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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)

**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](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

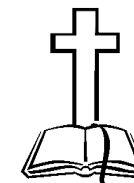
**MASS TIMES (This week)**

**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 10.00 am  
Friday 10.00 am

**Readings for Next Weekend**

2 Kgs 4:8-11, 14-16  
Ps 88:2-3, 16-19. R. v.2  
Rom 6:3-4, 8-11  
Mt 10: 37-42



**25th June 2023 ~ 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

Many of those who once looked through the barbed-wire fences of Australia's detention centres carry personal stories of fear of persecution. One such story, the story of Najaf Mazari, is beautifully narrated by Najaf and Robert Hillman in their joint work, The Rugmaker of Mazar-e-Sharif. Najaf is an Afghani Hazara who suffered persecution and torture at the hands of the Taliban. He escaped to Australia via Indonesia in 2002. After some time in detention, he established a rug making business in suburban Melbourne. He was reunited with his wife Hakeema and daughter Maria in 2008 and became an Australian citizen in June 2014.

Some first century Christian groups, including Matthew's community, were a bit like the Afghani Hazaras and Syrian or Iraqi Christians in that they are persecuted simply on account of who they are vis-à-vis those who seek exclusive political and cultural power. They have every reason to fear bodily harm and even death, as suffered by Jesus and his followers. Jesus himself experienced fear in the face of his impending suffering and political execution. Yet Jesus tells his disciples, not once but three times, not to fear those who kill the body.

How are these words to be understood? To return to the story of Najaf: the Taliban had power to destroy his body, but no power over his spirit. A man of deep faith, supported by a family who sacrificed their own comfort and placed their trust in God (Allah), he survived against the most incredible odds. Even if he had died in the effort to find freedom, his faith in the fullness of life with God would remain, in contrast with the bullying power of the Taliban who could kill the body but not an indomitable spirit.

Trust in God is at the heart of Jesus' response to suffering. The disciples are sent to proclaim in the marketplace or from the "housetops" the gospel they have received in the security of the household. If they acknowledge Jesus, he will in turn "acknowledge" them before God. They can expect rejection and humiliation. This is not to deter them from their mission. They are not to give up the struggle or capitulate in the face of persecution. Like all of God's creatures, including the sparrows, they are precious in God's eyes and will not be abandoned. On the contrary, even the hairs on their heads are numbered by God. Trust in God is the appropriate response to suffering endured for the sake of God's empire as opposed to the empire of Rome. Trust in God does not take away the pain. We join with asylum seekers, refugees, with the hungry and the homeless and, at this time of heightened sensitivity to racial discrimination, with the First Peoples of this country, for the justice that is their right. They are precious in God's eyes. They are precious in our eyes and must not be abandoned.

- Veronica Lawson RSM

**Responsorial Psalm:**(R.) Lord, in your great love, answer me.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of Truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord, and you also will be my witnesses. Alleluia!

**Recently Deceased: We commend to God:** Joan Whitty, Eric loader

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Agnes Peters, Gavin Etheridge, Sr M. Luke Kenna RSM, Peter Curran, John Moran, Brian Kenna, Alice O'Donnell, Jim Gercovich

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

**St Vincent Pallotti Scholarship Trust** The St Vincent Pallotti Scholarship Trust offers scholarships to enable lay people to further their understanding and skills in leadership/ministry or a specialised activity, such as promoting faith enhancement, social justice and pastoral care. For more information and application forms, please visit : [pallottine.org.au/syps Scholarship](http://pallottine.org.au/syps Scholarship) Closing Date: 4 August 2023.

**In the footsteps of Mary MacKillop Pilgrimage: October 17-28, 2023**

This unique Australian Pilgrimage will take you on a journey to places associated with Mary MacKillop's life and ministry in Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales. The pilgrimage is operated by the Sisters of Saint Joseph and Mary MacKillop Place. It will be led by Sr Anne Bond rsj, a Sister from the Sisters of Saint Joseph, and Mr Garry McLean, the inaugural Director of the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre. The pilgrimage will begin in East Melbourne on October 17 and conclude at Mary MacKillop Place in North Sydney on October 28. Along the way pilgrims will visit historic sites and towns including Portland, Penola, Robe and the Mary MacKillop Chapel in North Sydney. To register, please visit: <https://www.marymackillopplace.org.au/retreats-spirituality/australian-national-pilgrimage/>

**Annual Collection for the Pope** will take place on the weekends of 2nd and 9th of July. The annual collection for the Holy Father is taken up throughout the world on the weekends near the Feast of Saints Peter & Paul. Bishop Paul commends the 2023 appeal:

"... I am aware of the many demands made on the people of our diocese through the year by way of appeals for financial support. However, this particular appeal requires special attention. Through this collection we have the opportunity to support the Pope's pastoral care for people around the world..."

