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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)



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

Office: 480a Gillies Street, Wendouree Phone: 5339 2302

Email: wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au

P O Box 192, Wendouree

School Principal: Leigh Bradshaw

School Phone: 5339 4726

School Co-Principals: Bambi Afford & Shaun Mohr

School Phone: 5332 4894

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

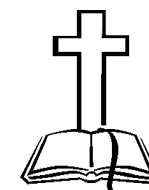
Sunday 10.00 am
Wednesday 9.30 am (Ash Wed)

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
Wednesday 11.00 am
Thursday 10.00 am
Friday 10.00 am

Readings for Next Weekend

Gen 2:7-9; 3:1-7
Ps 50:3-6. 12-14. 17.R.
see v.3
Rom 5:12-19
Mt 4:1-11



19th February 2023 ~ 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Focus on the Scriptures

Today's gospel is a continuation of the Matthean Jesus' teaching on the sort of righteousness to which his followers are called in their living of the Law, namely right relationship and justice. The Law of Moses included a law of retaliation designed to make punishment for wrongdoing to persons or property proportionate to the offence (Exodus 21:24, Leviticus 24:20 and Deuteronomy 19:21). This was quite enlightened legislation at that time. In a series of striking images, Jesus invites his followers to go far beyond the strict application of the law and to embrace a new way of thinking about and acting towards those who have injured them or us.

Relinquishing your right to compensation is one thing. Giving more of your property to one who has stolen from you is quite another. Do we take this teaching literally or do we simply embrace the spirit of non-retaliation that seems to be at the heart of this teaching? A too-easy amnesty does not always bring justice. Last week's gospel reminded us that there is to be no place for uncontrolled anger or murderous thoughts in our hearts. Both that teaching and this seem to be about taking responsibility for how we live. Harboring anger can have disastrous consequences for oneself as well as for others. It tends to become a state of being and to skew our capacity for right judgement. What happens to us may be beyond our control. What we do with what comes our way is for us to decide. Jesus makes it clear that we have choices in the face of life's struggles. The disciple is called to assume personal responsibility and to refuse the way of retaliation.

The final example or antithesis in the list of six that Jesus offers in the Sermon on the Mount is the most confronting of all: there are to be no limitations on love. Loving one's enemies is quite a challenge, on a personal as well as a global level. We learn the hard way that we cannot change others. We can only change our attitudes and our approaches to those who harm us in any way. Catherine McAuley, the first Sister of Mercy, wrote that her sisters "never let the sun go down on their anger". I used to wonder how they managed that. Over recent years I have found that praying quite deliberately for those who give me a hard time or cause me grief is by far the most effective way of retaining my own peace of mind and of expelling retaliatory thoughts. For me, it is a matter of gently bringing these people to mind, of breathing in the loving kindness or hesed of God that suffuses the universe and of breathing it out to them. Such prayer enables me to think of them in kindly ways and act towards them without rancour, even when these sentiments are not reciprocated.

- Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm:(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Whoever keeps the word of Christ, grows perfect in the love of God. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: all who have died recently.

Anniversaries: We remember: Jacinta Wilson, Marion Voss, Kathleen Squire, Patrick Duffy, Margaret Pearson, Imelda McGrath, Patrick Duggan

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

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. 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: Please RING: 02 9560 5333 or 0422 472 567.

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 or ph. 5337 7121.

St Columba's 26th Feb	(next week)	Sun 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG		Tony Beggs
COMMENTATOR		Fiona Newton
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Terry Ranger
COMMUNION MINISTER		Peter Marquand
DIGITAL PROJECTOR		Vicki Moroney
SACRISTAN		Barb Brown/ Norah Moloney/ Josie Crowe

Collections Last Weekend St Columba's Thank you for your contributions
 Presbytery: \$ 479.85 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 2,243.75

Today is Project Compassion Sunday: February 19, 2023 Bishop Paul Bird CSsR will launch Project Compassion today during Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat. Please take home a Project Compassion box or set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and **For All Future Generations**. *With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction. Project Compassion 2023 reminds us that the good that we do today will extend and impact the lives of generations to come. As St Pope John Paul II said, "The future starts today, not tomorrow." Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow For All Future Generations.* You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting <https://www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion> or by calling 1800 024 413.

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

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/>

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 Parish, 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. **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 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

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 Fiske Street, Buninyong 3357

OLHC 25th February	(next week)	Saturday 6.00pm
LEADER OF SONG		Vin Dillon
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Volunteer please
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Colin & Helen Feely
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Harry Kennedy & Trish Lawson
SACRISTAN		Kath Leonard & Anne Slattery

Collections last Weekend OLHC Thank you for your contributions
 Presbytery: \$ 439.45 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,050.00