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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)  
P O Box 192, Wendouree  
School Co-Principals: Bambi Afford & Shaun Mohr  
School Phone: 5332 4894  
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  
Monday 1.30 pm (Funeral)  
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 2.30 pm (Funeral)  
Thursday 11.00 am (Kelaston)  
Friday 10.00 am

**Readings for Next Weekend**

Lv 19:1-2, 17-18  
Ps 102:1-4, 8,10,12-13  
R.v.8  
1 Cor 3:16-23  
Mt 5:38-48



**12th February 2023 ~ 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

We sometimes forget that Jesus was a faithful Jew who observed the Law handed down within Israel from generation to generation. Today's gospel is from Matthew's Sermon on the Mount in which Jesus, the faithful Jewish teacher, addresses his Jewish disciples and the Jewish crowds who gather to hear his words.

The mission of Jesus is to fulfill the law ("I have come to..."), not to do away with it, and fulfilling the law is a question of "righteousness". The Greek term for righteousness, dikaiosunē, translates both the Hebrew sdeqah meaning "right relationship" and mishpat meaning "justice". The righteousness of the official teachers of the Law, the scribes and Pharisees, their manner of relating to others and their notions of justice, are judged to be quite inadequate for those who are part of God's reign, the kin-dom "of heaven" in Matthew's terminology. The righteousness of Jesus' followers is to "exceed" such minimalist interpretations and expressions of the Law.

Jesus, authentic teacher and interpreter of the Law, offers six examples of the righteousness that "fulfils" the Law. Four of these examples are included in today's reading. What was heard "of old" is contrasted with what Jesus wants to say to his hearers. In the first instance, they all know that the Law forbids murder. They may not have considered the connection between unrestrained anger or murderous thoughts and murder itself. In a series of cascading sentences, Jesus presents a charter for reconciliation and forgiveness. He reminds his audience that true worship demands a forgiving heart expressed in action. He includes a fairly pragmatic reason for settling out of court: you may actually find yourself in prison. There may be an implicit criticism here of the increasingly punitive legal system of the time, a reminder to us of the futility of incarceration of children and the incarceration of anyone for minor crimes.

The second example puts "lustful looking" on a par with adultery. In an age of easy access to internet pornography, this example has a particular resonance: any form of sexual depravity is destructive of right relationship. The third example on divorce is complicated by the exceptive clause, "except in the case of porneia". Porneia referred to any illicit sexual activity. Here it probably means marriages within degrees of kinship prohibited by Jews but not prohibited by Gentiles. The question seems to have arisen as to whether couples in such unions could stay together on becoming Christian. While Jesus presents the ideal (no divorce), we have to put this teaching into a broader context. Writing to the people of Corinth on this subject, Paul allows for exceptions, since "God has called us to peace". The fourth example is about swearing on oath. Righteousness eschews "fake news" and calls for honesty and transparency in every day dealings. If the words we use are congruent with the intentions of our heart, we should not have to invoke God as a witness to the veracity of our claims.

- Veronica Lawson RSM

**Responsorial Psalm:**(R.) Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!  
**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!

**Recently Deceased: We commend to God:** Alwyn 'Jock' Hayes, Joy Lange

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Malcolm McLean, Brian O'Neill, Pasquale Milazzo, Neil Woods, Johannes Kors, Joan Thomas, Peter Baker, Anoja Stanislaus, John Brusaschi, Lesley Bigarelli, Sr. Ursula Caine RSM, Mavis McKeegan, Judith Johnstone, Gwen Souter, Maureen Shannon

**We pray:** for the people of Ukraine, Turkey and Syria.

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

**Flossy Rose Sambell** daughter of Julian and Lucy.

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

**- Pope Francis**



May Flossy grow in faith with the support of her family 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 at MacKillop and Glowrey Rooms of St. Patrick's Cathedral Hall, 3 Lyons St South, Ballarat, **Thursday, March 9, 2023**. You may attend either the **10.00am** or **5.30pm** session.

**Mission: One Heart Many Voices Conference 2023** The Mission: One Heart Many Voices conference, “Lead, Act, Now” will be held from May 3-5, 2023 in Sydney – face-to-face and online. Registration and information available at <https://2023.mohmv.com.au/>. Early bird full registration before February 28 is \$550.00. Full registration from March 1 is \$649.00. Concession rate \$539.00. Single day rate \$209.00.

**Palms Australia Call to Mission: Change their lives ... and yours** Communities in Africa, Asia or the Pacific are seeking Australians from a variety of professions and trades to share their skills with those who have less opportunity to develop their talents.

