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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...**

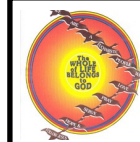
Let us ask the Lord to grant that the country may grow in the spirit of brotherhood, and that all hurts, fears and divisions will be overcome. We have spoken about the Holocaust. But let us think too that [in Ukraine] millions of people were killed [1932-1933]. They are a people who have suffered; they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

Tuesday 10.00 am

Thursday 11.00 am (Kelaston)

Friday 10.00 am

Readings for Next Weekend

Isaiah 56:1,6-7

Ps 66:2-3,5-6,8. R.v.4

Romans 11:13-15,29-32

Matthew 15: 21-28



13th August 2023 ~ Nineteenth Sunday Ordinary Time Yr. A

Focus on the Scriptures

Right now, our planet is battered by waves of life-threatening weather events and our church knows all too well what it means to be "battered by the waves". Over the two millennia history of the church, there have been periods of discrimination and persecution against its members. Countless church members have died for their faith, while others have been and are being denied the freedom to practice their religion. There have also been times when the church has fallen far short of its own ideals and has quite seriously betrayed the gospel values it seeks to embody and proclaim. It is presently "battered" by huge even terrifying waves, largely of its own creating. Only God can bring order out of the chaos, and God works through the courageous witness and action of faith-filled disciples.

In today's gospel, Matthew tells of Jesus astride the waves like the God of Israel in Job 9:8. In Israel's mythology, the sea represents chaos. To walk on water is to have power and authority to bring order out of the chaos. Matthew presents Jesus as exercising the power of God over the potentially destructive chaos. Jesus makes his claim to divine power explicit in words that echo God's words from the burning bush: "It is I" (literally "I am"). He tells the frightened disciples to take heart and not to be afraid. Peter, leader of the group, continues to doubt. He asks for a sign and is then prepared to take a risk in order to come to Jesus on the water. He begins to falter when he takes his eyes off Jesus and focuses instead on the threatening wind. Jesus reaches out his hand to rescue Peter. In a lovely gesture, Jesus takes him by the hand and holds him firmly in his grip. Jesus names Peter's hesitation as a response of limited faith.

Matthew weaves the story of Peter into an earlier story from Mark's gospel. We can only speculate on the reasons for this. Were Matthew's communities going through hard times? Were they battered by the waves of conflicting loyalties as they found themselves excluded from Pharisaic Judaism? Was the pressure of separation from the synagogue too great for some, even for those in leadership? This is a telling story for anyone who exercises leadership at any level in the church. It is a reminder to us to keep our eyes firmly fixed on the source of hope in times of struggle and uncertainty and on the crucial issues that face our planetary home.

Finally, this story invites us to consider the threatening waves created by flood and fire and food insecurity. The human community which is largely responsible for the climate crisis must join hands to save what can be saved. The growing commitment to renewable energy provides a contemporary image of a saving hand reaching out to Earth communities that are in danger of being submerged by flood, overwhelmed by hunger or destroyed by scorching heat.

- Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm:(R.) Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I hope in the Lord, I trust in his word. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: all who have died recently.

Anniversaries: We remember: Jack Nuttall, John Brusaschi, Lesley Bigarelli, Mary Ursula Caine rsm, Judith Johnstone, Neil Woods, Patricia Cook

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

CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal The CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal is held in August each year in partnership with parishes and is their major annual fundraiser. CatholicCare Victoria delivers programs and services to support families, children, young people and individuals to help everyone reach their full potential. The services include counselling and mental health services, specialised support for children and teens, refugee and asylum seeker help, pastoral care in hospitals and prisons, support for separating families, social housing and homelessness support. Please donate to the CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal. Your support and generosity will help provide caring and compassionate support for struggling individuals and families in our community. Please donate at www.catholiccarevic.org.au or call (03) 9287 5513.

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, 7th September 2023**. You may attend either the 10.00 am or the 5.30 pm session.

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 sj, 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/>

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

St Columba's 20th August (next week) Sun 10.00 am	
LEADER OF SONG	Mark Lacey
COMMENTATOR	Min Myers
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Anthea Hinchey/Bruce Chapman
COMMUNION MINISTER	Colleen Wakefield
DIGITAL PROJECTOR	Bruce Chapman
SACRISTAN	Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe

Collections Last Weekend St Columba's Thank you for your contributions
 Presbytery: \$ 361.95 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 630.00

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Parishes of St. Columba's Ballarat North and Our Lady Help of Christians Wendouree recognise the traditional owners of parish lands. We acknowledge their ancestors with respect and we are committed to working for justice and reconciliation.

St Columba's Sacramental Program Preparation sessions are ongoing for First Eucharist for the 46 candidates. Celebration of First Eucharist will be on the 3rd and 10th of September. Please keep the children and their families in your prayers.

Funeral Mass Fr Frank Smith CSsR The Funeral Mass for Fr Frank Smith CSsR will be held at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, 480A Gillies Street, Wendouree at 10.30 am on Friday, August 25, 2023.

McAuley House for Women and Children McAuley House is celebrating 15 years since the establishment of McAuley Community Services for Women, following the merger of Mercy Care and Regina Coeli. Over the past 15 years McAuley House has supported more than 13,000 women and children. The demand for services remains high. McAuley House will continue advocating for real change that will allow more women and children to remain safely in their homes after violence and avoid homelessness and further disadvantage. A donation to McAuley House supports women and children to be safe and continue this important work <https://www.mcauley.org.au/ways-to-give/donate/>

Mothers who pray for their children The prayer group "Mothers who pray for their children" has commenced at the Star of the Sea Parish, South West Coast. The group will meet on Thursday mornings at 10.30am at the Infant Jesus Church Koroit. All welcome – mothers, families and children. Please take your rosary beads.

Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program – Online Study The Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) is a growing initiative to offer adult religious education and faith formation anytime and anywhere, online. 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 August 28. There are 41 subjects to choose from – find one that interests you! Registrations are open now until 21 August. For more information, email djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7121.

Wisdom at the Cathedral All welcome as Anna Krohn, President of the Catholic Women's League, will speak on *Discovering the Feminine Disciples of the Gospel*. The talk and discussion time will go for an hour and followed by a cup of tea. 7pm, Thursday, 24 August in the MacKillop/Glowrey rooms. Entry by donation. For all enquiries please contact Fiona Bradley on fionalouisebradley@gmail.com.

Feast of the Assumption: Mass will be celebrated at OLHC at 10.00 in the morning.

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>

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

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>

Praying with Pope Francis: Pope's intention for August – For World Youth Day: We pray the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives. Lord, hear us.

OLHC 19th August (next week)	Saturday 6.00pm
LEADER OF SONG	Vin Dillon
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL	Lyn Gray
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Sue Calistro & Harry Kennedy
COMMUNION MINISTERS	Trish Lawson & Helen Rieniets
SACRISTAN	Helen & Michael Rieniets

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 Presbytery: \$ 389.85 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 830.00