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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

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:

Is 50:4-7
Ps 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24 R. v.2
Phil 2:6-11
Lk 22:14-23:56



3rd April 2022 ~ Fifth Sunday of Lent Yr C

Focus on the Scriptures

Historian Gerda Lerner has demonstrated that patriarchy emerged some 3000 years ago with the invention of weapons of war and the consequent gender division of labour. By the first century CE, when the gospels were written, every woman in the Roman world knew that she was the possession of a man, initially of her father, and then of her husband or of successive husbands. Slaves, both men and women, were the property of and sexually available to the head of the patriarchal household. Even free women had fewer choices than men in regard to such matters as choice of life partners and social contact outside the family. In the context of Second Temple Judaism, a woman's sexual liaison with another man was a sin against her husband who was also her proprietor. Her shame was of less consequence than her husband's loss of status and honour.

We are told nothing of the precise circumstances of the woman said to be "taken in adultery". She could not have been "taken" alone: there is a man somewhere in the wings who is at least as guilty as the woman. But only the woman is "brought" to Jesus in the public arena, a spectacle for the assembled crowd. Ironically, the lawyers have little interest in the woman or her fate. Their interest is in Jesus. They want to test him and catch him out on his attitude to and enactment of the Mosaic law. In other words, Jesus is the one on trial in this public setting, and the woman is no more than a dispensable object in the process, a means to a sinister end.

The woman's life is of little concern to her accusers. They ask Jesus for a legal opinion on her case. Should the full force of the law be exercised? Should she be stoned to death? Jesus does not dignify their manipulation with a response. Rather, he takes away their power over the woman by bending down and writing with his finger on the ground. What does he write? We can never have an answer to that question. They keep asking him to provide a ruling.

Jesus subverts their ploy by confronting them with their own sinfulness: "let the one without sin cast the first stone". They move off one by one and the woman is finally accorded the dignity of responding for herself. She is freed from the burden of condemnation. She can move forward with a strong sense of her worth and the knowledge that she matters in the scheme of things. As we bring today's gospel into dialogue with stories of violence against women, such as the horrific stories of women used as sex slaves even here in Australia or of women on the African continent being forced to offer sexual services in exchange for twigs of firewood, we might commit ourselves anew to the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women
Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm: (R.) The Lord has done great things for us we are filled with joy.

Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
With all your heart turn to me for I am tender and compassionate. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ king of endless glory!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God:

Anniversaries: We remember: Nancy Trower, Tony McDonald, Brendan Love, Bill Eddy, Eleanor Eddy, Monica Eddy, Marion Goss

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

Sew and So..... Thursday 14th April 2022 at 1.30pm in St. Columba's Church Foyer
 Over the years at St Columba's there have been different social groups to bring people together. Family Groups have run successfully for over 30 years. The group Sew & So still happens monthly. After the past few years of isolation and lack of Community gatherings we plan now to encourage more people to come to Sew and So..... as a social outing. You (and a friend) are invited to come to bring some craft, to knit or to be part of our knitting program for East Timor. We also need people to just sit and talk. Books with the knitting patterns are available and help if required. We meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 1.30 in the Church foyer. For further information Contact Margaret Ranger 0409 533 140 or Knitting Program - Irene Monigatti 0437 079 893.

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.

Good Friday Holy Land Collection The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land will take place again this year on Good Friday.

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

St Columba's 10th 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: \$ 419.40 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,070.00

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

St Joseph's Church Derrinallum Final Mass An invitation is extended to parishioners and former parishioners, their families and friends 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

Holy Week Ceremonies because of Covid

Hello Everyone,
 As we look ahead to the ceremonies of Holy Week, some have asked whether some adjustments would still be appropriate in view of the continuing need to reduce the impact of Covid. I propose that we adopt the same provisions as last year in regard to Holy Thursday and Good Friday.

The Mass of **Holy Thursday** usually includes the **Washing of Feet** after the homily and a **Procession with the Blessed Sacrament** to "a place of repose". In line with directions given by the Congregation for Divine Worship for the time of pandemic, the Washing of Feet and the Procession with the Blessed Sacrament **may be omitted**. The Congregation has indicated that the Blessed Sacrament could simply be taken to the tabernacle after communion as usual. This would not rule out providing some time for people to stay for quiet prayer after the Mass, as is the custom particularly on Holy Thursday.

For **Good Friday**, the Congregation for Divine Worship provided a prayer related to the time of pandemic. This prayer can be added to the Solemn Intercessions, between the usual ninth and tenth prayers. The text is on the next page, under the heading "For the afflicted in time of pandemic". The Good Friday ceremony includes **Veneration of the Cross**. Once again, I propose that people be invited to come forward to venerate the cross by bowing before the cross rather than by touching or kissing the cross.

I also note **several general provisions** that go beyond Holy Week. I remind everyone of the directive that, during this time of pandemic, **communion should be received in the hand** rather than on the tongue. Also, while Covid is still occurring frequently in the community, there **should be no sharing of the chalice**, those distributing Holy Communion should use **hand sanitiser** prior to distribution and **not touch anyone when giving a blessing**, and **holy water fonts should still be empty**. May the peace of Christ be with us all as we continue our journey through Lent and come to celebrate Holy Week and Easter. God bless you all.
 Bishop Paul

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 elderly, especially those in the poorest countries. May they be adequately supported by governments and local communities.

Project Compassion – Fifth Sunday of Lent



Shaniella 23, from the Solomon Islands was determined to forge a path out of poverty, moving away to vocational school. With your support, Shaniella was able to overcome further challenges of natural disasters, and gain the skills she needs to create a brighter future for herself and *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.



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/

Holy Week Liturgies

Reconciliation	Tuesday 12th April 2022	Wendouree 7.00 pm
Anointing Mass	Wednesday 13th April 2022	Ballarat North 10.00 am
Holy Thursday	14th April 2022	Ballarat North 7.00 pm
Good Friday	15th April 2022	Waubra Way of the Cross 10.00am Wendouree 3.00 pm
Easter Vigil	Saturday 16th April 2022	Wendouree 7.00 pm
Easter Sunday	17th April 2022	Waubra 8.30 am Ballarat North 10.00 am

OLHC 9th April	(next week)	Saturday 6pm
LEADER OF SONG		Paul Hogan
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Veronica Stott
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Val and John Bourke
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Pauline Newman and Harry Kennedy
SACRISTAN		Margaret and Geoff McLean

Collections Last Week at OLHC Thank you for your contributions
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