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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.

Pope Francis' Prayer for Peace in Ukraine: I ask you to pray the Our Father for peace in Ukraine, now and throughout this day. **Our Father...**

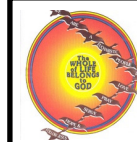
Let us ask the Lord to grant that the country may grow in the spirit of brotherhood, and that all hurts, fears and divisions will be overcome. We have spoken about the Holocaust. But let us think too that [in Ukraine] millions of people were killed [1932-1933]. They are a people who have suffered; they have suffered from hunger, suffered from much brutality and they deserve peace.

May the prayers and supplications that today rise up to heaven touch the minds and hearts of world leaders, so that dialogue may prevail and the common good be placed ahead of partisan interests. Please, no more war.

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 2.00 pm (Funeral)

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

Daniel 7: 9-10, 13-14
Ps: 96:1-2, 5-6, 9
R.vv. 1, 9.
2 Peter 1:16-19
Matthew 17: 1-9



30th July 2023 ~ 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Focus on the Scriptures

Poet Anne Powell proposes four journeys of seeking and finding treasure. She puts it this way: "Go down, down, down to the place in you where fire and silence dwell—the place of power. Go down, down, down to that pool in you of weedless water—the place of knowing.... Go down, down, down to the last strawberry-freshness of God". The place of power within, the place of knowing, the place of song, the freshness of God will be there for those prepared to take the journey into the depths of their being.

Matthew's Jesus has another way of saying something very similar. Three parables and a summary statement conclude Matthew's parable chapter. They constitute a timeless gospel treasure chest that features lengthy statements about God's kin-dom of the heavens. In the first parable, Matthew's Jesus likens the kin-dom, not just to "treasure", but rather to treasure hidden in a field that someone, possibly a slave or day labourer, finds and hides before going joyfully to sell everything in order to buy the field and acquire the treasure. The parabolic image comprises the whole complex of actor, objects and actions (the finder; the finding, the selling and buying; the joy; the treasure and the field). The details pose endless questions. Who had right to ownership of the treasure? Is this a case of theft? Whatever the answer to these questions, this parable invites us to pause and consider what constitutes the real "treasure" in our lives and ask to what lengths we would go in order to secure that treasure.

The second parable tells of a merchant who seeks fine pearls, finds one of great value, then goes and sells all possessions in order to acquire that one pearl. What is of such value to us that we would give up everything else in order to have that one thing, that one relationship? Jesus proceeds to liken the kin-dom of the heavens, not just to a net, but to a net thrown into the sea that catches fish of every kind and is drawn to shore by fisher-folk who sit down and sort it, putting the good into baskets and throwing away the bad. This parable foreshadows God's universal reign over all creation when good will finally triumph over evil.

The summary statement tells us that we need to be "scribes" educated in the ways of God. We need to bring out of the treasury of our traditions "what is new and what is old", wisely discerning what to keep and what to relinquish. Parables help to subvert our presuppositions. They disturb our complacency if we allow them to do so. The parables of the buried treasure, the priceless pearl and the net remind us that gospel discipleship demands an all-embracing investment of heart and spirit. We search our hearts to know where our treasure lies and join with others who show us how we might claim it for the common good of the entire Earth community.

- Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm:(R.) Lord, I love your commands.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Margaret Irvin

Anniversaries: We remember: Keith Ridsdale, Cornelius Britt, Peter Collins, Brian Charleson, Tom Bending, Jacqueline Curran, Jim Lamb, Bill Thompson, Tess Sheehan, Hilda Duggan, Florence Stott, Peter Curran, Jack Curran

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

Next Centralised Baptism Preparation Session 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, 3rd August 2023**. You may attend either the 10.00 am or the 5.30 pm session.

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/svpscholarship Closing Date: 4 August 2023.

The Good Oil 2023 Writers' Award Entries are invited for The Good Oil 2023 Writers' Award, an initiative of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan. The theme for this year's award is "Finding My Voice". Entry is free and open to both emerging and published writers. For more information go to <https://www.goodsams.org.au/article/the-good-oil-2023-writers-award-finding-my-voice>

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/>

| St Columba's 6th August (next week) Sun 10.00 am | |
|--|--|
| LEADER OF SONG | Tony Beggs |
| 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: \$ 371.95 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 659.80

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.

Praying with Pope Francis: Pope's intention for July – For a Eucharistic Life: We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters. Lord, hear us.

St Columba's Sacramental Program has commenced in Term 3. Preparation sessions are ongoing and the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated on the 2nd and 3rd of August. First Eucharist for these candidates will be celebrated on the 3rd and 10th of September. Please keep the children and their families in your prayers.

World Youth Day 2023: August 1-6, 2023 More than 3000 Australian pilgrims will attend World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal. We pray for the five people from the Diocese of Ballarat attending:

- Grace Doherty and Anna Whiting (St Mary MacKillop College Swan Hill students);
- Gerry Vytilingam (St Mary MacKillop College Swan Hill staff member);
- John-Paul Walker (Linton & Sebastopol Parishes);
- Laura Bruty (Linton Parish & Australian Catholic University Ballarat Campus)

Towards Full Presence: A Pastoral Reflection on Engagement with Social Media Meta, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram, recently released a new social media platform in competition with Twitter, called Threads. For many people, this social media shift has prompted a pause button in a love-hate relationship with how the internet fundamentally works. Dialogically we might ask, who is my (social media) neighbour? To inform this current question, the Vatican Dicastery for Communication has issued a document titled "Towards Full Presence: A Pastoral Reflection on Engagement with Social Media" and is available for you to download at https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/dpc/documents/20230528_dpc-verso-piena-presenza_en.html

Sacred Heart College Ballarat Reunion A reunion of SHC Ballarat East class of 1965 plus anyone who attended SHC, will be held on Sunday, October 15, 2023 at GC's Ballarat from 11.00am – 3.00pm. To attend email loisknights345@hotmail.com or ph. 0419 902538.

Diocesan e-News Read about news and events of the diocese in the latest edition of e-News at <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/news-events/e-news/>

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.

Parish of Saints Anne and Joachim, Sunraysia Bishop Paul Bird CSsR decreed the establishment of a new parish in the diocese on July 1, 2023 – the Parish of Saints Anne and Joachim, Sunraysia. The newly established parish will comprise the territory that belonged to the parishes of Merbein(est.1965), Mildura(est.1906) and Red Cliffs(est.1953). More information available from the diocesan website.

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>

| OLHC 5th August (next week) Saturday 6.00pm | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| LEADER OF SONG | Sue Searls |
| PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL | Elly Green |
| MINISTER OF THE WORD | Colin & Helen Feely |
| COMMUNION MINISTERS | Bev Hayward & Harry Kennedy |
| SACRISTAN | Lyn Gray & Michael Rienets |

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Presbytery: \$ 267.45 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 415.00