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Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

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.

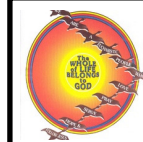
Aboriginal Stations of the Cross available for purchase

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)

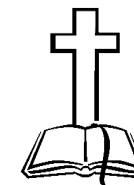
St Columba's
Sunday 10.00 am
Wednesday 10.30 am (Funeral)

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

Is: 55: 10 - 11
Ps: 64: 10- 14 R
Rom 8: 18– 23
Mt 13: 1-23



9th July 2023 ~ 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Focus on the Scriptures

Today's gospel begins with Jesus' prayer of thanksgiving to God. The verb "to thank" in this instance has connotations of blessing. In this prayer, Jesus contrasts those who consider themselves wise and intelligent with the truly wise ones, the "little ones" who know the daily struggle to survive, those to whom the secrets of God's empire have been revealed. The prosperity gospel that affirms the acquisition of wealth is far removed from the words proclaimed by Jesus. God's ways turn human expectations upside down.

The final verses of today's gospel are among the best known and best loved in all of the gospel tradition. "Come to me...and I will give you rest" is a lovely invitation. It is issued to those who are weary and burdened and that includes most of us at some time or another. We might hear it as addressed to the First Peoples of Australia and to African Americans who are weary and burdened by waiting for justice. We might equally hear it spoken to those in war-torn countries like Yemen and Syria and Afghanistan. The "rest" that Jesus offers is God's rest. It is not just relief from drudgery and hard work. In the biblical tradition, rest is shabbat. It is freedom from any sort of enslavement. It is freedom to remember God's goodness in creation. Rest time or shabbat is about making a space to contemplate the wonder of the galaxies, the wonder of life in all its forms and all its potentialities. God's rest restores life to our wearied spirits. It frees us to open ourselves to ever new possibilities and to be there for others. Spending a little time each day with a poem or a beautiful painting can be an experience of entering into God's rest.

"Take my yoke upon you..." is Jesus' further invitation. The same verb will be used when Jesus tells his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them ... take up their cross and follow me." The "yoke" of Jesus, the cross that he will take up, and the cross that his disciples are invited to bear, are all of a piece. A yoke is a cross-beam or cross-bar. Jesus will carry his cross-beam to execution. Disciples, in their turn, will carry their cross-beams, figuratively if not literally. They will not be weighed down or burdened by this prospect for the "yoke" of which Jesus speaks is "easy". How can this be? The answer lies in the final invitation: "Learn of me, for I am gentle and humble of heart...." In Matthew's beatitudes, the gentle are said to be blessed. There is nothing weak about the gentle ("meek" is not a helpful translation). The non-violent methods of the gentle are infinitely more effective in restoring creation than the violence of so many who present themselves as "wise and intelligent". God's "rest" is the source of their power-and of ours.

Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm:(R.) I will praise your name forever my king and my God

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: Ann Lawry

Anniversaries: We remember: Luca Antonelli, Valma Billman, Vin Hooper, Buck (Ray) Jeffrey, Mark Baulch, Keith Davies, Bob Smerdon

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/svpscholarship Closing Date: 4 August 2023.

Baptisms

This weekend we welcome to our Parish through the sacrament of Baptism:

Ida Lou Gunnell daughter of Luke and Kaitlyn

Joey Maya Schiltz, daughter of Benjamin and Samantha

“The Church gives the faith to your children through Baptism and you have the task to make it grow....” - Pope Francis

May Ida and Joey grow in faith with the support of their families and our Catholic Community

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/>

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->

St Columba's 16th July	(next week)	Sun 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG		Tony Beggs
COMMENTATOR		Fiona Newton
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Terry Ranger
COMMUNION MINISTER		Peter Marquand
DIGITAL PROJECTOR		Vicki Moroney
SACRISTAN		Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe

Collections Last Weekend St Columba's Thank you for your contributions
 Presbytery: \$ 380.80 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,832.80

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.

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

Indigenous Voice to Parliament NATSICC, with the help of Jesuit Social Services, have developed a kitchen table conversation (KTC) guide to assist people - in parishes, families, groups of friends, teams/workplaces or volunteer groups - to reflectively consider the question the referendum will put to us. The 'KTC' Guide can be found at <https://indigenousvoice.church/>, which CSSV and Caritas Australia supported NATSICC to put together. The website also features a range of other resources, prayers and videos for consideration as part of our "One Journey, Together" project.

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 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 be opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters. 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>

Catherine O'Connor Memorial Mass A Memorial Mass for Catherine O'Connor (Kelly), who died at Willangie on July 27, 1923, will be offered at the Woomelang Cemetery on Saturday, July 22, 2023 followed by lunch at the Woomelang Memorial Hall. Descendants, other O'Connor and Kelly relatives, friends of the families and any who wishes to commemorate her life are welcome. Please contact aldous.julie.a@gmail.com

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.

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly: Sunday, July 23, 2023 "His mercy is from age to age" (Lk. 1:50) is the theme chosen by the Holy Father for the third World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. The Day is marked near the Feast of Sts Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus. Parishes, schools, agencies, aged care facilities and other ministries are encouraged to find creative ways to celebrate the contribution of older people to their families and communities. Resources to celebrate this day are available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/world-day-for-grandparents-and-the-elderly-sunday-july-23-2023/>

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.

OLHC 15th July	(next week)	Saturday 6.00pm
LEADER OF SONG		Paul Hogan
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Kath Leonard
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Trish Pora & Harry Kennedy
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Patrick Dillon & Trish Lawson
SACRISTAN		Geoff and Margaret McLean

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