Explore 35 positions on the Palms website [www.palms.org.au](http://www.palms.org.au). You can also see news including stories from those currently supported in Timor-Leste, Samoa, American Samoa and Thailand. Please enquire further about potential assignments for you or someone you know: RING: 02 9560 533 or 0422 472 567.

St Columba's 19th Feb	(next week)	Sun 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG		Mark Lacey
COMMENTATOR		Colleen Wakefield
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Anthea Hinchey
COMMUNION MINISTER		Judy Brown
DIGITAL PROJECTOR		Bruce Chapman
SACRISTAN		Barb Brown/ Norah Moloney/ Josie Crowe

**Collections Last Weekend St Columba's** Thank you for your contributions  
 Presbytery: \$ 404.00 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 630.00

**Project Compassion Sunday: February 19, 2023** Bishop Paul Bird CSsR will launch Project Compassion on Sunday, February 19, 2023 during Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat.

**Round Table Ecological Theology Sessions** The recent Plenary Council committed the Catholic Church in Australia to developing and committing to a culture of life-long faith formation. For some years now, Fr. Barry Ryan and Sr. Veronica Lawson have been offering regular adult theology classes. A new series of six sessions begins on Wednesday, February 22 (1-3pm or 7-9pm) at Mercy Centre, 16 Gent St. Ballarat East. Then (March 22, April 26, May 24, June 28, July 26). For further information please send your mobile number and email to Sr. Veronica on [veronica.lawson@mercy.org.au](mailto:veronica.lawson@mercy.org.au)

**Advance Notice**

**Rite of Election 2023:** Saturday, February 25, 2023 at 12.30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat. Lunch will follow in the Hall.

**Mass of the Oils 2023:** Monday, April 3, 2023 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 6.30pm. Supper will follow in the Hall.

**Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Patchewollock Final Mass** An invitation to people of the diocese to attend the Final Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Patchewollock on Saturday, March 18, 2023. Bishop Paul Bird CSsR and Fr Anthony Nagothu, Parish Priest, will celebrate Mass at 3.00pm. Following Mass there will be a gathering at the Patchewollock Community Centre. Please bring food to share and drinks of your choice. Flyer is on the Ouyen Parish webpage <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parish/ouyen/>

**Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program – Online Study**

The Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation is an initiative to offer adult religious education and faith formation anytime and anywhere. This low-cost (\$50usd) online study and formation for employed or volunteer lay workers in parishes is available through our partner, Dayton University. The next Cycle for 2023 begins February 27. There are 38 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:djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or ph. 5337 7121.

**World Youth Day** World Youth Day will be held from 1-6 August, 2023 in Lisbon, Portugal. Anyone interested in attending can register with the Archdiocese of Melbourne to join with them in pilgrimages they have on offer. More information at <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/youth-and-young-adult-ministry/world-youth-day/>

**Ash Wednesday Masses: February 22, 2023**

9.30 am St Columba's, Ballarat North  
 11.00 am Our Lady Help of Christians, Wendouree

**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 February:** For parishes: We pray that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

**World Day of Prayer Church Services 2023**

3rd March 2023 Friday

- 10.00 am The Salvation Army Ballarat Community Church, 102 Eureka St. Ballarat 3350
- 2.00 pm The Salvation Army Delacombe Corps, 104 Greenhalghs Rd. Delacombe 3356
- 2.00 pm St. John's Catholic Church, 3 Anderson Street, Skipton 3361
- 5.30 pm St. Peter's Catholic Church, 34 Duke Street, Daylesford 3460
- 7.00 pm St. Andrew's Uniting Church, 130 Ballarat Road, Creswick 3363

5th March 2023 Sunday

- 2.30pm Saints Peter & Paul's Catholic Church, 701 Fischen Street, Buninyong 3357

**World Day of Prayer Seniors' Services 2023**

- 23rd February 2023 Thursday 10.00 am Rosebank Retirement Village, 19a Charlotte Street, Sebastopol 3356
- 2nd March 2023 Thursday 11.00 am Pineview Residential Care, 324 Nicholson Street, Black Hill 3350

OLHC 18th February	(next week)	Saturday 6.00pm
LEADER OF SONG		Paul Hogan
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Volunteer please
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Vin Dillon & Zeena Lazarus
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Pauline Newman & Pat Dillon
SACRISTAN		Geoff & Marg McLean

**Collections last Weekend OLHC** Thank you for your contributions  
 Presbytery: \$ 441.00 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 635.00