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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

Aboriginal Stations of the Cross available for purchase

Within the chapel of Aboriginal Catholic Ministry in Thornbury, in Melbourne's inner north, a set of Indigenous Stations of the Cross are on display, which were created by artist 'John Dunn', a member of the Stolen Generations. These Stations are an exploration of his own journey and they illustrate beautifully how Aboriginal people resonate with the sufferings of Jesus. 10cm x 16cm resource sets are available for parishes, churches and school communities at \$15.00 each. For more information go to <https://art.catholic.org.au/2021/07/13/aboriginal-stations-of-the-cross/>

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

Parish Co-Ordinator: Lia Adanar Yu
Wed-Friday 10:00am –2:00pm

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
Friday 10.00 am (Funeral)

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 No Mass

Readings for Next Weekend:

Acts 5:27-31, 40-41
Ps 29:2, 4-6, 11-13.
R. v.2
Rev 5:11-14
Jn 21:1-19



24th April 2022 ~ Second Sunday of Easter Yr C

Focus on the Scriptures

This weekend we celebrate the second of eight Sundays of the Easter Season that culminates in the Feast of Pentecost. In other words, we recognise that the liturgical readings and prayers for each Sunday between Easter and Pentecost invite us into different movements of the one great symphony of resurrection faith. The first scene in today's gospel has the disciples hiding behind closed doors "for fear" of those who had handed Jesus over to be executed by the Roman authorities. Again, it is the first day of the week, evoking the first day of creation. Jesus appears among them, offers a greeting of peace, and tells them that he has been sent by God, his "Father". They receive from him the gift of the Holy Spirit. He sends them in turn to bring peace and to mediate the forgiveness of God through the power of the Spirit.

The story invites us to place ourselves in the shoes of the earliest disciples. It invites us to receive the gift of the Spirit, to emerge from behind the doors that close us in on ourselves and that prevent us from rising above the fear of reprisals in our pursuit of justice and peace. It also invites us to ponder the consequences of forgiving on the one hand and of not forgiving on the other. To forgive another is to release that person from the burden of guilt and shame. Forgiveness opens up the possibility of healing. To refuse forgiveness or to "retain" the sins of another is to leave that person unforgiven and unhealed. We might also consider the consequences of refusing to open ourselves to forgiveness. Those who refuse to forgive others have often failed to forgive themselves for their own shortcomings.

The second and third scenes in today's gospel focus on Thomas who was not with the other disciples when Jesus first appeared in their midst. Thomas seems to trust only his own first-hand experience. We all know people like Thomas. They test our patience because they seem to lack imagination. They then make big statements when they come around to understanding what everyone else already knows. If we think, however, that those who hear from the outset are any better than Thomas, we need to note that the doors are still closed eight days later! The simple fact of knowing has not dispelled their fears. We all need time to grasp what it means to say that Christ has been raised and, even then, we will not understand fully. Biblical scholar, Margaret Daly-Denton notes that, in the Jewish tradition, "the eighth day symbolized the aeon to come". Like John's community we live in "the eighth day", in resurrection time, the time of the new creation. Easter faith invites us, for the sake of the whole Earth community, to keep living into that reality and to break through the human-constructed barriers, even as we recognise that the full realisation of the new creation belongs to an unknown future

Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm: (R.) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe. Allelu-

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Michael Phillips, Neil Hanrahan, Jack Canty

Anniversaries: We remember: Angela Loader, Wendy Smith, Lorna Batty, Mary Smerdon, Betty Kirkpatrick, Barry McNamara, Veronica McNamara, Eric Myers, Kath Myers

We pray: for the people Ukraine, and all in need in of our prayer.

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.

Divine Mercy Sunday – This Sunday April 24, 2022

The Divine Mercy Picture travels to parishes to bring healing, hope and courage and will be at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat on April 24, 2022 from 1.00pm. Jesus says: "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." Mt 11:28. Eight first class relics: Pope St John Paul II; St Jadwiga Queen; St Faustina Kowalska, St Maximilian Kolbe; St Stanisław Papczyński; St Maria of Jesus Crucified from Bethlehem; Blessed Michał Sopoćko; and Blessed Jerzy Popiełuszko. Prayers for peace, merciful love for Ukraine, Russia, all nations, the Church and the world. All are welcome:

