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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 Andanar 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

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 10.30am (Funeral)

Readings for Next Weekend:

Acts 14: 21-27
Ps 144: 8-13. R. v.1
Rev 21:1-5
Jn 13: 31-35



8th May 2022 ~ Fourth Sunday of Easter Yr C

Focus on the Scriptures

Listening is important. Having the capacity to hear is even more so. Today's gospel is wonderfully reassuring for those who truly hear the voice of Jesus. He "knows" them. These are the ones who "follow" him, those who live as he lived, caring for the "flock". There is a sense of mutuality in hearing and in being known. The inheritance of the "known" ones is "eternal" or never-ending life. In other words, they participate in God's way of being in the world. Just as the shepherds of the ancient world protected their flocks, so the followers of Jesus are secure in his "hand", secure in the "hand" of God. Later in John's gospel, Mary of Magdala will hear Jesus' voice and recognise him when he calls her by name. She is one whom Jesus' "knows". Her faithful following of Jesus will find expression in her presence at the foot of the cross and her visit to the empty tomb.

Sisters of the Good Shepherd, founded in post-revolution France to shepherd God's people, especially young women at risk, take their inspiration from the gospel image of Jesus as shepherd. They continue to shepherd God's people, including women who have been trafficked as sexual slaves. They have expanded their mission and, together with their associates and partners in ministry, have decided "to shepherd God's creation". Their foundress, Sr. Mary Euphrasia Pelletier, understood the ways of shepherds in mid-19th century rural France: "How, in fact, do good shepherds act? They forget themselves and often have to endure hunger and thirst. They are crushed by fatigue and difficulties—no matter! They are happy if their sheep do not suffer and if they find those that are lost. What trouble they take to lead their sheep to good pastures! In summer they seek out places where there is water and shade; in winter they lead them to where the cold is less biting and the grass more abundant. If they notice poisonous plants near the little lambs they hasten to pull them up. Day and night, they are on guard against wolves—they never completely relax." The same respectful stance is needed as we seek to care for our threatened Earth community.

For the earliest readers of John's gospel, the term "good shepherd" was a contradiction in terms. Shepherds were known to trespass on the property of others in their search for feed. A positive image of the shepherd is nonetheless part of Israel's prophetic tradition. John's gospel evokes that tradition. It also evokes the figure of David, the shepherd boy who was destined to become king and to shepherd God's people. For biblical scholar Margaret Daly-Denton, the Israelite understanding of kingship is "shepherding done in the name of the true Shepherd of Israel (Ps. 80.1), the kind of care that reveals the divine 'care-fulness'" (John: An Earth Bible Commentary, T&T Clark, 2017, 144). Those who hear the voice of Jesus are called to that kind of care for one another and for our planetary home

Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm:(R.) We are his people, the sheep of his flock

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Peter Thorpe, James McEldrew

Anniversaries: We remember: Frank Sheehan, Frank Rienets, Gerard Sullivan, Margaret Sherman, Kathleen Clohesy, Doreen Davies

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

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.

Laudato Si' Week: May 16-24, 2022

As part of Catholic Earthcare's celebration of *Laudato Si'* Week, they are hosting an online screening of the newly released 'Regenerating Australia' short film - a fictitious news segment set on New Year's Eve 2029, examining the decade that 'could be'. The film challenges people to consider how to respond to the Cry of the Earth. Participants will be joined by Bishop Ken Howell and a range of guest speakers to share in this celebration. After the film, there will be a panel discussion and question time regarding how we can take the teachings of the film and respond as Catholics here in Australia. You are welcome to join by yourself or register a parish group for the viewing (please note if registering for a group, only 1 person need register via Trybooking). The video will be streamed via zoom so you can watch together on a large screen at a suitable venue like a parish hall. The online event will be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 from 6.00pm – 8.00pm AEST, 4.00pm – 6.00pm AWST. Bookings at: <https://www.trybooking.com/BZADT>.

