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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)

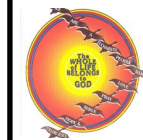
**Aboriginal Stations of the Cross available for purchase**

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

**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 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**

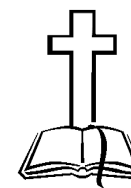
Saturday (Vigil) 6.00 pm

Thursday **9.30 am**

Friday 10.00 am

**Readings for Next Weekend**

Acts 8: 5-8, 14-17  
Ps 65: 1-7, 16-20. R. see v.1  
1 Pt 3: 15-18  
Jn 14: 15-21



**7th May 2023 ~ 5th Sunday of Easter Yr A**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

"Take from my heart all painful anxiety" is a gospel inspired prayer. It is the prayer of Catherine McAuley, the first Sister of Mercy. Like Jesus, Catherine knew in her being that a troubled heart is always a possibility. When we don't have any serious concerns in the present, we are often anxious about the future. There is a difference, of course, between having concerns and having a troubled heart. The difference lies in how we deal with the inevitable problems and challenges that come our way. If ever there was a time with potential for troubled hearts, it is right now as we deal with extreme weather events, with the divisions in the community over justice for First Nations Peoples, with increasing wealth disparity, with the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic and with the impact of long Covid.

Freedom from anxiety is the constant message of the gospels. "Do not let your hearts be troubled" is Jesus' word to his friends in John's gospel. The verb, here in passive mood ("be troubled"), is used of Jesus' spirit when he finds his friend Mary and her companions weeping over the death of Lazarus (11:33). It means literally to shake or to stir up. Jesus is really shaken by grief in that situation. As he faces his own death, he does not want his friends to be troubled of heart or spirit. He speaks here from his own experience.

Jesus shows the way to an untroubled heart: "Believe into God, believe also into me." The faith of the disciples is to be grounded in his care for them both in the present and into the future: "I go to prepare a place for you... I will come again and will take you to myself". In this context, Jesus makes three claims: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." The prologue to the gospel, which functions as an overture to the gospel, has introduced the notion of the incarnate Word as "full of grace and truth" and the bringer of "grace and truth" (1:14, 17). The Word is the life that is the light of all (1:4), the bread of life, even the resurrection and the life. Jesus' claim to be "the way" is foreshadowed in the parable of the gate: "I am the gate for the sheep (10:7)."

If the disciples know Jesus, then they also know the way to God whom Jesus imagines in tender parental terms as "Father". If Philip does not believe in their mutual indwelling, then maybe he can believe on account of the "works" of Jesus, works that are also the works of God. Those who believe have the power to do these and even greater works. This seems extraordinary, but is really a matter of believing with untroubled hearts that the power comes from God. Let us not underestimate the power of prayer at this time of distress and the power of action, no matter how small, to help those whose hearts are troubled.

- Veronica Lawson RSM

**Responsorial Psalm:**(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me. Alleluia!

**Recently Deceased: We commend to God:** Sheila Anderson, Mario Perovic, Jenny Jackson, Alida Turkenburg, Annette Cunningham

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Peter Thorpe, James McEldrew, Frank Sheehan, Frank Rieniets, Gerard Sullivan, Doreen Davies



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

**Visit of Father Robert McCulloch** Fr Robert will be in Ballarat on Monday, May 8, 2023 and will celebrate Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral at 12.05pm. Following Mass he will give a presentation in the Mary Glowrey room, updating us on current events in Pakistan and beyond. A light lunch will be provided. Donation envelopes will be available. Entry by donation. Enquiries to ph. 0401 175 045.

**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 0427739121.

**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.

St Columba's 14th May	(next week)	Sun 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG		Mark Lacey
COMMENTATOR		Judy Brown
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Tom Keogh
COMMUNION MINISTER		Colleen Wakefield
DIGITAL PROJECTOR		Kathleen Keogh
SACRISTAN		Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe

**Collections Last Weekend St Columba's** Thank you for your contributions  
 Presbytery: \$ 323.95 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$927.80

*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.*

**Mini Vinnies Commissioning** The new Mini Vinnies student leaders will be blessed and commissioned as members of the St Columba's Mini Vinnies at mass this morning. Let's keep them in our prayers as they set out to do good in our community and the St Vincent de Paul Society. May they continue to grow in faith, hope and love. All the best, Mini Vinnies!

**Sew and So** Thursday 11th May 2023 at 1.30pm at the St Columba's Church Foyer. Come and enjoy a couple of hours of frivolity and good company. All welcome. Enquiries Margaret 53314032.

**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>

**Mystery and Mission: The Art of Liturgical Celebration - September 28 -30, 2023** The Australian Pastoral Musicians Network & National Liturgical Council are hosting a joint national liturgy and liturgical music conference at the Hilton Brisbane from September 28-30, 2023, "Mystery and Mission: The Art of Liturgical Celebration". There will be 6 keynote speaker presentations, 50 workshop options, networking and discussion, prayer and liturgy. The Conference early bird discount has been extended to May 30, 2023 and applies to 3-day passes only. Other ticket options include 1 and 2-day passes and discounted student tickets (conditions apply). Watch the conference promo video at <https://youtu.be/rpFbNONgR2s>

**Mass Counts start this weekend May 6-7** The Annual Diocesan Mass Count will take place over 4 weekends in May. Counting will continue over the next four weekends of May. Collectors please take note.

**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, 1st of June 2023**. You may choose to attend either the 10.00 am or the 5.30 pm session.

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: May 21-28, 2023** Resources for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity are available from <https://www.ncca.org.au/faith-and-unity-resources>

**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 and more info on diocesan website: <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/pastoral-ministry/lay-pastoral-ministry-program/> or email [djurja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:djurja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or ph. 5337 7121.

**Our Diocesan Community – Issue 1** The first edition of ODC 2023 has been published and available at our church foyer. Please feel free to take copies to the homebound, nursing homes, hospitals, etc., to spread the good news of the diocese.

**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)

OLHC 13th May	(next week)	Saturday 6.00pm
LEADER OF SONG		Vin Dillon
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Kath Leonard
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Pauline Newman & Vin Dillon
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Helen Rieniets & Frank Hogan
SACRISTAN		John & Sue Calistro

**Collections Last Weekend** Thank you for your contributions  
 Presbytery: \$ 388.30 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,505.00