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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

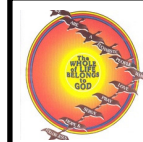
Aboriginal Stations of the Cross available for purchase

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 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 (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 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:

Ex 32:7-11, 13-14
Ps 50:3-4,12-13, 17.
19 R. Lk 15:18
1 Tm 1:12-17
Lk 15: 1-32



4th September 2022 ~ 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time C

Focus on the Scriptures

As we continue to join with Christians across the globe in celebrating the Season of Creation (September 1-October 4), we might attend to the 2022 theme, "Listen to the voice of creation" and renew our commitment to the gospel call to care for all that constitutes our common home. Listening is a prerequisite for hearing the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor. If we truly hear the diverse voices of creation, then we might be predisposed to consider carefully what we must do and what we must leave aside in the interests of planetary survival.

In today's gospel reading, we are confronted with the pain involved in living a way of life that respects the rights of all created beings. On the long journey from Galilee through Samaritan territory to the city of Jerusalem, Jesus attracts a huge following and teaches relentlessly about the ways of God. By the time he reaches Jerusalem, the crowds have thinned considerably. Is this because it is too hard to persist with their initial impulse to follow the way of the gospel and the one who embodies its values? Implicit in Jesus' teaching about carrying one's cross is a reminder of the intense pain and sacrifice involved in being a disciple. It sometimes means going against what other family members want. It may even involve risking one's life for the sake of life. In the context of the Roman Empire, criminals who were sentenced to die by crucifixion carried to the place of their execution the cross beam on which they would hang. The cross image is shocking for anyone. It is quite alienating for the faint hearted.

The term "hate" (misein) in this context may seem harsh. The English translation fails to do justice, however, to the original Greek or to the Hebrew that underlies this biblical notion. To "hate" in biblical terms is to "leave aside". Disciples are expected to love one another. There are times, however, when they have to "leave aside" the wishes of those they love most for the sake of a gospel call to justice, compassion, and right relationship. If we are attentive to the gender bias of this ancient text, we might note that married men are addressed while married women are not. Here as elsewhere, women have to read against the grain of the text in order to hear its message.

Finally, there is a call in this gospel passage to "leave aside" unnecessary possessions. In this time of planetary vulnerability and of growing division between the privileged and the marginalised of the Earth community, the teaching of the Lukan Jesus has a particular resonance. There is no place in a gospel way of life for self-indulgence, for exploitation of others or for self-centred appropriation of the goods of the earth. Hearing the voice of creation implies systemic change so that the needs of all the creatures of the earth might be met within the means of the earth to provide.

Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm:(R.) In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Let your face shine on your servant, and teach me your laws. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Walter John Gradkowski, Neil Sheehan

Anniversaries: We remember: Anne Nuttall, Cathe McArdle, Newell Barrett, Michael Franc, Maryanne Rawlings, Genoveva Jurisic, Fr Gavin O'Sullivan SJ, May O'Donnell, Paul Mahar, Noreen Earl, Gwen Dobell

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

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 or ph. 5337 7121

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. 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 copy of the full position description. Applications close Friday, September 16, 2022 at 5.00pm.

SEW and So This Thursday, 8th September 2022 at 1:30 pm, St Columba's Church Foyer. Anyone who has been doing knitting or crochet for East Timor please bring it along to be collected. New members always welcome. Enquiries Margaret 0409533140.

St Columba's 11th Sept	(next week)	Sun 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG		Mark Lacey
COMMENTATOR		Judy Brown
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Joanne Vandervoort
COMMUNION MINISTER		Colleen Wakefield
DIGITAL PROJECTOR		Vicki Moroney
SACRISTAN		Josie Crowe

Collections Last week at St Columba's Thank you for your contributions
 Presbytery: \$ 301.70 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,394.00

St. Columba's Parish Sacramental Program

Today we celebrate the first of three Sundays of **First Eucharist**; the 4th, 11th and 18th of September, at St. Columba's Church, to accommodate our lovely cohort of over 80 children and their families! There are around 33 candidates today, 33 on the 11th of September and 17 on the 18th of September. Let's keep them all in our prayers as they continue their faith journey.



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 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.

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.

Prayer for Father's Day God our Father, we give you thanks and praise for fathers young and old. We pray for young fathers, newly embracing their vocation; may they find courage and perseverance to balance work, family and faith in joy and sacrifice. We pray for our own fathers around the world whose children are lost or suffering; may they know that the God of compassion walks with them in their sorrow. We pray for men who are not fathers but still mentor and guide us with fatherly love and advice. We remember fathers, grandfathers, and great grandfathers who are no longer with us but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love. Amen.

Prayer taken from <https://www.thecatholictelegraph.com/a-fathers-day-prayer-2/67183>

Catholic Women's League Social Afternoon The CWL Cathedral Branch would like to invite Parishioners to join them for a Social afternoon at the Mary Glowrey Room, on Wednesday September 7th at 1:30 pm. There will be afternoon tea, a stall and competition. Entry free. Come along and bring a friend and meet our members and other parishioners. Inquiries Carmel 0401175045 or annekav1234@gmail.com

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/ or Ph: 0422 742 567 about a placement to engage your skills.

Ballarat Clergy Support Fund Collection for Sick and Retired Priests – TODAY The Ballarat Clergy Support Fund provides for retired priests who have spent a lifetime selflessly caring for others, and who deserve a happy and peaceful retirement. The Fund is currently supporting and caring for seventeen retired priests. Over the next few years a number of priests currently in parish ministry will be moving into retirement, and will also need to be supported by the fund. This annual collection has allowed the Fund to continue to support our sick and retired clergy. Please give as generously as you can, and help us continue 'caring for those who cared for us'. Special envelopes are available for this collection, which will be taken up today. You may also return your envelope next week. 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

OLHC 10th September	(next week)	Saturday 6.00pm
LEADER OF SONG		Vin Dillon
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Volunteer please
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Zeena Lazarus & Harry Kennedy
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Harry Kennedy & Trish Lawson
SACRISTAN		Geoff & Marg McLean

Collections Last Week at OLHC Thank you for your contributions
 Presbytery: \$ 208.70 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 305.00