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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 10.00 am All Souls

**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  
Tuesday 10:00 am All Saints  
Thursday 10.00 am  
Friday 10.00 am

**Readings for**

**Next Weekend:**

2Mc 7:1-2, 9-14  
Ps 16:1, 5-6, 8, 15  
R. v.15  
2 Thes 2:16 - 3:5  
Lk 20:27, 34-38



**30th October 2022 ~ 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time C**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

Several years ago, a little book came my way and proceeded to turn my world upside down. The author of that book was German forester Peter Wohlleben, its title *The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate—Discoveries from a Secret World*. I have long mourned the destruction of trees, local and global, including the threatened trees of the Amazon. I grew up loving, valuing and sometimes climbing the trees in the shadow of Geboor (Mount Macedon). My present neighbours are the trees of the Woookarrung Regional Park. Wohlleben's book brought home to me how much I had still to learn about these precious gifts of life and love.

Luke's story of the toll-collector Zacchaeus provides me with yet another opportunity to give thanks for the wonder of trees, their intrinsic beauty and the life they sustain. A sycamore tree is at the heart of this story. Once I would have thought of this tree simply as one of the props in the human story that unfolds, providing as it does the platform for a height challenged would-be disciple of Jesus who wants to "see". The human encounter with the holy is foregrounded in this story and is in no way to be discounted. This is not a reason to relegate the tree to the status of prop. The forests of the Amazon, of Australia and elsewhere, continue to be threatened by extensive land clearing. The planet cannot breathe without its trees. We might keep this in mind as we turn to the human elements in the story of Zacchaeus.

Zacchaeus is a wealthy man, a chief tax collector, possibly responsible for overseeing the activities of other tax collectors. He wants to see what Jesus is like and he lets nothing get in the way. He runs ahead and climbs the sycamore tree. Jesus looks up and tells him to come down quickly, "for I must stay at your house today." Zacchaeus offers hospitality "joyfully". Hospitality, joy, haste to respond to divine visitation: these are constant themes in Luke.

"All those who see" complain that Jesus chooses to stay with a sinner, no doubt considering themselves more worthy hosts for God's prophet. There are clues in the text that Zacchaeus has already changed his ways, however. The future tense in translations ('I will pay') obscures this important element. He gives half his property to the destitute and, if he has cheated anyone, he pays them back four times the amount. Jesus looks at Zacchaeus and assures him that salvation has come to his house. He then acts to restore honour to Zacchaeus in the eyes of those who hold him and his kind in contempt. Zacchaeus is affirmed as a true descendant of his forbears in faith. Salvation for our house, our "common home", will only come with comparable attention to what we have despoiled.

- Veronica Lawson RSM

**Responsorial Psalm:**(R.) I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life. Alleluia!

**Recently Deceased: We commend to God:** Brian Howlett, Jack Curran

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Joan Talbot, Rumar Andanar, Elizabeth Fitzpatrick, Katherine Spratling

**We pray:** for all who are sick, those affected by flooding and all in need of our prayers.

**OLHC Memorial Liturgy: November 2, 2022 at 7pm** This liturgy is celebrated for anyone who has experienced loss in the past few years. All welcome to attend at Our Lady Help of Christians Wendouree and prayerfully remember loved ones. You are welcome to invite family and friends.



**Catholic Social Services Victoria Annual Dinner: November 11, 2022**

After a two year hiatus, CSSV will be holding its Annual Dinner on Friday, November 11, 2022 in Melbourne. Members, social services staff, volunteers and friends of CSSV are invited to join us for this special evening. After the disruption of the pandemic, we are looking forward to gathering together! Guest speaker to be announced. It promises to be a fantastic event! More details to come at <https://css.org.au/>

**SAVE THE DATE: Liturgy Formation at South West Coast Parish – Nov. 13, 2022**

The Diocesan Liturgical Commission is hosting a Liturgy Formation Session at St Joseph's Gathering Space, Warrnambool on Sunday, November 13, 2022. Bishop Paul will celebrate Mass at 10.30am with formation program beginning at 12.00noon on the topics of Sunday Assembly of Word & Communion and Fr John McKinnon will present a workshop on scripture reflection. All welcome. Register at trybooking <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=974367&>

**Competition for Jubilee 2025 Hymn**

The Dicastery for Evangelization invites entries for the Hymn for the Holy Year 2025, encouraging interested persons to set to music a provided text which expresses the essence of the Jubilee event. Interested participants in the competition are invited to set to music a text proposed by the Dicastery's Section for Fundamental Questions regarding Evangelization in the World, which expresses the essence of the jubilee event. The hymn is intended to have a liturgical purpose and should be capable of being sung by a Church congregation and by a schola cantorum. Entries close on March 25, 2023. More information available from <http://www.evangelizatio.va/content/pcpne/en/news/giubileo-2022-09-19.html>

St Columba's 6th Nov	(next week)	Sun 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG		Mark Lacey
COMMENTATOR		Judy Brown
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Jo-anne van der Voort
COMMUNION MINISTER		Colleen Wakefield
DIGITAL PROJECTOR		Bruce Chapman
SACRISTAN		Volunteer please

**Collections St Columba's 2nd Oct to 23rd Oct** Thank you for your contributions  
 Presbytery: \$ 1,082.05 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 3,664.00

**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.

**East Timor Knitting Program** This program is continuing and we would be very grateful for any of the knitted sets or 80cm rugs. There is a set pattern available if you would like to take part. If you do not knit or crochet you can still participate by supplying 8 ply acrylic yarn, buying baby singlets or face washers which are also included in the baby bundles. Donating money to buy the above would be gratefully accepted. Please contact Laureen 0405277778 or Margaret 53314032. We hope you will consider being part of this project. Finished garments can be left at St Columba's Church, the Sew and So group or OLHC. We can also arrange collection if required.

**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.

**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 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>

**St Vincent de Paul Flood Appeal** The St Vincent de Paul Society has established a Victorian Flood Appeal. Contributions can be made by:

- \* Calling 13 18 12;
  - \* Visiting <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-vic/vinnies-vic-flood-appeal-2022>
- You can also:
- \* make a monetary donation through any Vinnies Shops at point of purchase;
  - \* via your local IGA where the purchase of a token supports the recovery of Victorians devastated by these recent floods.

**Centralised Baptism Preparation Session** Parents planning to have their child baptised are required to attend a 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**. You may attend either the **10.00am** or **5.30pm** session.



OLHC 5th November	(next week)	Saturday 6.00pm
LEADER OF SONG		Sue Searls
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Veronica Stott
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Val & John Bourke
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Tony Bruty & Helen Rieniets
SACRISTAN		Tony & Pauline Newman

**Collections OLHC 1st Oct to 22nd Oct** Thank you for your contributions  
 Presbytery: \$ 1,203.30 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 3,490.00