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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 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**

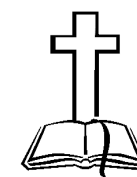
Sunday 10.00 am  
Wednesday 10.00 am

**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 11.00 am (Kelaston)  
Friday 10.00 am

**Readings for Next Weekend**

Acts 2: 14, 22-33  
Ps 15:1-2, 5, 7-11  
1 Pt 1:17-21  
Lk 24: 13- 35



**16th April 2023 ~ 2nd Sunday of Easter Yr A**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

Not so long ago we used to speak of the Sundays "after" Easter. The terminology has changed and we now speak of the Sundays "of" Easter. In other words, we now recognise that the liturgical readings and prayers for each Sunday between Easter and Pentecost invite us into different movements of the one great symphony of resurrection faith. Today's gospel tells of fear and joy and blessing. We bring our present experience of climate crisis and ongoing pandemic into dialogue with all of this.

The first scene in today's gospel has the disciples hiding behind closed doors "for fear" of those who had handed Jesus over to be executed by the Roman authorities. As supporters of someone executed on a political charge, they had reason to be fearful. Jesus appears among them, offers a greeting of peace, and tells them that he has been sent by God, his "Father". They receive from him the gift of the Holy Spirit. He sends them in turn to bring peace and to mediate the forgiveness of God through the power of the Spirit. The story invites us as believers to place ourselves in the shoes of the earliest disciples. It invites us to be open to receive the gift of the Spirit, to emerge from behind the doors that close us in on ourselves and that prevent us from rising above the fear of reprisals in the pursuit of justice and peace.

The second and third scenes in today's gospel focus on Thomas who was not with the other disciples when Jesus first appeared in their midst. Thomas seems to trust only his own experience. We all know people like Thomas. They test our patience because they seem to lack imagination. Then they make big statements when they come around to understanding what everyone else has known for a while. If we think, however, that those who hear in the first place are any better than Thomas, we need to note that the doors are still closed eight days later! The simple fact of knowing has not dispelled the fears. Even those who do believe and trust often need time to take the gospel message on board.

All three readings this Sunday affirm those who believe without "seeing". In the reading from Acts, many who had not seen the resurrected Jesus are drawn to the community of faith-filled believers. The community addressed in 1 Peter have "never seen him [the Christ]" and yet they love him and are filled with inexpressible joy. In the gospel, we too are declared blessed: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe".

As we continue to celebrate Easter, we join with the global community in celebrating the 53rd annual Earth Day next Saturday. The theme for 2023 is "Invest in our Planet". We have listened to the science on Coronavirus and, for the most part, taken courageous action. We might pray for the same courageous action to save our planetary home.

- Veronica Lawson RSM

**Responsorial Psalm:**(R.) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe. Alleluia!

**Recently Deceased: We commend to God:** Anne Meich, Inez Sullivan

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Eric Streckfuss, Ika Perovic, Sr Monica Butler RSM, Polly Borg, Therese Head, Stephen Head, Margaret Meerbach, Helen McMahan-Martino

**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](http://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** \$ 3,270.45 **Wendouree** \$ 1,709.00



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](http://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 23rd April	(next week)	Sun 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG		Volunteer
COMMENTATOR		Peter Marquand
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Geraldine Mugavin
COMMUNION MINISTER		Kaye Merbach
DIGITAL PROJECTOR		Bruce Chapman
SACRISTAN		Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe

**Collections Last Weekend St Columba's** Thank you for your contributions  
Presbytery: \$726.00 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$794.55

*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.*

**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.

**4 in 10 Australians would accept an invitation to an Easter service if invited by a close friend or family member**

NCLS Research has some encouraging numbers from the 2022 Australia Community Survey about inviting people to church for Easter. Read about it at the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/ncls-research-four-in-10-australians-say-they-would-go-to-an-easter-service-if-invited-by-a-close-friend-or-family-member/>

**A message from the Vatican Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue about the Muslim celebration of the month of Ramadan**

The Vatican's Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue has issued a message of good wishes to Muslims for the celebration of the month of Ramadan. A copy of the letter is available to read on the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/vaticans-dicastery-for-interreligious-dialogue-message-for-the-month-of-ramadan/>

**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.

**Memorial Mass for Sr Sheila Belleville rsm**

A Memorial Mass for Sr Sheila Belleville will be held on Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at St Mary's Church, Birchip at 10.00am. Following Mass there will be a cup of tea in the Belleville Room (across from the church). All are welcome to attend

**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](mailto: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](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 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:djurdja.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](mailto:timothycoates@gmail.com) or [visit our website](http://visitourwebsite.com).

OLHC 22nd April	(next week)	Saturday 6.00pm
LEADER OF SONG		Vin Dillon
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Elly Green
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Ena Bruty & Kevin Murphy
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Tony Bruty & Bev Hayward
SACRISTAN		Pauline & Tony Newman

**Collections Last Weekend** Thank you for your contributions  
Presbytery: \$454.55 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$250.15