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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

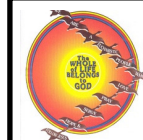
Aboriginal Stations of the Cross available for purchase

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)



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

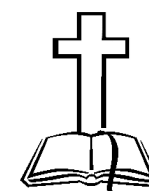
Sunday 10.00 am
Wednesday 9.30 am

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 11.00 am (Kelaston)
Friday 10.00 am

Readings for Next Weekend

1 Sm 16:1. 6-7, 10-13
Ps 22 R. v.1
Eph 5:8-14
Jn 9:1-41



12th March 2023 ~ 3rd Sunday of Lent

Focus on the Scriptures

Those privileged to act as catechists in the RCIA program over the Lenten period will be introducing candidates to some of our most treasured gospel stories. In 1963, Vatican II's Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy called for the restoration of certain early Church practices. The two main features of Lent, baptism and penance, were to be given greater emphasis in the liturgy and in liturgical catechesis. More use was to be made of the baptismal elements proper to the Lenten liturgy. Some features that were part of an earlier tradition were to be restored. In response to this call, John's stories of the Samaritan woman, the man born blind and the raising of Lazarus were moved from the weekday to the Sunday liturgy. Thus, three weeks into Lent, the liturgy invites us to take a faith journey in the company of a courageous outsider, an unnamed woman from a despised religious group.

A woman of Samaria comes to draw water from the well of Jacob, Israel's great ancestor in faith. She belongs in a long line of women whose lot as women is to undertake the burdensome, often dangerous, daily toil of carrying water so that their families might simply survive. Jesus asks the woman for a drink and elicits a bewildered response. She responds, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" This response provides the opportunity for Jesus to move into an extended and constantly deepening exchange in which the woman proves herself a knowledgeable and worthy dialogue partner. The pursuit of water, a key baptismal symbol in the gospel tradition, provides the catalyst for her journey to faith in Jesus as the Messiah/the Christos and her engagement in the mission of proclaiming the good news to her people.

Commentators tend to focus on the woman's marital status, usually in negative terms. Because she is said to have had five husbands, many presume that she is a sinner: there is nothing in the text to support this position. Successive husbands may have died. Financial, religious or societal constraints may have functioned in her decision to remarry. The "husbands" may refer to the strange gods that claimed the allegiance of the Samaritans. There is no consensus on this among scholars.

At the outset, the woman views Jesus simply as a Jew who breaks with established custom by asking her for water. She comes to accept him as the provider of living water. Jesus understands her life story and opens up the way for her to accept him as a prophet. She takes the risk of sharing her own convictions about the locus of worship and is gifted with new understanding and with Jesus' further self-disclosure. She leaves her water jar behind and brings others to faith in Jesus as Messiah and saviour of the world. She becomes both disciple and missionary prophet.

- Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm:(R.) If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.
Gospel Acclamation: Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Philip O'Brien, Muriel Langer (Pearce)

Anniversaries: We remember: Margot Conaughton, Carmel Molloy, Sr Mary Lynch RSM, Bryan Deady, Sheila Prendergast, Marie Green

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

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 or call 1800 024 413 toll free to donate now.

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 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.

Vinnies (Victoria) Back to School Appeal More than 1 million Victorian students headed back to – or started – school this year. For a rising number of their families, it's getting harder to find the funds to ensure that their children have everything they need in order to learn and grow. The Vinnies Education (Back-to-School) Appeal – which launched on February 1 – is needed now more than ever. To donate go to <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-vic/back-to-school-appeal-vic-2023>

Enrolments are still open for Semester 1 at Catholic Theological College We have many areas of study that may be of interest such as John Henry Newman and the Church in the Nineteenth Century, Pastoral Leadership for a Safe Church and many online options. For more information contact: registrar@ctc.edu.au or visit www.ctc.edu.au

St Columba's 19th March (next week) Sun 10.00 am	
LEADER OF SONG	Tony Beggs
COMMENTATOR	Anthea Hinchey
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Vicki Moroney
COMMUNION MINISTER	Bruce Chapman
DIGITAL PROJECTOR	Bruce Chapman
SACRISTAN	Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe

Collections 26th Feb & 5th March St Columba's Thank you for your contributions
 Presbytery: \$ 608.55 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 2,033.45.

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.



Priscilla lives in the Hwange district in Zimbabwe with her husband, Charles, and their two grandsons. Climate change continues to bring unprecedented challenges for people living in the most vulnerable and remote communities in Zimbabwe.

With the support of Caritas Hwange, Priscilla learnt conservation farming skills to grow drought resistant crops to support her family during the current food crisis. Priscilla was able to produce a bumper harvest in her first year of practising conservation farming. Priscilla used the funds from her harvest to start poultry farming which enabled her to sell eggs to pay for her grandchildren's school fees, books and stationery. The poultry farming provides a safety net for Priscilla and her family during times of hardship, like the current drought.

While the situation in Zimbabwe and across eastern Africa remains dire, the work of Caritas Hwange means that Priscilla can learn the skills she needs to build resilience and support her family during this current food crisis,



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

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 has begun at Mercy Centre 16 Gent St Ballarat East. The next session is on March 22, (1.00-3.00 pm or 7.00-9.00pm) then 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

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/>

A special prayer initiative for the 10th anniversary of Pope Francis' pontificate Pope Francis will celebrate the 10th year of his pontificate on March 13, 2023. To highlight this milestone anniversary in a "viral" manner, the Digital Synod has launched a special online map featuring virtual lighted candles representing the prayers of the faithful worldwide for him. Anyone who wishes to join the initiative will find an invitation on the website to pray one or more Hail Mary's <https://www.decimus-annus.org/site/index>. The map with the 'little candles' which represent the Hail Mary's that are prayed for him will be sent to Pope Francis.

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 March** - For victims of abuse: We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church. May they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

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/>

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 or ph. 5337 7159

OLHC 18th March (next week) Saturday 6.00pm	
LEADER OF SONG	Corrie Harbour
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL	Lyn Gray
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Ena Bruty, Laureen Rhodes
COMMUNION MINISTERS	Tony Bruty, Bev Hayward
SACRISTAN	Geoff & Margaret McLean

Collections 25th February & 4th March OLHC Thank you for your contributions
 Presbytery: \$ 1,025.35 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$2,217.00