to hope and work for a better future for all women. Awaken us, that we may fully realise our interconnectedness to our one global human family. Guide us with your spirit, to welcome, champion, practically and joyfully love each other. Amen.

**Roundtable Ecological Theology Conversations** After a two year COVID hiatus, Fr Barry Ryan and Sr Veronica Lawson's monthly theology sessions will resume on Wednesday, March 9 (afternoon group 1.30-3.00pm; evening group 7.00-8.30pm). Everyone is welcome. Just turn up at the Mercy Gathering Room, 16 Gent Street, Ballarat East (with evidence of vaccination).

**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>



St Columba's 13th March	(next week)	Sun 10am
LEADER OF SONG		Volunteer
COMMENTATOR		Judy Brown
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Anthea Hinchey
COMMUNION MINISTER		
DIGITAL PROJECTOR		Mark Lacey
SACRISTAN		Volunteer

**Collections Last week at St Columba's** Thank you for your contributions  
Presbytery: \$ 212.30 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,959.00

**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](mailto: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/](http://www.olivetreetravel.com.au/) upcoming events.

**Baptism:** This weekend we welcome to our Parish through the sacrament of Baptism: **Lily Grace Moran** daughter of Brian and Jayde. **Mack William Egan** son of Marissa and Grant

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

May Lily and Mack grow in faith with the support of her family and our Catholic Community..

**Invitation to Blessing of Statue of St Patrick for the Cathedral**

A statue of St Patrick will be placed and blessed in St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat by Bishop Paul Bird CSsR during Evening Prayer (Vespers) on the Vigil of St Patrick's Day (Wednesday, March 16) at 7.00pm. On St Patrick's Day itself, there will be Masses at 10.00am and 7.00pm. Fr Ed Moloney and Fr Abraham Thomas will preside and acknowledge the blessing of the statue during those Masses. People of the Diocese are welcome to the Evening Prayer and the Masses. More information is available from the diocesan website [https://mcusercontent.com/904e76c839232ddc552d4311d/files/df651b2-ca50-6e9d-4844-c24a97df8ff0/St\\_Patrick\\_Invitation.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/904e76c839232ddc552d4311d/files/df651b2-ca50-6e9d-4844-c24a97df8ff0/St_Patrick_Invitation.pdf)

**Position Vacant: Diocesan Director for Catholic Mission with responsibility for the Dioceses of Ballarat and Sandhurst (West Victoria)** For a position description and short video on what it is like to work at Catholic Mission, go to <https://www.catholicmission.org.au/jobs-at-catholic-mission>. If you are interested, please submit a cover letter of 1 page and a resume no longer than 3 pages to [employment@catholicmission.org.au](mailto:employment@catholicmission.org.au).



**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 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.

**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—First Sunday of Lent**



Anatercia 12, was struggling to cope with adult responsibilities after her father died. Then she participated in Caritas Australia-supported training and gained access to psychosocial supports. Now, her quality of life has improved and she can focus on school. Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 to help young people succeed in the future and bring stability to vulnerable youth like Anatercia. 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](http://www.lent.caritas.org.au) or by calling 1800 024 413.

**Sew and So.....Thursday 10th March 2022,** at 1.30pm in St Columba's Church Foyer. Looking forward to seeing as many as possible at our friendly little gathering. Enquiries 5331 4032.

OLHC 12th March	(next week)	Saturday 6pm
LEADER OF SONG		Paul Hogan
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Veronica Stott
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Trish Pora and Daryl Clark
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Frank Hogan and Bev Hayward
SACRISTAN		Sue and John Calistro

**Collections Last Week at OLHC** Thank you for your contributions  
Presbytery: \$ 350.10 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$1,705.00