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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 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 No Mass
Friday No Mass

Readings for Next Weekend:

Sir 35: 12-14, 16-18
Ps 32:2-3, 17-19, 23.
R. v.7
2 Tm 4:6-8, 16-18
Lk 18: 9-14



16th October 2022 ~ 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time C

Focus on the Scriptures

In today's gospel, the narrator has the Lukan Jesus introducing the reader to a parable "about the need to pray always". If the parable that follows were really about prayer, then the unjust judge would image a God who has no respect for anyone and is reluctant to hear the pleas of the exploited! There are clearly problems with this and scholars are divided on how to explain it. The most likely explanation is that, in the editorial process, the gospel writer has added Jesus' introductory words, his final instruction to pay attention to the judge's words and the three questions at the end. The original parable was almost certainly told in another context and ended with the words of the judge. It has acquired different meanings as it has shifted from an oral to a written context and the Lukan author adjusts it rather awkwardly to the issues he wants to address with his communities.

The action is located in "a certain city", suggesting that it is a story for any and every city where the vulnerable persist in seeking justice. There are two main characters, the judge and the widow. There is another non-speaking character in the wings, namely the widow's opponent. The hearer or reader is invited to fill the gaps. Who is this opponent? What sort of injustice is the widow experiencing? Since the judge clearly recognises the validity of the widow's claim, why does he refuse to hear her plea? There may be a hint in this that he is accepting bribes from the woman's adversary. We might well ask what sort of judge, especially a judge in the Jewish tradition, would admit that he has no respect for God or anyone else.

A vital clue to understanding the parable lies in the translation of the final words of the judge. A literal translation reads: "so that she won't finish up giving me a black eye". Translators have consistently softened the impact of this with a metaphorical reading. Might Jesus be drawing attention to the plight of those in that society who can only get justice from a corrupt judiciary if they resort to violence? The widow in this story is one feisty woman: without the support of a husband or the benefit of social security payments, she has only her own personal resources to rely upon. The judge operates from the untested assumption that she is prepared to use her fists. In fact, like the God of Israel, she uses only her constant appeal for justice. Jesus tells his hearers to pay attention to what the "unjust judge" has to say. It is not entirely clear what the reader is meant to take from this story. One possibility is that those who seem to have little power can win out in the end if they have the courage to persist in their struggles for justice, an encouraging message in the face of ongoing planetary distress.

- Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm:(R.) Our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The word of God is living and active; it probes the thoughts and motives of our heart. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Tom Prendergast

Anniversaries: We remember: Steve Martin, Margaret (Peg) Nijam, Nell Bourke

We pray: for all who are sick and those in need of our prayers.

A warm welcome to Fr Kevin Maloney who is celebrating Mass at St Columba's this weekend. Fr Marcello is taking annual leave from 26th September until 21st October. In an emergency, please contact St Patrick's Cathedral Parish. Phone: 5331 2933.

National Carers Week Australia: October 16 – 22, 2022 National Carers Week is a time to recognise and celebrate the 2.65 million Australians who provide care and support to a family member or friend <https://carersweek.com.au/>.

We pray for all carers: Lord God, we pray for all who care for family members and friends. Surround them with the love, encouragement and the strength of others in all their works. Lord hear us.

CRA National Justice Seminar, "Now is the Time!" Registrations are now open for Catholic Religious Australia's National Justice Seminar 2022 titled 'Now is the Time!'. The seminar will be held on Wednesday, October 19, 2022 from 9.30am – 3.30pm at The Treacy Centre, 126 The Avenue Parkville, Melbourne. Speakers are Cathy McGowan AO, Geraldine Atkinson, and Brigid Arthur CSB AO. This seminar for justice animators and colleagues of religious congregations will engage you in conversations on advocacy and action and applying these to contemporary justice issues. There will be opportunities for sharing with your peers and reflecting on the speakers' inputs. Morning tea and lunch will be provided. Register at <https://bit.ly/3T8WWkQ>

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 October 24. 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](mailto:djurджа.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or ph. 5337 7121.

