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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)

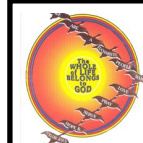
**Aboriginal Stations of the Cross available for purchase**

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)



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

Office: 306 Gregory St, Ballarat Nth Phone: 5331 1012  
Email: [ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

Office: 480a Gillies Street, Wendouree Phone: 5339 2302  
Email: [wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto: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**

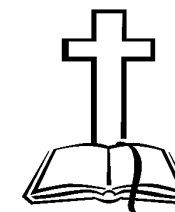
Sunday 10.00 am  
Wednesday 10.00 am

**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  
Tuesday 1.00 pm (Funeral)  
Thursday 10.00 am  
Friday 10.00 am

**Readings for Next Weekend:**

Is 11:1-10  
Ps 71:1-2, 7-8. 12-13,17 R. cf v.7  
Rom 15:4-9  
Mt 3:1-12



**27th November 2022 ~ 1st Sunday in Advent Year A**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

"Where is the Life we have lost in living?" asks the Chorus in T. S. Eliot's The Rock. The Jesus of Matthew's gospel is implicitly asking the same question as Eliot's Chorus. He is making much the same observation as Henry David Thoreau, "Most [people] lead lives of quiet desperation and go to the grave with the song still in them." We are invited to find Life in our living and to sing the songs that are in us. We are to be agents of our own future rather than unthinking participants in the destruction of our planet. Right now, the human community is challenged in unprecedented ways to restore the life we have lost by living beyond our means and by destructively exploiting the riches of the Earth.

As we begin a new liturgical year, Matthew's Jesus invites us to contemplate the ultimate realities even as we attend to the demands of the present, a "present" where some twenty per cent of the world's human community are homeless and where land-clearing has decimated the other-than-human life of the planet. The Matthean Jesus tells us to be "awake", to be "ready" all the time, not because death or the end of the world are around the corner, but because we need to recognise the multiple "advents" or arrivals of the Christ, the Human One, who calls us beyond self-absorption to Life. He reminds us that we are no different from our forebears who from earliest days have gone about their daily business without being sufficiently attentive to what really matters.

In our times, we have allowed thieves to break in and plunder our planet, our common home, because thieves come in guises that we fail to recognise. They so often look just like us and do the things we do. It may be that we must first be attentive to our own ways of plundering the house that is home to all of God's creatures.

We spend much of our time looking back. That has its place, since our history informs our present and helps us in shaping our future, though all the while we know with Auden that '[t]he past is foreign country: they do things differently there'. Advent invites us to look forward rather than back and to dream gospel-inspired dreams that will enable creative change in our own lives and in the life of our planet. It invites us to be awake, to be ready for any eventuality.

Dreams and visions have always been the precursors to effective and life-effecting change. We need the grace to see visions and to dream dreams that make for justice and peace and that permit us to walk more freely in the light of God's ways. We seek the grace to "see" God's word as did the prophet Isaiah in the first reading (Isaiah 2:1-5). We need to put our energy into creating life-generating systems that enable us to move forward in the paths of gospel compassion and love.

- Veronica Lawson RSM

**Responsorial Psalm:**(R.) 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:** Mollie Bruty

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Kevin Glenane, Kevin Hanrahan, John Sharry, Bill Smith, Sr. Claire Flanagan RGS, Clare McGoldrick, Adele Carter

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



**Baptism** This weekend we welcome to our Parish through the sacrament of Baptism:

**Henry Francis White**, son of William and Melissa;

**Eden Louise Paget**, daughter of Blake and Kirsten; and

**Billy Francis Discher**, son of Leigh and Chelsea.

**“The Church gives the faith to your children through Baptism and you have the task to make it grow....” - Pope Francis**

May Henry, Eden and Billy grow in faith with the support of their families and our Catholic Community.

**Centralised Baptism Preparation Session** Parents planning to have their child baptised are required to attend a Baptism Preparation Session. Next session will be held at MacKillop and Glowrey Rooms of St. Patrick's Cathedral Hall, 3 Lyons St South, Ballarat, **Thursday 1st December 2022**. You may attend either the **10.00am** or **5.30pm** session.

