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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.

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...**

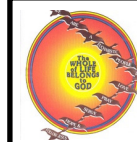
Let us ask the Lord to grant that the country may grow in the spirit of brotherhood, and that all hurts, fears and divisions will be overcome. We have spoken about the Holocaust. But let us think too that [in Ukraine] millions of people were killed [1932-1933]. They are a people who have suffered; they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

School Principal: Leigh Bradshaw

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

Tuesday 1.00 pm (Funeral)

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 10.00 am

Friday 10.30 am (Funerall)

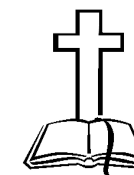
Readings for Next Weekend

Isaiah 22:19-23

Ps 137:1-3,6,8. R.v.8

Romans 11:33-36

Matthew 16: 13-20



20th August 2023 ~ Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr. A

Focus on the Scriptures

The gospels are written in Greek and much of the language of the gospels has to be understood against a Greek philosophical background. Today's gospel story culminates in the healing of a "daughter" who may be a little girl or even a young woman. Her mother, the main character in the story, is known to Matthew's community simply as a Canaanite woman, or in other words an indigenous woman. To some early Christian communities, she is Justa, so that we might reasonably call her daughter Justina.

Justa comes to Jesus as he moves from Jewish territory into, or close to, non-Jewish territory. In the language of liturgy, she laments loudly and persistently for her daughter, for Justina is "severely tormented by a demon". For the ancient Greeks, the antithesis of demonic possession or torment is human flourishing or well-being (eudaimonia). Eudaimonia means having a good guardian spirit as opposed to a malevolent spirit that impairs a person's well-being and sense of self. Justina's well-being is in jeopardy. Her distraught mother is an outsider to the "house of Israel" who is nonetheless familiar with Israel's prayer of lament. She is a woman alone in public space, risking ridicule and rejection to find healing for her daughter. Her plea, "Mercy me", reveals the depth of her identity with the suffering of her daughter.

The immediate response to her plea is silence: Jesus "does not answer her a word". Is he ignoring her cry for help? Is he simply stunned, taken aback at the vehemence of her request? Is he rendered speechless by the simple fact that she would cross the boundaries of gender and ethnicity in this way? Is he in awe at her courage and faith from the outset? All we know is that he says nothing and that the disciples tell him to send her away. He responds by defining the limits of his mission rather narrowly: he was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Justa is not deterred from her mission. She begs Jesus to help her and receives an explicit refusal in a confronting image that names his people as "the children" and her people as "the dogs". She accepts his statement as a challenge and bests him in the exchange: "even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table".

Jesus' horizons are expanded by the persistence and insight of this courageous and faith-filled woman. Justa's great faith is affirmed and her daughter is healed. Justa is vindicated and Justina restored to a state of well-being or eudaimonia. Justina has her counterparts across the globe, especially in these troubled times of pandemic. The challenge for us is to be Justa in our times for the sake of all in the Earth community, human and other-than-human, whose well-being or eudaimonia is impaired by illness or fear or lack of access to the means to flourish. We might well cry out on behalf of our planet, "Mercy me".

- Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm:(R.) O God, let all the nations praise you!

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Zac Perovic

Anniversaries: We remember: Mary Clark, Steven King, Lorraine Campbell, Michael Kennedy, Marlene Van Vugt, Frank Nicol, Bill Maguire, Tess Maguire, Noel McNulty, Terry Beggs, Gwen O'Connor, Kevin Nester, Sean McKinnon, Peter McMahan

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.

Mystery and Mission – The Art of Celebration Conference: September 28-30, 2023 "Mystery and Mission – The Art of Celebration" is a national liturgy and music conference for the Catholic church in Australia and beyond! This conference is being convened by the Australian Pastoral Musicians Network together with the National Liturgical Council and the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. Featuring five keynote presentations, 50 wide-ranging breakout workshop options, facilitated discussions, conference Mass, daily prayer and ritual experiences, optional conference dinner, along with broad networking opportunities and resource displays, this "not-to-be-missed" event invites all involved in liturgy and liturgical music in parishes, schools and other Catholic agencies to participate in the premier liturgy-focussed gathering in Australia. The conference will be held from September 28-30, 2023 at the Hilton Brisbane. For more details go to : [Mystery and Mission: The Art of Liturgical Celebration – September 28-30, 2023 – Diocese of Ballarat \(catholic.org.au\)](https://www.catholic.org.au/mystery-and-mission-the-art-of-liturgical-celebration-september-28-30-2023-diocese-of-ballarat)

St Columba's 27th August (next week) Sun 10.00 am	
LEADER OF SONG	Tony Beggs
COMMENTATOR	Maree Phelan
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Terry Ranger
COMMUNION MINISTER	Peter Marquand
DIGITAL PROJECTOR	Fiona Newton
SACRISTAN	Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe

Collections Last Weekend St Columba's Thank you for your contributions
 Presbytery: \$ 415.15 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 2,258.50

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.

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.

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.

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.

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/>

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.

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 on August 28. There are 41 subjects to choose from – find one that interests you! Registrations are open now until August 21. For more information, email djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7121.

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>

Knights of the Southern Cross Victoria's Archbishop's Dinner The annual Archbishop's Dinner in support of Corpus Christ Seminary, will be held on Friday, September 1, 2023 at Moonee Valley Racecourse at 7.00pm. Guest speaker is Corpus Christi College Seminary Rector, Fr Cameron Forbes. Scan or click on the QR code for more information from Facebook.



Neil Para's 1000 km Walk for Freedom - asking the PM for a fair go for Refugees Neil is walking 1000 km from Ballarat to Sydney, to ask Prime Minister Albanese for fairness for refugees who've lived here in Australia for more than a decade. Neil is a refugee who fled war and persecution in Sri Lanka and has lived in Ballarat since 2013. The government's recent announcement has given permanence to 19,000 – but what about the rest? For more details and to sign the petition, please go to https://www.change.org/p/neil-is-a-refugee-in-australia-he-is-walking-1000-km-to-ask-albomp-for-a-fair-go?utm_source=share

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.

Graduate Certificate in Teaching Meditation Catholic Theological College is running an online information session for the Graduate Certificate in Teaching Meditation on Monday, September 4, 2023 at 7.30pm (AEST). Registration is essential at [Meeting Registration - Zoom](https://www.ctc.edu.au) or at <https://www.ctc.edu.au>

OLHC 26th August (next week)	Saturday 6.00pm
LEADER OF SONG	Corrie Harbour
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL	Volunteer please
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Pauline Newman & Kevin Murphy
COMMUNION MINISTERS	Frank Hogan and Helen Feely
SACRISTAN	Kath Leonard & Anne Slattery

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 Presbytery: \$ 208.80 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 955.00