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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)

**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 awaiting results of a COVID test, please 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

**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 10:30 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 10.00 am

**Readings for Next Weekend:**

Sir 3:17-20, 28-29  
Ps 67:4-7, 10-11.  
R.v. 11  
Heb 12:18-19, 22-24  
Lk 14:1, 7-14



**21st August 2022 ~ 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time C**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

There is a sense of urgency in today's gospel. Jesus feels constrained or under stress until the "fire" he has come to cast on the earth is kindled and the baptism of fire that John the Baptist foreshadowed in 3:16 takes effect. Elsewhere in Luke's writing, fire is associated with judgement (3:9, 17; 9:17; 17:29), and with the presence of the Holy Spirit (3:16), especially in the Lukan story of Pentecost (Acts 2:3) where "tongues as of fire" appear and rest on all those assembled in the upper room. Fire is a sign of the end times when the Spirit of prophecy will come upon all God's people (Acts 2:18-19). Those who have experienced fires in Australia and California, as well as those presently suffering the effect of fires in northern Africa and southern Europe, can appreciate the power of this image. Climate change is undoubtedly increasing the risk of destructive fires across the globe. Drier conditions wither plant life that then becomes fuel for the fires. Fire can take all before it. It can also bring the most astonishing new life in its wake. We have much to learn from First Nations peoples on this score.

Linked with the image of fire is that of water: Jesus has a "baptism with which to be baptized". Once more, a sense of urgency is expressed as the power of water is evoked. Like fire, water has power to destroy and power to save. Fire and water become metaphors for the hard-won gospel path to peace. Jesus seems to be contradicting so much of what he has stood for to this point. At his birth, he is presented as the bringer of peace (Luke 1:79 and 2:14). He tells the hospitable woman of 7:50 and the faith-filled woman of 8:48 to "go in peace". He instructs his disciples to bring peace to the families they visit (10:5-6). He refuses to be a divider (12:13-14). And now he declares that he has come not to bring peace but division. His hearers can expect members of families to be divided one against another. How can this be?

The Lukan Jesus is almost certainly describing the status quo rather than prescribing what ought to prevail. In other words, by the time Luke is writing, it is clear that some have accepted the gospel way of peace and justice and compassion and others within the same families have not. Acceptance of the gospel and of Jesus as the Christ or Messiah would have involved a monumental shift for Jews on the one hand and for adherents of the diverse philosophies or faiths of the Roman world on the other. Today's families of mixed faith might be able to get inside this experience and to understand the suffering involved when a family member makes a life choice that other members of the family find hard to accept. This is not an easy text to understand or even to accept. We are invited to struggle with its ambiguity.

Veronica Lawson RSM

**Responsorial Psalm:(R.)** Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.  
**Gospel Acclamation:**  
Alleluia, alleluia! I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me. Alleluia!

**Recently Deceased: We commend to God:** Mary Clark, Lorraine Campbell, Michael Kennedy

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Marlene Van Vugt, Frank Nicol, Bill Maguire, Tess Maguire, Noel McNulty, Terry Beggs, Gwen O'Connor, Kevin Nester, Sean McKinnon, Peter McMahan

**We pray:** for the people of Ukraine and all in need of our prayers.

**Sisters of the Good Samaritan – Study and Mentoring Program**

Applications are now invited for the Good Samaritan Study and Mentoring (SAM) Program for 2023. This program offers financial assistance for tertiary theological study to a maximum of \$8000 per year. The grant can be spent on tuition or other expenses associated with the completion of the qualification. For more information or to request an application pack, please contact [samleadership@goodsams.org.au](mailto:samleadership@goodsams.org.au). Applications close on September 16, 2022.

**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 begins September 5. There are 37 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.

