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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

Finance Officer:

Bernadette Prestwood

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

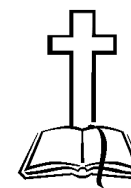
Sunday 10.00 am
Wednesday 10.00 am

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 (Vigil) 6.00 pm
Thursday 10.00 am
Friday 10.00 am

Readings for Next Weekend

Acts 6: 1-7
Ps 32: 1-2, 4-5, 18-19
R.v.22
1 Pt 2: 4-9
Jn 14: 1-12



30th April 2023 ~ 4th Sunday of Easter Yr A

Focus on the Scriptures

Sheep were domesticated in Palestine some eight thousand years ago. In biblical times, shepherds would lead their sheep out to graze by day and bring them by night to a communal enclosure or sheepfold, the entrance to which was guarded by a gatekeeper. Shepherds knew their sheep and their sheep knew them. Thieves would have to scale the wall of the enclosure and watch for the chance to get away with a few of the sheep. The loss of even a few sheep was a deeply personal loss for the shepherd and the shepherd's family. Furthermore, the personal relationship between sheep and shepherd made theft a traumatizing experience for the sheep. Little wonder that the biblical tradition is replete with ovine images.

In John 10, Jesus directs a parabolic image of sheep and shepherds and thieves to the religious authorities of the previous chapter. They fail to understand, mainly because they are hostile and choose not to understand. While they claim to shepherd God's people, they do not even know them and have no capacity to lead them. Jesus is, by contrast, both shepherd and gate for the sheep: such are his identity claims. The former claim becomes explicit later in the chapter when he states, "I am the good shepherd." It follows his twice repeated claim, "I am the gate". The "I am" in these claims echoes God's self-revelation to Moses in the burning bush. Jesus contrasts the access he provides as "the gate" with the unauthorized access gained by others "who have come before" him, namely the religious authorities. They gain access to the sheepfold on false pretences and lead God's flock into pastures that fail to satisfy.

In Psalm 23, God is the shepherd of Israel who leads the people into nourishing pastures and restores life to the depths of their nephesh or being. Nephesh is the Hebrew word used in Genesis 2 for the life that God breathes into all beings. God leads the people in the way of justice or righteousness. Psalm 118 sings of God's gate through which the just or righteous will enter and give thanks. As the gate to the little sheepfold, Jesus is the way into safety and the way out to life-restoring pastures. In other words, he is the gate to abundant life. As shepherd, he monitors the movement of the sheep so that they are not tempted to stray along the paths of unrighteousness and destruction.

Finally, Jesus makes a claim about his mission: "I have come that they (the sheep) may have life and have it abundantly". This has a particular resonance at a time when so many lives are threatened by climate change and when life has changed dramatically for the whole Earth community. Abundant life for all is our deepest desire and we must search to discover what that means in uncharted territory. As usual, the gospel text is multi-layered. The images pulsate with life and energy. They invite to vigilance on the one hand and hope on the other. They offer yet another way of celebrating Easter.

- Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm:(R.) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Owen Duncan, Tony Goode

Anniversaries: We remember: Rosa Hill, Wencilito Tan Andanar, Kathleen Richie, Denise Collins, Fr. Peter Jones SJ, Christopher Waight, Catherine Anderson, Michael Ryan, Mark Ryan

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 \$ 3,350.45 **Wendouree** \$ 2,341.70

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>

Next Centralised Baptism Preparation Sessions Parents planning to have their child baptised are required to attend a Baptism Preparation Session. Next sessions are at held at the MacKillop and Glowrey Rooms of St. Patrick's Cathedral Hall, 3 Lyons St South, Ballarat, **Thursday, 4th of May 2023**. You may choose to attend either the 10.00 am or the 5.30 pm session.

St Columba's Family Group Celebration - Sunday May 21st This May marks the **50th Anniversary** of the Passionist Family Group Movement begun by Father Peter McGrath. It is also 35 years since Family Groups began at St Columba's. Over the time, the Family Groups have led to the development of strong friendships and bonds between the members which has helped strengthen our Parish Community. To celebrate both these milestones **all** parishioners are warmly invited to the 10.00am Mass at St Columba's on May 21st followed by lunch at the Ballarat Golf Club. For further information about the day please contact Kaye Beggs on 0427 739121.

St Columba's 7th May	(next week)	Sun 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG		Terry Ranger
COMMENTATOR		Fiona Newton
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Terry Ranger/Volunteer
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: \$501.90 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$819.50

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.

World Day of Prayer for Vocations: Sunday, April 30, 2023 Today is World Day of Prayer and is also known as "Good Shepherd Sunday." The purpose of this day is to publicly fulfil the Lord's instruction to, "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2). We remember young women and men throughout our country and diocese and pray they may be open to hear and respond generously to the Lord's call to marriage, the single life, the priesthood, diaconate, religious life, societies of apostolic life or secular institutes.

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. 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 available here: <https://mysteryandmission.com.au/>. An early bird discount will apply to 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>

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.

Mission: One Heart Many Voices Conference 2023 – May 3-5, 2023

The Mission: One Heart Many Voices conference, "Lead, Act, Now" will be held from May 3-5, 2023 in Sydney. Registration details, program and information are available at <https://2023.mohmv.com.au/>

Catholic Women's League, St Patrick's Cathedral

meeting will be at the MacKillop and Glowrey rooms, St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Wednesday, May 3rd at 1.30pm. Discussion on Fr Robert McCulloch's visit (May 8, 2023) and afternoon tea. All Welcome. Inquiries 0401 175045.

Olive Tree Media: Faith Runs Deep event

The Unearthed event is organised by the team from Olive Tree Media who are collaborating with numerous churches from the region of Ballarat to host a free event which will help uncover stories of faith in the Australian context. Media presenter Karl Faase and country music star Colin Buchanan will appear at this event and there will be an interview with artist Bindi Cole Chocka who is featured in the series, sharing part of her journey of life and faith. The Unearthed event will be on Thursday, May 4, 2023 at 7.00pm at the Ballarat Civic Hall. For more information and to book your free ticket go to: www.olivetreemedia.com.au/unearthedballarat/ or email churches@olivetreemedia.com.au

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.

Feast of St Joseph the Worker – May 1

God our Father, in every age you call us to use and develop our gifts for the good of others. With St Joseph as our guide, help us to do the work you have asked and come to the rewards you have promised.

Please grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

OLHC 6th May	(next week)	Saturday 6.00pm
LEADER OF SONG		Paul Hogan
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Veronica Stott
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Trish Pora & Darryl Clark
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Pat Dillon & Trish Lawson
SACRISTAN		Geoff & Marg McLean

Collections Last Weekend Thank you for your contributions
 Presbytery: \$312.15 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$367.30