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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

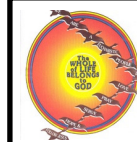
Aboriginal Stations of the Cross available for purchase

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 Co-Principals: Bambi Afford & Shaun Mohr

School Phone: 5332 4894

School Phone: 5339 4726

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

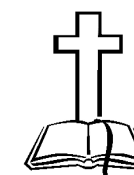
Sunday 10.00 am
Wednesday 9.30 am

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 (Vigil) 6.00 pm
Thursday 10.00 am
Friday 10.00 am

Readings for Next Weekend

Acts 2: 14, 36-41
Ps 22: 1-6
1 Pt 2: 20-25
Jn 10: 1-10



23rd April 2023 ~ 3rd Sunday of Easter Yr A

Focus on the Scriptures

Extraordinary things can happen if we open ourselves to the presence of a stranger on life's journey. That seems to be a key element in today's gospel passage from the well-known and well-loved Emmaus story. Imagine two dejected disciples (Cleopas and an unnamed disciple) on Easter Day, on the road back from Jerusalem to their home in Emmaus, a few kilometres away. On their journey, they encounter Jesus who has been raised. At first, they fail to recognise him. Their sadness at his violent death has blinded them to the significance of the women's account of the empty tomb. It has blinded them to what is happening before their very eyes.

Jesus engages them in conversation and holds up a metaphorical mirror to their experience of loss and grief. Their hearts "burn" within them as he reveals to them the meaning of his death and resurrection in the light of their sacred scriptures. Yet still they fail to recognise the one whom they have described as "a prophet mighty in deed and word." They urge him to share a meal with them despite his seeming reluctance and their eyes are opened: they recognise him in the blessing and breaking of the bread. He disappears from their midst. They cannot contain the joy they have experienced in realising that Jesus is alive and once more present to them, though in a new and transformative way.

Cleopas and partner go straight back to Jerusalem to share this good news with the other disciples. Now all the assembled disciples experience powerfully the presence of the risen Jesus in their midst. They too pass over the women's story. It is the appearance to Peter of the resurrected Jesus that is the ground of their new faith. As the story continues beyond today's reading, we learn that the male disciples will also share a meal with him and he will open their minds to understand the scriptures. Everything will fall into place. The fear that has paralysed them will fall away. They will not only understand Jesus' death and resurrection in the light of the scriptures. They will be "clothed with power from on high" to exercise their role as witnesses to this great mystery.

Extraordinary things can happen to those hospitable enough to "break bread" with "strangers" in whom they do not immediately recognise God's presence. If we open our hearts to those who have sought a welcome on our shores and are still awaiting a path to permanency, we might come to participate more deeply in the joy of the resurrection. Opening our hearts is always possible even if extreme weather events make opening our homes increasingly difficult for some. In these times, many of us know the experience of reverse ministry where refugee friends, though "strangers" in our lands, show us what it means to be "of Go

- Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm:(R.) Lord, you will show us the path of life.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us: make our hearts burn with love when you speak. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Fr. Bob Maguire, Anne Tierney

Anniversaries: We remember: Michael Phillips, Neil Hanrahan, Lorna Batty, Mary Smerdon, Barry McNamara, Veronica McNamara

We pray: for those in need, all who are sick, and for the people of Ukraine, Turkey and Syria.



Caritas Australia would like to **THANK YOU** for supporting Project Compassion 2023. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please bring them back next week or visit caritas.org.au/project-compassion and donate online.



Your generosity will empower the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and lift themselves out of poverty. Contributions received to date:
Ballarat North \$ 3,300.45 **Wendouree** \$ 2,289.00



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 caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.

Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans Online National Gathering: May 3, 2023 ACRATH invites you to join their national gathering (online) on Wednesday, May 3, 2023 "Hearts stirred to action - The Call of the Human face of trafficking." Details of the event available at <https://acrath.org.au/hearts-stirred-to-action/will>

Praying with Pope Francis: Pope's intention for April - For a culture of peace and non violence: We pray for the spread of peace and non violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens.