- 1.00pm – Viewing of Relics, talk
- 1.00pm – 4.00 pm Confession(Sacrament of Reconciliation)
- 1.30pm - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary
- 2.00pm - Hour of Mercy prayers, Benediction
- 3.00pm - Holy Mass, Blessing with Relics

St Columba's 1st May	(next week)	Sun 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG		Volunteer
COMMENTATOR		Volunteer
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Volunteer
COMMUNION MINISTER		Volunteer
DIGITAL PROJECTOR		Volunteer
SACRISTAN		Volunteer

Collections Last week at St Columba's Thank you for your contributions
 Presbytery: \$ 349.65 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,290.20

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

"Engaging Your Faith" online sessions

Catholic Theological College presents, "Engaging Your Faith", a series of online short sessions offering an opportunity to explore your faith through a variety of topics including: Theology, Spirituality, Biblical Studies, Vatican II, Pastoral Studies, *Laudato Si*, Christian Meditation, *Lectio Divina*, Interfaith Relations, and Science and Religion. All topics are presented by lecturers of Catholic Theological College. For more information go to <https://ctc.edu.au/news-and-events/engaging-your-faith/>

Walking in the Spirit

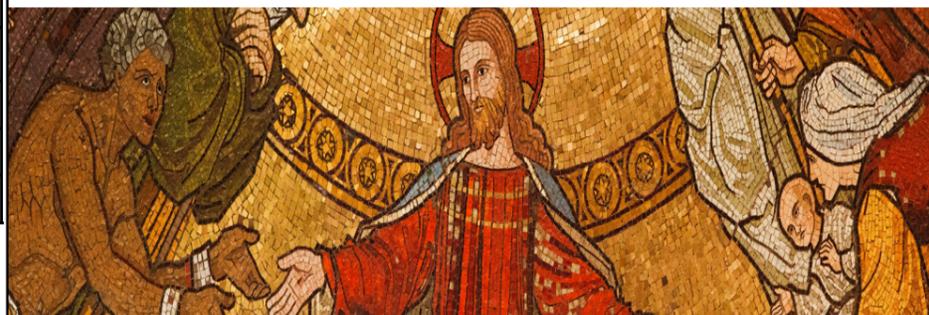
The People of God are invited to make a prayerful journey towards the Second Assembly of the Plenary Council through the "Walking in the Spirit" prayer campaign. Walking in the Spirit begins on Easter Sunday, April 17, and runs until the Second Assembly, which opens on Sunday, July 3. Resources have been created for use by individuals, families, schools, parishes and other Catholic communities. Find out more at www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/walkinginthepirit/

Reflection Day - Tuesday 17th May from 9.30am - 2.00pm

Invitation to attend a day of reflection "Where is the will of God for us in loss" OLHC Parish Wendouree. Numbers are limited. For bookings contact Kath 5331 2677.

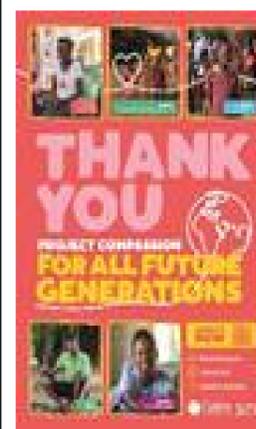
Our Diocesan Community – Issue 1 2022

The first edition of ODC 2022 has been published. Feel free to take copies to the homebound, nursing homes, hospitals, etc., to spread the good news of the diocese.



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 April: **For Health Care Workers:** We pray for health care workers who serve the sick and the elderly, especially those in the poorest countries. May they be adequately supported by governments and local communities.

Caritas Australia - Thank You!



Caritas Australia would like to **THANK YOU** for supporting Project Compassion 2022. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please bring them back next week or visit <https://www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion/donate-today/> and donate online or by calling 1800 024 413. Your generosity will empower the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and lift themselves out of poverty. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations.**

Baptism

This weekend we welcome to our Parish through the sacrament of Baptism: **Poppy Clare Banwell** daughter of Christopher and Clare.

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

Pope Francis

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

OLHC 30th April April	(next week)	Saturday 6.00pm
LEADER OF SONG		Sue Searls
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Lyn Gray
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Zeena Lazarus, Bill Jones
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Val and John Bourke
SACRISTAN		Tony and Pauline Newman

Collections Last Week at OLHC Thank you for your contributions
 Presbytery: \$ 508.70 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 937.75
 Holy Places (Good Friday) \$ 441.00