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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

Our Diocesan Community Please feel free to take copies to the homebound, nursing homes, hospitals, etc., to spread the good news of the diocese.

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

Staffing

Parish Priest:
Fr Marcello Colasante

Finance Officer:
Bernadette Prestwood

St Columba's
Parish Co-Ordinator:
Lia Andanar Yu
Wed-Friday 10:00am –2:00pm

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
Wednesday 11.00 am
Thursday 10.00 am
Friday 10.00 am

Readings for Next Weekend

Acts 2:1-11
Ps 103:1, 24, 29-31, 34
R. v.30
1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13
Jn 20: 19-23



21st May 2023 ~ Ascension of the Lord Yr A

Focus on the Scriptures

Loss is part of the human experience and death is generally the most painful experience of loss. As the confirmed death toll from Covid-19 approaches seven million, we become more and more conscious of loss as a global reality. This loss of human life takes place against the backdrop of a catastrophic loss of species and of ecosystems, exacerbated by devastating bushfires and floods. Today's Feast invites us to face the experience of loss in a transformative way. Over Lent and Easter, we have been re-membering his death and resurrection. The Ascension draws us into another aspect of the Mystery, that of the presence of the Risen One even in his absence.

While today's gospel recounts Matthew's story of Jesus' final encounter with his disciples, it does not provide an account of Jesus' "ascension" or return to God. For that, we must turn to the first reading (Acts 1:1-11). This Lukan story presupposes a pre-scientific, three-tiered understanding of the structure of the world. In this ancient view, God is in the heavens above and the prophet Jesus, like the prophet Elijah of old, is caught up into God's presence. The Holy Spirit will "descend" upon God's people and "clothe" them with power to bring the gospel to the ends of the earth. The vertical (up and down) movement is balanced by a horizontal movement: Jesus' family and followers who grieve the loss of their loved one are told not to keep looking up to the heavens. They have work to do: strengthened by his blessing, they are to stay in the city for the present and be empowered by the Holy Spirit to continue the prophetic ministry of Jesus, to be witnesses to his death and resurrection. They have to face the fact that the physical loss of Jesus means a new and different sort of presence and that they have a role to play in making him present in their world.

The gospel reading has Jesus on a mountain top where he commissions his male disciples to make disciples of all nations, literally "to disciple all peoples". He has already commissioned the women on the open road to announce the good news of the resurrection (Matt 28:10). They are to be fearless in their mission. In Matthew's final chapter, then, both men and women are commissioned to proclaim the gospel. There are other dimensions to their mission, namely to baptize in the name of the Triune God and to teach what Jesus has taught or "commanded" them. The confidence that they need to engage in this mission is the assurance that the One whom God has raised is with us to the end of time. The gospel has come full circle. In the first chapter of Matthew, an angel announces that the child to be born will be called Emmanuel, God-with-us. The last verse of the gospel invites us once more to ponder that mystery and to commit ourselves to a life-giving gospel mission.

- Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm:(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Ugo Lo Iaconio

Anniversaries: We remember: Les Egan, Thomas Gurrie, Patricia Gerrett, Peter Cook Joyce Keynton, Claire Carroll, Anton Kors, Nancy Colasante, Jack Lynch, Sidney Morgan, John Francis Deady

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

St Columba's Family Group Celebration - Sunday May 21st Today 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. After mass, Family Groups will celebrate both these milestones with a lunch at the Ballarat Golf Club. For further info, please contact Kaye Beggs on 0427739121.

National Families Week Australia: May 15-21, 2023 Family Week is a perfect time to come together to celebrate the power of family relationships in all their diversities, and the importance they play in our lives and community. CatholicCare Victoria's theme for Family Week this year is "Circle of Inclusion." The National Families Week website is <https://nfw.org.au/>

A Blessing for Families

Heavenly Father, please bless our families with Your everlasting love.
Give our families strength to overcome hardship and difficulties.
Give our families courage to admit our faults and forgive others.
Give our families joy to live life to the full and spread our joy to others.
May all families find comfort, support and guidance under Your loving care. Amen.

<https://www.catholiccarevic.org.au/news/247/a-blessing-for-families>

Sacrament of Confirmation Preparation Sessions continue at St. Columba's on Monday, May 22 and culminates with the celebration of the **Sacrament of Confirmation** on May 28th and June 4th. Let's keep the children and their families in our prayers during this time of preparation.

Next Centralised Baptism Preparation Sessions Parents planning to have their child baptised are required to attend a Baptism Preparation Session. Next sessions are at the MacKillop and Glowrey Rooms, St. Patrick's Cathedral Hall, 3 Lyons St South, Ballarat, **Thursday, 1st of June 2023**. You may attend either the 10.00 am or the 5.30 pm session.