**National Catholic Men's Gathering 2022**

menALIVE to the MAX is a national catholic gathering of men to be held from October 7–9, 2022 in Sydney. The theme this year is RENEW/REFRESH/RECONNECT. After several years of almost no live events, we are looking forward to gathering together to listen, learn and long for the fullness of life. More information available at <https://www.menalive.org.au/menalive-to-the-max/>

**Luminous: John Orval, Stained Glass Artist** An exhibition of the work of John Orval, whose beautiful stained glass work can be seen in some of our region's churches, will be held in Hamilton from August 20 – October 30, 2022. Alongside this free exhibition, there will be an immersive bus tour to see Orval's work in Hamilton, Coleraine, Nareen and Tahara on September 30. The latest edition of "Our Diocesan Community" features an article on Orval's stained glass windows in our diocesan churches <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/news-events/odc/>. For more information on the exhibition go to <https://www.hamiltongallery.org/events/john-orval/>

St Columba's 28th August	(next week)	Sun 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG		Tony Beggs
COMMENTATOR		Peter Marquand
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Terry Ranger
COMMUNION MINISTER		Kaye Merbach
DIGITAL PROJECTOR		Bruce Chapman
SACRISTAN		Josie Crowe

**Collections Last week at St Columba's** Thank you for your contributions  
 Presbytery: \$ 220.15 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$1,955.00

**National Online Conference for Evangelisation: October 20-22, 2022**

The Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry warmly invites all Catholics to 'Evangelise', a national, online conference to be held from October 20-22, 2022. The conference will promote understanding and explore practices of evangelisation in Australia through encounters with Christ, formation in discipleship, and mission in the world. The conference will feature a range of informative and engaging presentations on topics such as liturgy, marriage and family, discipleship, formation, and prayer. Individual registration (\$25 each) and further information can be found at [www.evangelisation.catholic.org.au](http://www.evangelisation.catholic.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 August: For small business:** We pray for small and medium sized businesses. In the midst of economic and social crisis, may they find ways to continue operating and serving their communities.

**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.

**Thank you for your support** This is a follow-up thank you to the Parish of St Columba's for its wonderful generosity with the annual St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal. It is with real delight and appreciation that we can announce that \$2306.80 was raised through the Parish. We would like you to know that we will be putting it to use in our local community. Through your generosity we will be able to ease the financial burdens of some of the less fortunate in our Ballarat community – at the time of the year when many need it most. In particular, we will be able to pay bills and provide food vouchers for some who would otherwise go without. On their behalf, we thank you.

**All Saints Parish Portland 175th Anniversary** Over the weekend of August 27 & 28, 2022 celebrations will be held for the 175th anniversary of All Saints Parish Portland, the oldest parish in the Diocese of Ballarat. For more information, contact the parish office by email [portland@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:portland@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or ph. 5523 1046.

**Social Justice Statement 2022-23 & Social Justice Sunday: August 28, 2022** The 2022-23 Social Justice Statement, "Respect: Confronting Violence and Abuse", points out that the roots of domestic and family violence 'lie in the abuse of power to control and dominate others' and that 'this stands in contrast to the relationships to which God calls us.' The statement and the full range of resources are available at <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2022/08/02/sjs2022-23/>

**Apostolic Letter "Desiderio Desideravi" of the Holy Father Francis** The Apostolic Letter from Pope Francis to the Bishops, Priests and Deacons, to consecrated men and women and to the lay faithful on the liturgical formation of the People of God, is available to download from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/apostolic-letter-desiderio-desideravi-of-the-holy-father-francis/>

**Celebrating a Return to Global Mission** Once again Australian Catholics are being offered deep re-engagement with our sisters and brothers globally. Covid challenged our ability to reach beyond but now you can again consider Mission opportunities abroad. If you respond to the call to share your skills; to mentor those with little other opportunity, you will be prepared and supported by Palms Australia who have engaged Australian Catholics in this mission since 1961. Enquire online at [palms.org.au/current-opportunities/assignments-abroad/](http://palms.org.au/current-opportunities/assignments-abroad/) or Ph: 0422 742 567 about a placement to engage your skills.

**A message from Aid to the Church in Need Australia**

ACN is the Pontifical Foundation dedicated to supporting the suffering and persecuted Church. In areas of crisis, churches are often destroyed by violence. Where the faith is growing, new churches are needed. ACN supports the reconstruction in these areas because a church is the centre of the life of faith and even the smallest chapel provides people with hope and a spiritual home. Can you help build churches to support the faithful throughout the world? Visit: [www.aidtochurch.org/construction](http://www.aidtochurch.org/construction)

OLHC 27th August	(next week)	Saturday 6.00pm
LEADER OF SONG		Corrie Harbour
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Kath Leonard
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Kevin Murphy & Pauline Newman
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Harry Kennedy & Trish Lawson
SACRISTAN		Geoff & Marg McLean

**Collections Last Week at OLHC** Thank you for your contributions  
 Presbytery: \$ 258.30 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,453.00