St Columba's 23rd Oct	(next week)	Sun 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG		Mark Lacey
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
 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc)
 Presbytery: *to be updated

October is National Mental Health Month National Mental Health Month is an initiative of the Mental Health Foundation Australia (MHFA) to advocate for and raise awareness of Australian mental health. It is an important time where the Australian community comes together to raise awareness and promote better mental health for all. The National Mental Health Month 2022 Awareness Campaign theme is: 'Building Resilience: Communities and Connections'. Mental Health Australia invites organisations to participate in the "Look after your mental health, Australia" campaign which will run throughout October <https://lookafteryourmentalhealthaustralia.org.au/>

Prayer for Mental Health month: Lord God, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve those challenged by serious and chronic mental and emotional illnesses. Give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that they may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre(MMHC) 'Cuppa with Mary': The Mary MacKillop Museum tells the story of Mary and the SOSJ's. Entry is free. While in Melbourne, walk the Mary MacKillop Heritage trail and see Mary's place of birth. Consider organising a Parish group and have a 'Cuppa with Mary'. Group bookings which include a presentation, tour of Museum and prayer reflection in the Chapel where Mary prayed, cost \$15.00 per person. Contact Kate, ph. 9926 9300. **Mary MacKillop Gift shop:** Consider supporting the work of the Sisters of St Joseph by purchasing a present from the Museum Gift Shop or a 2022 Josephite Calendar, order at <https://www.mmhc.org.au/2023-josephite-calendar>. The shop stocks communion and confirmation gifts, devotional items, Vatican pieces, rosary beads, holding crosses, candles, cards, statues, crucifixes, books and Peruvian handmade items. **Accommodation@MMHC :** When in Melbourne book your next stay at the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre - accommodation in the heart of Melbourne. Contact Kate, ph. 9926 9300.

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 October: A Church Open to Everyone:** We pray for the Church; ever faithful to, and courageous in preaching the Gospel, may the Church be a community of solidarity, fraternity and welcome, always living in an atmosphere of synodality.

CatholicCare are seeking volunteers Volunteers play a critical role in the delivery of our services at CatholicCare Victoria. In fact, around 10% of the services provided to people in need wouldn't be possible without the support of our volunteers. Volunteers run and support a range of services including administrative support at a number of our offices, emergency relief intake, English conversation classes for newly arrived refugees, academic support and encouragement for disadvantaged adults enrolled in the Clemente program, event help and organisation, sewing groups, homework clubs, pastoral support in prisons and hospitals. CatholicCare are grateful for the many wonderful people who give their time, skills and experience to help respond to an ever-increasing demand for services. By volunteering, people contribute to making our community a better place and provide hope for a brighter future. Volunteers are welcome from all backgrounds, life stages and with a broad range of skills. Volunteers under 18yrs of age must have written consent from a parent or legal guardian. More info <https://www.catholiccarevic.org.au/page/47/volunteer#opportunities>

Anti-Poverty Week Australia: October 16-22, 2022 Anti-Poverty Week will celebrate its 20th anniversary this year. Governments have been called upon to take action on two key things: To unlock poverty for individuals, families and children; raise income support above the poverty line and invest in social housing <https://antipovertyweek.org.au/>

Prayer for anti-poverty week: Loving God, we pray for those who live in poverty. May we never be so comfortable that we are numbed to their discomfort. We pray for those who are in crisis. May we never be too busy to see pain in the face of a stranger. We pray for those who are marginalised. May we never be so privileged to forget those who have little. Amen.

Centralised Baptism Preparation Session The next session will be held at MacKillop and Glowrey Rooms of St. Patrick's Cathedral Hall 3 Lyons St Sth Ballarat on **Thursday 3rd November 2022** at **10.00am & 5.30pm.**



OLHC 22nd October	(next week)	Saturday 6.00pm
LEADER OF SONG		Paul Hogan
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Volunteer please
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Trish Pora & Darryl Clark
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Val Bourke & John Bourke
SACRISTAN		Kath Leonard & Anne Slattery

Collections Last Week at OLHC Thank you for your contributions
 Presbytery: *to be updated Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc)