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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

COVID Safe Plan
Checking-in is no longer required. Face masks are no longer required in most indoor settings but they are still recommended. Carry a mask when leaving home. Masks are strongly recommend if you have any COVID-19 symptoms, are with people who may be vulnerable to COVID-19 and/or are outdoors and cannot physically distance.

- 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 waiting results of a COVID test, stay home.
- Please use the hand sanitiser available upon entering the Church.

We appreciate your assistance in helping stop the spread of the virus.

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Prayer for Peace and Justice in Ukraine

God of peace and justice,
who change the hardened heart and break the power of violence,
we entrust the people of Ukraine to you.

Protect them in this time of peril;
let them know not death but life, not slavery but freedom.

You are Father of all;
we are brothers and sisters.
Give us the strength to live that truth in love,
choosing peace not war.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

gospel focus
Get Ready!
Jesus draws a parallel between the people in Noah's time and the people of his own time. What it reflects is a complacency that periodically overtook the Jewish people. When the people bound themselves to God in covenant their lives gradually became better. Inevitably, their lives improved to such a state that they forgot God was responsible for their blessings. They ignored their relationship with God and became complacent about their good fortune. Ultimately, their comfort was brought to an end and they recognised once again their need for God. Jesus calls the people to get ready because the pattern is repeating itself.

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
School Co-Principals: Bambi Afford & Shaun Mohr
School Phone: 5332 4894

Office: 480a Gillies Street, Wendouree **Phone:** 5339 2302
Prayer Line: 5339 2302
Email: wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au
P O Box 192, Wendouree
School Principal: Leigh Bradshaw **School Phone:** 5339 4726

The Parishes acknowledge that the Aboriginal people of Australia are our first nation people and the traditional owners and custodians of the land.

Parish Priest:
Fr Marcello Colasante

Staffing
St Columba's
Office Hours: Wed—Friday
10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Parish Co-ord: Lia Andanar Yu
Safeguarding Officer:
Peter Marquand

Our Lady Help of Christians
Parish Co-ordinator and
Safeguarding Officer:
Maree Roache
Office Hours: Wed-Fri 9– 1pm

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
Tuesday : 1:00 pm (funeral)
Thursday 10:00 am
Friday 10:00 am

Readings for Next Weekend:
2nd Sunday of Advent (A)
• Is 11: 1-10
• Ps 71: 1-2, 7-8, 12-13
R. cf v 7
• Rom 15: 4-9
• Lk 3: 4. 6

27th November, 2022 - 1st Sunday of Advent (A)

Focus on the Scripture
The first Sunday of Advent sees the commencement of the new liturgical year. This new liturgical cycle is referred to as Year A and features the gospel of Matthew. (Year B features the gospel of Mark and Year C, that we have just completed, features the gospel of Luke.) Advent comes from the Latin word *Adventus* which literally means 'coming'; it is also reflected in the Greek word *Parousia*, which is used to describe the second coming of Jesus. So Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation of the coming of Christ into the world that is celebrated in the Nativity at Christmas. The gospel passage chosen for today's reading richly expresses that anticipation and need for preparation.

It may seem a little confusing that we begin our year-long exploration of the gospel of Matthew by taking a reading from chapter 24. However, the need for readiness and alertness that Jesus speaks about in relation to the coming of the Kingdom is equally suitable for a modern audience when preparing to celebrate once again the coming of Jesus into the world. Jesus is the best expression of the Kingdom that we have yet experienced and so rather than seeing the choice of this passage as a confusion, we should recognise the alignment that exists between the anticipation of the Kingdom and the anticipation of the Nativity.

The two great feasts of Christianity – the Nativity and Easter – are each preceded by a period of preparation: Advent and Lent. The emphasis of these seasons is on the mental and spiritual preparation to fully enter into one of the great mysteries of faith. In the Nativity, we celebrate God become human; God present in the world in a physical way. Advent is a time to remember the many and varied ways that God continues to be present in the world.

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Responsorial Psalm: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love., and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Molly Bruty
Anniversaries: We remember Frances Blood, Michael Rix, Dorothy Vaughn, Kevin Glenane, Bill Smith, Kevin Hanrahan, John Sharry, Clare McGoldrick, Adele Carter, Sr Clare Flanagan RGS,

We pray: Those in need of our prayers: for the people of the Ukraine, those suffering in Africa, and those effected by flooding.

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 or Visiting <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-vic/vinnies-vic-flood-appeal-2022>

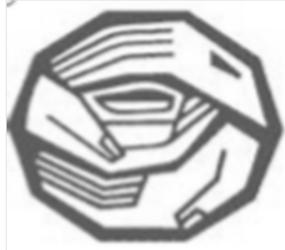
You can also

- 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.

