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**Wednesday, Thursday, Friday**

**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 Andanan 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 No Mass

**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 11:00 am (Kelaston)  
Friday 10.00 am

**Readings for Next Weekend:**

Am 8:4-7  
Ps 112:1-2,4-8. R.  
see vv.1.7  
1 Tm 2:1-8  
Lk 16: 1-13



**11th September 2022 ~ 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time C**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

Diverse creatures of the earth as well as earth elements feature in the gospel for this week of the Season of Creation. While all three parables in today's gospel reading invite us into the experience of loss, loss of a valued creature, of a woman's means of survival, of an adult child's respect and presence, they likewise invite us into an encounter with God who seeks and "saves" the lost, be they human or other-than-human, and who rejoices big time when the lost are found.

These Lukan parables are prefaced by an account of the criticism Jesus endured for hosting "the lost" of the human community, namely the toll collectors and those who were categorised as "sinners". The critics in the story are those who consider themselves "righteous". They have no room in their hearts for compassion or forgiveness and no capacity to accept the goodness of a prophet who acts in ways that cut across their expectations.

"What person (anthropos) among you with a hundred sheep, losing one, would not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the missing one till he/she found it?" asks Jesus of his critics. The lost sheep is found and ultimately embraced by the community. The ensuing celebration is likened to the celestial banquet where there is more joy over one who repents than over those who have no need of repentance. Repent/repentance on the part of the sheep may seem a strange choice of words since the lost sheep simply responds to the initiative of the shepherd who goes after it and returns it to the fold. Jesus may be suggesting that we need others to shepherd us in turning our lives around.

In Jesus' second question to his critics, "Or what woman with ten drachmas would not, if she lost one...search thoroughly till she found it?", the pattern is repeated. The drachma, enough cash for one day, is lost, sought, found and the community rejoices. Occasionally in the biblical tradition, as here, God is imaged as a woman. God is the diligent female householder who seeks and saves what is lost. The third story features a parent who is willing to overlook the delinquency of a wayward child when that child is impelled by hunger to return home. In every case there is joy when the lost one, whether human or animal or mineral, is found. That's how it is with God. If our faith does not bring joy to the lost, to the poor, to the marginalised, to asylum seekers, to endangered species, then it is not of God. Our faith is in God who saves and brings joy to the whole Earth community. No single image can contain the compassionate, loving God of these parables. The invitation to the believing community is to find ways of opening our hearts, and the hearts of the unforgiving in our world, to God's action of seeking and saving the lost-here and now, not simply in the afterlife.

- Veronica Lawson RSM

**Responsorial Psalm:**(R.) I will rise and go to my father.  
**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us. Alleluia!

**Recently Deceased: We commend to God:** Val Allan

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Charlie Mallia, Sr Anne McMillan, Margaret Hall, Danny Frawley, Elizabeth & Edmund Goodger, Giuseppe Finocchiaro, Michael Crowley, Joseph Davis, Nancy Davis, Basil Gregory, Walter Salo, Bill Armstrong, Chris Haintz Snr, Kevin McLaughlin, Kath Mora, Muriel Mugavin, Steven Molloy

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



**Safeguarding Sunday** The Parish of St. Columba's and the Diocese of Ballarat are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and people at risk in our community. Mindful of the theme for National Child Protection Week, may we work together to ensure all people feel safe and supported. You can find out more about the Church's work in this area at: [www.catholic.org.au/safeguardingsunday](http://www.catholic.org.au/safeguardingsunday).

**Prayer for Safeguarding Sunday**

Gracious God, you love and care for all of your children, especially the smallest and most vulnerable. We entrust to you the lives of children and adults at risk who have been sexually abused, and whose trust and innocence have been destroyed.

Help us to hear their cries of pain and to take responsibility for those whose lives have been broken. Help us to recognise the hurt felt by those wounded by abuse, and the failure to be heard.

We pray that with the help of your grace, communities and families will find understanding and support, so that now and in the future their wounds may be healed and they may find lasting peace.