SEW and SOThursday **12th May, 1.30 pm** in the foyer of St Columba's Church. Last month we had two new members who found the companionship of the afternoon very enjoyable. Come along and meet us. Also anyone who has knitting for Irene and her East Timor Project can drop it off for her to collect. Donations of any spare 8ply ACRYLIC yarn is very welcome. **Enquiries** Margaret 53314032

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.

St Columba's 15th May	(next week)	Sun 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG		Volunteer
COMMENTATOR		Maree Phelan
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Anne Rossiter
COMMUNION MINISTER		Kaye Beggs
DIGITAL PROJECTOR		Bruce Chapman
SACRISTAN		Volunteer

Collections Last week at St Columba's Thank you for your contributions
 Presbytery: \$ 304.45 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,219.00

Prayer for Mother's Day

Loving God, we pray for our mothers, who have given us life and love, that we may show them reverence and love, and others who show us a mother's love.

We pray for adoptive mothers and for the women who wish to give birth but experience challenges, that they know your care.

We pray for mothers who have lost a child through death, that their faith may give them hope, and their family and friends support and console them.

We pray for those who wish to serve as mothers, but are not able to do so, that they know your comfort.

We pray for mothers who have died, that God may bring them into the joy of his kingdom. Amen

"Engaging Your Faith" online sessions

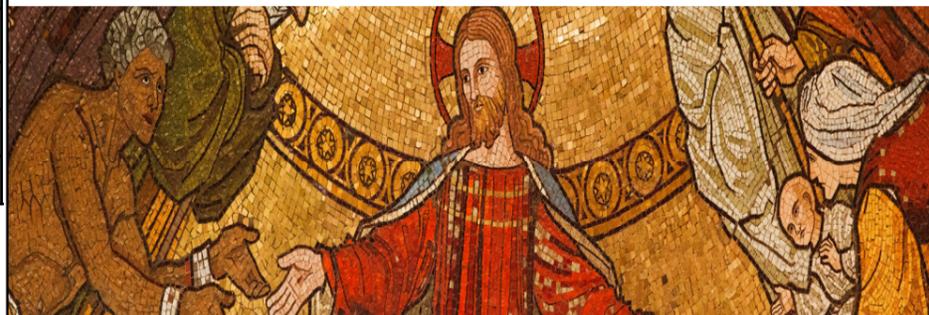
Catholic Theological College presents, "Engaging Your Faith", a series of online short sessions offering an opportunity to explore your faith through a variety of topics including: Theology, Spirituality, Biblical Studies, Vatican II, Pastoral Studies, *Laudato Si'*, Christian Meditation, *Lectio Divina*, 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/walkinginthespirit/

National Family Week: May 15-21, 2022

CatholicCare Victoria believes that building strong family relationships is the key to building healthy, resilient communities. Strong families give children the foundation they need to grow and the support they need to face challenges and setbacks not only now, but into the future. So how can parents and families build strong family relationships? Family Relationship Practitioners in Bendigo, Julia Feiss and Lisa Castles, share five important elements for creating strong families at <https://www.catholiccarevic.org.au/news/247/a-blessing-for-families>. There is also, "A Blessing for Families" on this webpage.



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 May: **For faith-filled young people:** We pray for all young people, called to live life to the fullest. May they see in Mary's life the way to listen, the depth of discernment, the courage that faith generates, and the dedication to service.

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 return them. 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: **Rudy Miles Lee** and **Alba Wren Lee** son and daughter of Andrew and Emily.

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

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

Advance Notice: Ordinations to the Priesthood

Deacons Matt Restall and Bill Lowry will be ordained priests for the Diocese of Ballarat on Friday, July 22, 2022 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 7.00pm

Mass Counts will be occurring throughout the month of May beginning this weekend, **7-8 May.**

OLHC 14th May	(next week)	Saturday 6.00pm
LEADER OF SONG		Paul Hogan
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Volunteer
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Kevin Murphy and Pauline Newman
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Tony Bruty and Jennifer Adams
SACRISTAN		Geoff and Margaret McLean

Collections Last Week at OLHC Thank you for your contributions
 Presbytery: \$ 374.40 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,492.05