St Columba's 28th May	(next week)	Sun 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG		Mark Lacey
COMMENTATOR		Anthea Hinchey
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Vicki Moroney
COMMUNION MINISTER		Bruce Chapman/Volunteer
DIGITAL PROJECTOR		Bruce Chapman
SACRISTAN		Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe

Collections Last Weekend St Columba's Thank you for your contributions
Presbytery: \$ 446.20 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 2,045.00

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.

National Volunteer Week: May 15-21, 2023 National Volunteer Week (NVW) is Australia's largest annual celebration of volunteers. The theme for NVW 2023 is "We are the Change Makers." This campaign celebrates the powerful impact volunteers make supporting individuals, communities and the nation. We especially thank and pray for our volunteers here at St Columba's Parish and recognise the vital work they do. A heartfelt **THANK YOU** to you, our dear volunteers!

Prayer for Volunteers

We pray for all those who volunteer in our parishes.
May we value the many talents and gifts that God has given to these people.
We thank them for generously offering their time to parish ministries.
For all these gifts, given out of your love, we thank you,
God of all goodness. Amen.

Laudato Si' Week: May 21-28, 2023 Globally, Catholics are celebrating **Laudato Si' Week**, which will take place from May 21 - 28. The theme for the 2023 **Laudato Si' Week** is "Hope for the Earth, Hope for Humanity". This annual celebration allows us to commemorate the eighth anniversary of Pope Francis' historic encyclical, *Laudato Si'*: "On the care of Creation", and to reflect on the progress we have made in protecting our common home.

ACU Centre for Liturgy launches Australian-first liturgy podcast The ACU Centre for Liturgy proudly presents an exciting array of local and international experts who explore a wide range of liturgy-related topics. The podcasts feature thought-provoking discussions on Catholic liturgy, liturgical music, art and architecture, liturgy in Catholic schools, preaching, and more. Listen at <https://www.acu.edu.au/about-acu/institutes-academies-and-centres/acu-centre-for-liturgy/the-liturgy-channel>

Position Vacant: Pastoral Practitioner at St John of God Hospital Ballarat The hospital has an exciting opportunity available for a dedicated and committed Pastoral Practitioner to join our Pastoral Services team in promoting and providing holistic pastoral services to patients and clients. Will include on call across 24 hours and weekends. For more information about this position, please contact Margaux Chant on (03) 53202503. To obtain a position description, read more about the great working conditions on offer and apply, go to <https://www.sjog.org.au/working-with-us/job-search>

Mass Counts all weekends of May The Annual Diocesan Mass Count will continue over the next four weekends of May. Collectors please take note.

Catholic Education Week 2023 will be celebrated from May 21-26. We give thanks to God for our diocesan schools. Send your spirit upon all involved in Catholic education. Grant that they may follow Jesus Christ, the way, the truth and the life. Amen.

CWL Reflection Day The Catholic Women's League Ballarat Diocesan Committee invites you to a Reflection Day at St Mary's Church, War-racknabeal on Wednesday, May 24, 2023. The day will begin with Mass, celebrated by Fr Matthew Restall, at 10.30am. Lunch, prayer, guest speaker will follow Mass. Enquiries to Frances, ph. 0458 317 815 or Carmel, ph. 0401 175045.

St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal Next Weekend St Vincent de Paul will be having a leaving collection for the Winter Appeal on Sundays 28th and 4th June. The annual Vinnies Winter Appeal will focus on the number of older women experiencing and at risk of homelessness. Vinnies are also experiencing an increase in the number of people seeking assistance for the first time. Donations can also be made at 13 18 12 and at all Vinnies Shops. Donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible.

Praying with Pope Francis: Pope's intention for May For church movements and groups: We pray that Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelisation each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world. Lord, hear us.

Sorry Day Webinar Caritas Australia is pleased to invite your parish community to our Sorry Day Webinar with survivors from Kinchela Boys Home, one of the most notorious institutions associated with the Stolen Generations. In this special event, you will hear from Uncle Widdy (#36) and Uncle Bobby (#24), two survivors of Kinchela Boys Home. Caritas Australia's First Australians Programs team will also speak about what truth-telling and intergenerational healing means to our partners. Thursday, May 25, 2023 from 11.00am - 12.00noon (AEST). The webinar will be held via Zoom. Register at <https://www.caritas.org.au/sorry-day-webinar>

OLHC 27th May	(next week)	Saturday 6.00pm
LEADER OF SONG		Sue Searls
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Elly Green
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Laureen Rhodes & Ena Bruty
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Tony Bruty & Bev Hayward
SACRISTAN		Geoff & Marg McLean

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Presbytery: \$ 228.20 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,575.00