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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)

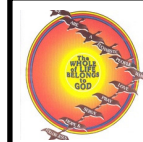
**Aboriginal Stations of the Cross available for purchase**

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

**P O Box** 192, Wendouree

**School Principal:** Leigh Bradshaw

**School Phone:** 5339 4726

**School Co-Principals:** Bambi Afford & Shaun Mohr

**School Phone:** 5332 4894

**26th February 2023 ~ 1st Sunday of Lent**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

Lent is a time of preparation for Easter. It is also a time to enter into the "wilderness" and grapple with the mysteries of life "in Christ". It presents us with a challenge to take stock of our lives, to see more clearly what is in our hearts and to discover what might be calling us out of our comfort zones. Today's liturgy invites us to reflect on Jesus' forty-day experience in the wilderness. Jesus is "filled with the Holy Spirit" and, like so many humans before and since, is "led by the Spirit" into the wilderness of life to be "tested" there. ["Tested" is a more accurate translation of the Greek than is "tempted"].

Forty is a significant number in Israel's story: the great flood lasts forty days and forty nights; Moses spends forty days and forty nights on the mountain of God; Israel wanders for forty years in the wilderness; King David reigns for forty years; the prophet Elijah travels forty days and forty nights in the wilderness on his way to Horeb, the mountain of God. Explanations of its significance vary: a round number suggesting a long period of time; a time of testing or trial; totality or fullness.

In Israel's story, the wilderness is the place of testing for God's people: "Remember the long way that your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness... testing you to know what was in your heart" (Deuteronomy 8:2). In Matthew's account, the "devil" is the "tester" or "tempter", the instrument of God's testing. In each instance, the test is expressed in terms of Jesus' relationship to God: "If you are the son of God..." The Matthean Jesus passes the tests that the people of Israel have failed in the wilderness of Sinai. He refuses the way of special favour from God, the way of status or self-aggrandisement. He is prepared to suffer whatever it takes to bring healing and wholeness to a broken world. In other words, he chooses the way of God's empire or the empire "of the heavens" rather than the brutality of the Roman Empire. Jesus demonstrates that he is indeed "of God". This testing in the wilderness foreshadows later events in the gospel such as Peter's attempt at Caesarea Philippi to deflect Jesus from his mission and the bystanders' challenge in 27:40 to prove he is "son of God" by coming down from the cross.

Most people of faith would agree that being son or daughter "of God" right now has more than a little to do with the way we relate to all of Earth's human and other-than-human inhabitants, the value we ascribe to Earth's precious resources, and the respect we show for life through our responsible use of those resources. Lent calls us to reject the path of domination or of greed or status or entitlement so that, like Jesus, we may truly be "of God".

- Veronica Lawson RSM

**Responsorial Psalm:**(R.) Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.  
**Gospel Acclamation:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

**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 No Mass

**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

Thursday No Mass

Friday No Mass

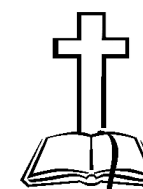
**Readings for Next Weekend**

Gen 12:1-4

Ps 32:4-5. 18-20. 22.R.  
v.22

2 Tm 1:8-10

Mt 17:1-9



**Recently Deceased: We commend to God:** Sr Irene Monigatti RSM, Thomas Kirby

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Eileen Therese Donovan, Ronald William Tuppen, Bryan Coffey, Anna Straga, Carolyn May Jordan, Marija Gavranic

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

**Welcome!** A warm welcome to Fr. Kevin Maloney who will celebrate mass with us this weekend. Fr. Marcello will be joining the priests of the Diocese for their Annual Retreat this week in Halls Gap. We wish them God's blessings!

**Caritas Australia Turkey-Syria Earthquake Disaster Appeal** A 7.8 magnitude earthquake has unleashed devastation on Turkey and Syria, leaving thousands of people dead with this number expected to rise dramatically. After 12 years of war, Syria is at breaking point and desperately needs assistance. We must act NOW and help those affected by this catastrophe. Your generous donation means our partners in Turkey and Syria can respond swiftly to support the survivors of this unimaginable tragedy. Visit [www.caritas.org.au/syria-turkey](http://www.caritas.org.au/syria-turkey) or call 1800 024 413 toll free to donate now.

**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. For more information go to: <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.

**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) and 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.

St Columba's 5th March	(next week)	Sun 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG		Mark Lacey
COMMENTATOR		Judy Brown
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Tom Keogh
COMMUNION MINISTER		Colleen Wakefield
DIGITAL PROJECTOR		Kathleen Keogh
SACRISTAN		Barb Brown/ Norah Moloney/ Josie Crowe

**Collections Last Weekend St Columba's** Thank you for your contributions  
 Presbytery: \$ 342.80 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 2,295.00

*In the spirit of reconciliation, the Parishes of St. Columba's and Our Lady Help of Christians acknowledge that the Aboriginal people of Australia are our first nation people and the traditional owners and custodians of the land.*

**Project Compassion Sunday – February 25 & 26, 2023** After losing her father when she was just 10-years-old, Laxmi was at risk of falling further into extreme poverty. But with the support of our partner Caritas Nepal, Laxmi joined a child's club, became a leader in her school and is now a mentor to other children in her village. Please donate to Project Compassion 2023. 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/envelopes available from your parish, by visiting <https://www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion> or by calling 1800 024 413.

**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.

**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)

**Choir for Mass of the Oils 2023** Singers and musicians in the diocese are invited to join the music group which is being formed for the Mass of the Oils on Monday, April 3, 2023 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 6.30pm. Supper will follow in the Hall. Choir practice times are on Sundays, March 19, March 26 and April 2 at 6.15pm (following 5.00pm Mass). Please contact Julie Boyd in the Pastoral Ministry Office to register your interest [julie.boyd@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:julie.boyd@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or ph. 5337 7159.

**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/>

**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 Services 2023**

2nd March 2023 Thursday 11.00 am Pineview Residential Care, 324 Nicholson Street, Black Hill 3350

3rd March 2023 Friday **World Day of Prayer**

- 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 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/>

OLHC 4th March	(next week)	Saturday 6.00pm
LEADER OF SONG		Corrie Harbour
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Veronica Stott
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Pauline Newman & Kevin Murphy
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Frank Hogan & Helen Feely
SACRISTAN		Kath Leonard & Anne Slattery

**Collections last Weekend OLHC** Thank you for your contributions  
 Presbytery: \$ 472.40 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 425.00