Let your grace and love fall gently now upon our children and adults at risk, giving them the inner strength, peace and resilience to seek out assistance when required.

We ask this prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen

St Columba's 18th Sept	(next week)	Sun 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG		Tony Beggs
COMMENTATOR		Vicki Moroney
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Min Myers
COMMUNION MINISTER		Ruth Marquand
DIGITAL PROJECTOR		Bruce Chapman
SACRISTAN		Josie Crowe

**Collections Last week at St Columba's** Thank you for your contributions  
 Presbytery: \$ 480.10 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,250.00

**St. Columba's Parish Sacramental Program** Today is the second of three Sundays of **First Eucharist**; the 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of September, at St. Columba's Church, to accommodate our lovely cohort of over 80 children and their families! There were 33 children last week, 33 today and 17 on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September. Let's keep them all in our prayers as they continue their faith journey.

**Annual Inservice for Priests** On Tuesday and Wednesday of this coming week, the Priests of the Ballarat Diocese will gather with +Paul Bird CSsR for their Annual Inservice at the Cathedral Precinct. The topic of focus is reflecting on the gift, experience and meaning of Priesthood. Please remember them in your prayers over the coming days.

**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 September: For the abolition of the death penalty:** We pray that the death penalty, which attacks the dignity of the human person, may be legally abolished in every country.

**Ballarat Clergy Support Fund Collection for Sick and Retired Priests** The Ballarat Clergy Support Fund relies on your generosity to enable it to continue supporting our sick and retired priests. You are still able to contribute, by using the special envelope provided, or in an envelope marked "Ballarat Clergy Support Fund." A credit card facility is available for your convenience, and contributions over \$2.00 are tax-deductible. **Caring for those who cared for us – the Church community's responsibility**

**Reunion of past students of Sacred Heart College Ballarat (Class of 1965+)** Reunion will be held on Sunday, October 9, 2022. The event will commence with a campus tour of Damascus College, to be followed lunch at the Golden City Hotel. The campus tour commences at 10.00am and lunch at 11.30am. To attend, please contact Lois Knights, email [loisknights345@hotmail.com](mailto:loisknights345@hotmail.com) or phone 0419 902 538.

**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/>

**Ballarat Diocesan Launch of the Social Justice Statement 2022-2023** Save the date for this free event. Saturday, October 1, 2022 from 10.00am – 12.00noon. This is a unique opportunity to learn about this year's statement entitled "Respect: Confronting Violence and Abuse." Join a parish hub or attend online via zoom. There will be two guest speakers offering different understanding and viewpoints on this topic. One is from the Victorian Police and the other from Centacare. More details to follow in coming weeks.

**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.

**Employment opportunity: St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Ballarat Parish Coordinator/Secretary** The Parish of St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat are seeking a Parish Coordinator/Secretary to ensure the efficient operation of the Parish Office - part time 24 hours (0.6) per week, Tuesday – Friday 10.00am - 4.00pm. The role and hours of work may be expanded to include the co-ordination of the Parish Sacramental Program for a suitable applicant. Position information is available from the Cathedral Parish webpage <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parish/ballarat-cathedral/>. Please contact the Parish Office, ph. 5331 2933 for a full position description. Applications close 5pm, Friday, September 16, 2022.

**St Augustine's Church Creswick 150th Anniversary** On the weekend of September 17 & 18, 2022 celebrations will be held for the 150th anniversary of St Augustine's Church, Creswick. For more information go to <https://staugustines150.weebly.com/>

OLHC 17th September	(next week)	Saturday 6.00pm
LEADER OF SONG		Sue Searls
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Lyn Gray
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Ena Bruty & Vin Dillon
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Jennifer Adams & Tony Bruty
SACRISTAN		Kath Leonard & Anne Slattery

**Collections Last Week at OLHC** Thank you for your contributions  
 Presbytery: \$ 588.40 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,850.00