- Paul Bird CSsR  
Bishop of the Diocese of Ballarat

St Columba's 2nd July	(next week)	Sun 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG		Terry Ranger
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: \$ 377.05 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 595.00

*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.*

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday, July 2, 2023** "A new life in Christ..." Every year, on the first Sunday in July, Catholics come together across Australia to acknowledge and celebrate the gifts of Australia's First Peoples in the Catholic Church. Resources available at <https://www.natsicc.org.au/2023-atsi-sunday.html>

**Catholic Social Services Webinar Series - Indigenous Voice to Parliament: Moments for healing this country** Catholic Social Services Victoria (CSSV) and Catholic Social Services Australia (CSSA) are pleased to invite you to a series of webinars to discuss the upcoming referendum on Constitutional Recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and the Voice to Parliament on Thursdays June 29 and July 27 from 4.00pm - 5.00pm (AEST) via zoom. Cost is \$12.00 per session or \$30.00 for all 3 Sessions. CSSV and CSSA members free of charge. Please register: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1052799?eid=1052799&>. Enquiries to Kate Stilwell. Email [office@css.org.au](mailto:office@css.org.au)

**NATSICC launches new website on the Indigenous Voice to Parliament** The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) has launched a new website called "One Journey, Together" for Catholics to learn about the Indigenous Voice to Parliament. The website hosts stories and anecdotes from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations, Catholic figures and Catholic organisations.

**Praying with Pope Francis** The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) is an international movement that is more than 170 years old. **Pope's intention for June - For the abolition of torture:** We pray that the international community may commit in a concrete way to ensuring the abolition of torture and guarantee support to victims and their families. Lord, hear us.

**Catholic Mission Timor-Leste Adult Immersion** Catholic Mission invites you to learn more about the grassroots projects supported by Catholic Mission in Timor-Leste from November 4-12, 2023. This immersion will give you the opportunity to see the world through a different lens, you will witness the life-changing work taking place at the St Maria Mazzarello vocational School and the Maria Auxiliadora Medical Clinic in Venilale. Be prepared to come home changed and challenged. Cost is \$3990.00 per person (ex. Darwin to Dili, Timor-Leste). Register your interest at <https://www.catholicmission.org.au/get-involved/immersions>

**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, 6th of July 2023**. You may attend either the 10.00 am or the 5.30 pm session.

**Celebrating Clergy Jubilees of Ordination** Mass to acknowledge priests celebrating a Jubilee of Ordination to the Priesthood this year will be held on Tuesday, June 27, 2023 at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat at 5.00pm. Bishop Paul will be the main celebrant and concelebrants will be priests of the diocese. All are welcome to attend. You are invited to join the Choir for this Mass, which will be downstairs. Practice prior to Mass at 4.30pm.

**St Patrick's Cathedral Choral and Organ Scholarships** St Patrick's Cathedral is establishing Choral and Organ Scholarships. The program will provide an opportunity for children with an aptitude and interest in music to sing regularly at Cathedral Masses. The children will receive annual scholarship payments towards their general education in return for their participation in the Cathedral Choir. They will benefit from vocal and musical tuition, and develop skills in teamwork, time-management, professionalism and discipline. Children in Grades 3-6 are welcome to audition for the choir, which will have a gender balance. The safety of the children will be of the highest priority, following the *Safeguarding Children, Young People and at Risk Adults* policies - <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/professional-standards-2-professional-standards/professional-standards/>.

**St Patrick's Cathedral Choral Scholarships Information Session** An information session will be held at 7pm on Thursday, 3rd of August in the MacKillop/Glowrey room at Saint Patrick's Cathedral Hall, 3 Lyons St South, Ballarat. Copies of the Choir Handbook, Audition Form or further information can be obtained by contacting the Choir Director, Mr Vincent Sully, on 0407 310 115 or [vincenzo101923@gmail.com](mailto:vincenzo101923@gmail.com).

OLHC 1st July	(next week)	Saturday 6.00pm
LEADER OF SONG		Corrie Harbour
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Veronica Stott
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Trish Lawson, Jennifer Adams
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Bev Hayward, Tony Bruty
SACRISTAN		Pauline & Tony Newman

**Collections Last Weekend** Thank you for your contributions  
Presbytery: \$ 334.65 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 315.00