Pope Francis' intention for November: For children who suffer: Let us pray for children who are suffering, especially for those who are homeless, orphans and victims of war. May they be guaranteed access to education, and may they have the opportunity to experience family affection.

Caritas Australia - Take action on climate change As climate change damages our homes and land, the impact on our neighbours in the pacific is extreme. Our voices, together, can get governments and polluters to take action to achieve climate justice and protect our common home. Sign the pledge at <https://www.caritas.org.au/act/climate-change-action/> to support Caritas Australia's climate action campaign.

YCW Cricket Club get together Former players, supporters and families of the Y.C.W. cricket club are invited to a get together on Sunday 4th December 2022. It is proposed to hold a luncheon at 12 noon at the Robin Hood hotel on Peel St North. All welcome. For further details or bookings contact Terry on 0401 730 670 or John on 0409 864 080.



OLHC Christmas Day Lunch For the 31st year the OLHC Christmas Day Lunch will again be held in our parish. The co-ordinating team met on October 24th to commence planning for this year's event. The team is delighted that after two years of takeaway Christmas lunches because of Covid restrictions, this year we are able to have a sit-down meal. This fulfils one of the key reasons for the lunch which is to provide a community experience for those who otherwise will be spending Christmas Day alone. Bookings open on **November 10th** and can **only** be made by phoning **0419 975 914**. Numbers will be limited to 145 guests so please advise anyone you know who may be wishing to attend to book early.



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.

Sacristan Assistance at OLHC

Are you able to help with Sacristan duties at OLHC on Saturday evening 6.00pm Mass?

The tasks are to open the Church and assemble Mass requirements, and lock up at the end of the liturgy. Guidance is available and ongoing.

In each four-month roster cycle, you will be rostered 3 or 4 times.

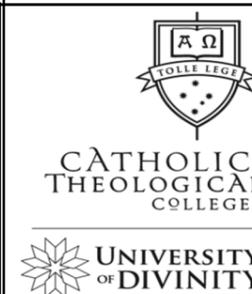
Please phone OLHC office if you can help. Office 53392302. **Thanks**



Prayer Requests: At different times in our lives, circumstances happen for which there is added need for prayer, and there is comfort in knowing that we need not be alone in praying. Our parish is connecting with a Ballarat wide Prayer-Line where requests for prayer can be made. All prayer requests are confidential. Please ring the Parish Office 5339 2303. The parish phone is monitored for messages at all times and your request will be forwarded to the Prayer-Line.



The OLHC Parish community welcomes Billy Cully and Tara Cully, children of Lisa Whelan and Richard Cully. May they continue to flourish in the love and care of their family and our parish community. *"The Church gives faith to your children through baptism and you have the task to make it grow..."* Pope Francis.



Online Information Session
Join us and learn about your study options at Catholic Theological College
Monday 5 December at 7.30pm (AEDT)
Online options available
Register via our website: ctc.edu.au/open-days
For more information contact: jenny.delahunt@ctc.edu.au



Making a Scene at Christmas (Bridge Mall from Dec 3rd - 10th) is a display of over 500 Christmas Nativities from over 60 countries. You can see & smell real frankincense and myrrh, see coins minted around the time the census was called that brought Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem, and see hand crafted nativities from Australia, Africa, Asia, North & South America. Nativities that prize social justice and the environment, Entry is a gold coin donation. Everyone welcome.

Baptism Preparation Session Parents planning to have their child baptised are required to attend a Baptism Preparation Session. Centralised Baptism Preparation Session will be held at MacKillop and Glowrey Rooms of St. Patrick's Cathedral Hall on Thursday 1st December 2022 at 10.00am & 5.30pm. Bookings to be made with Parish Office.

Our Diocesan Community The final edition for this year is available in the foyer. Please take and read.

REPORT from Parish Meeting- attached.

St Columba's 4th December	(next week)	Sunday 10:00 am
LEADER of SONG		Terry Ranger
COMMENTATOR		Ruth Marquand
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Anthea Hinchey
COMMUNION MINISTER		Kay Merbach
DIGITAL PORJECTOR		Vicki Moroney
SACRISTAN		Volunteer please

Collections at St Columba's	<i>Thank you for your generous support</i>
Presbytery: \$ 313.10	Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 785.00

OLHC 3rd December	(next week)	Saturday 6:00 pm
LEADER OF SONG		Sue Searls
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Veronica Stott
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Darryl Clark & Laureen Rhodes
COMMUNION MINISTERS		John & Val Bourke
SACRISTAN		Michael & Helen Rieniets
Waubra Church cleaning	December:	TBA

Collections at OLHC	<i>We thank you for your generous support</i>
Presbytery: \$ 343.70	Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 605.00