**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.

**Free Advent resources** 2022 Advent Calendar with lots of practical ideas to help families journey through Advent, the Names of Jesus Advent chain to help families explore who Jesus is and the Little Nativity Pack so that children can play out the wonderful story of Jesus' coming! Resources are available at <https://evangelisationbrisbane.org.au/shop/free-resources/>

**Vinnies Christmas Kindness Appeal** Aussie families are struggling to survive the increasing cost-of-living pressures this Christmas. Your generosity can provide urgent relief for a family who's doing it tough this Christmas and give them hope for a better future. To donate go to <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/christmas-appeal>

St Columba's 4th Dec	(next week)	Sun 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG		Terry Ranger
COMMENTATOR		Ruth Marquand
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Anthea Hinchey
COMMUNION MINISTER		Kaye Merbach
DIGITAL PROJECTOR		Vicki Moroney
SACRISTAN		Volunteer please

**Collections Last Weekend St Columba's** Thank you for your contributions  
 Presbytery: \$ 313.10 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 785.00

**Simbang Gabi** Simbang Gabi, a Filipino Christmas tradition, is a spiritual preparation for Christmas as it commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ. It is a series of nine Masses on the days leading up to Christmas, which will be held at St Alipius Parish Church, Victoria Street, Ballarat East: Thursday, December 15 at 7.00pm; Friday, December 16 at 7.00pm; Saturday, December 17 at 8.00pm (NB: change of time); Sunday, December 18 at 7.00pm; Monday, December 19 at 7.00pm; Tuesday, December 20 at 7.00pm; Wednesday, December 21 at 7.00pm; Thursday, December 22 at 7.00pm; Friday, December 23 at 7.00pm with a shared Christmas dinner in the hall to follow. If you have any questions/need further information, please contact Fr Eladio, ph. 0450 017 007 or Dion, ph. 0427 876 553. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**Roll up your sleeves; make a difference overseas** Do you require professional renewal, or are you seeking a retirement challenge? Communities abroad are asking for qualified and experienced Australians able to mentor their people in education, health, administration, trades, agriculture and more. Imagine yourself re-engaging your vocational passion in Africa, Asia or the Pacific. Since 1961 Palms Australia has been recruiting Australians able to offer mentoring that will allow overseas counterparts opportunities otherwise unattainable. Sharing your skills will strengthen the capacity of workers overseas to serve their communities for generations to come, long after you return home. Communities in American Samoa, Cambodia, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Zambia are seeking to fill a variety of roles. Enquire about those roles via [www.palms.org.au](http://www.palms.org.au) or by calling 02 9560 533 or 0422 472 567.

**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 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.

**Catholic Theological College Information Session** Learn about your 2023 study options at Catholic Theological College Melbourne. With a range of online study options now available it is possible to participate in most units of study at CTC without leaving home. Monday, December 5, 2023 at 7.30pm (AEDT). Register via website [www.ctc.edu.au/open-days](http://www.ctc.edu.au/open-days). For more information contact [jenny.delahunt@ctc.edu.au](mailto:jenny.delahunt@ctc.edu.au)



**OLHC Parish Wendouree Christmas Day Lunch** OLHC Parish Wendouree volunteers are hosting lunch on Christmas Day in the Parish Hall, 482 Gillies Street, Wendouree from 12.00noon – 2.00pm. 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 are essential as seating is limited. Phone 0419 975914. Transport to the Hall is available. If you are able to volunteer on this day, please phone the number listed to register your availability.

**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> or you can also make a monetary donation through any Vinnies Shops at point of purchase and via your local IGA where the purchase of a token supports the recovery of Victorians devastated by these recent floods.

**MAKING A SCENE AT CHRISTMAS at Bridge Mall, December 3 Saturday and December 10 to December 23, 2022** A display of over 500 Christmas Nativities from more than 60 countries. You can see and smell real frankincense and myrrh and see coins minted around the time the census was called that brought Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem. There will be hand crafted cultural nativities from Australia, Africa, Asia, North & South America and Europe (and one that went to Antarctica). Entry is by gold coin donation. All welcome.

**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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 3rd December	(next week)	Saturday 6.00pm
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

**Collections last Weekend OLHC** Thank you for your contributions  
 Presbytery: \$ 343.70 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 605.00