Next Centralised Baptism Preparation Session Parents planning to have their child baptised are required to attend a Baptism Preparation Session. Next session is on Holy Thursday at MacKillop and Glowrey Rooms of St. Patrick's Cathedral Hall, 3 Lyons St South, Ballarat, **Thursday, 4th of May 2023** at 10.00 am and 5.30 pm .

St Columba's 30th April	(next week)	Sun 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG		Tony Beggs
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: \$391.60 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$921.50

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.

Baptism

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

Asher Edan Bradley, son of Luke and Rubeliza and

William Edward O'Hagan, son of Brett and Katelin.

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

May Asher and William grow in faith with the support of their families and our Catholic Community.

Mystery and Mission: The Art of Liturgical Celebration - September 28 -30, 2023

Registrations are now open for the National Liturgy and Liturgical Music Conference to be held at the Brisbane Hilton from September 28 – 30: *Mystery and Mission: The Art of Liturgical Celebration*. International keynote presenters are Sarah Hart, one of the leading figures in contemporary Catholic music, and Dr Timothy O'Malley, professor of liturgical-sacramental theology and academic director of the Notre Dame Centre for Liturgy (USA).

These international guests will be joined by acclaimed local presenters: Rev Dr Tom Elich, liturgist and Director of Liturgy Brisbane, and Dr Maeve Louise Heaney VDMF, theologian and composer. In addition to these keynote presenters, there will be more than 50 workshops on offer across the three days. The full program of keynotes and workshops on available from the Conference website <https://mysteryandmission.com.au/>. An early bird discount will apply to those registrations received by April 30, 2023.

From Bishop Paul Bird CSsR A number of people have asked about arrangements for the reception of Holy Communion. I have concluded that it is not yet time to reintroduce the sharing of the chalice. In regard to the way of receiving the host, recognising the continuing risks of the pandemic, and out of consideration for the health of all parishioners, I recommend reverent reception of the host in the hand rather than reception on the tongue.

New report reveals makeup of Australian Catholic population

A new National Centre for Pastoral Research report provides a comprehensive snapshot of the millions of people who identified as Catholic in the 2021 Australia Census. Read more at the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Media Blog <https://mediablog.catholic.org.au/new-report-reveals-makeup-of-australian-catholic-population/#more-9486>

Grampians Health Ballarat Seeking Volunteer – Pastoral Care Visitors

Grampians Health Ballarat is seeking expressions of interest for volunteer Pastoral Care Workers to provide regular pastoral care support to patients and visitors of all faiths and beliefs. If you are willing to commit to 2.5 hours per week, and provide a listening ear, then Grampians Health Ballarat would like to hear from you. Contact Paul Ryan, 5320 8634 or email Paul at paul.ryan@bhs.org.au

Türkiye-Syria Earthquake Disaster A 7.8 magnitude earthquake has unleashed devastation on Türkiye and Syria. Over 50,000 people have been killed, with many more injured and left homeless. 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 Türkiye 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.

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 begins May 22, 2023. There are 32 subjects to choose from – find one that interests you! Registrations open April 19. 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:djurja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or ph. 5337 7121.

St Vincent's College Bendigo, Reunion Past students of St Vincent's College Bendigo and their partners are invited to attend our 65th Anniversary and Sports Hall of Fame Dinner on Saturday, May 20, followed by Mass and BBQ at Catherine McAuley College on Sunday, May 21, 2023. For more information and booking details, contact Tim Coates on 0407 403 574 or timothycoates@gmail.com or [visit our website](http://visitourwebsite).

OLHC 29th April	(next week)	Saturday 6.00pm
LEADER OF SONG		Sue Searls
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Laureen Rhodes
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Colin & Helen Feely
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Pauline Newman & Harry Kennedy
SACRISTAN		Lyn Grey & Michael Reniets

Collections Last Weekend Thank you for your contributions
Presbytery: \$352.60 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$951.00