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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.

**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...**

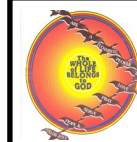
Let us ask the Lord to grant that the country may grow in the spirit of brotherhood, and that all hurts, fears and divisions will be overcome. We have spoken about the Holocaust. But let us think too that [in Ukraine] millions of people were killed [1932-1933]. They are a people who have suffered; they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



**Office:** 306 Gregory St, Ballarat Nth **Phone:** 5331 1012  
**Email:** [ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

**Office:** 480a Gillies Street, Wendouree **Phone:** 5339 2302

**Email:** [wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto: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**

1 Kings 19: 9, 11-13  
Ps: 84:9-14 R. v. 8  
Romans 9:1-5  
Matthew 14: 22-33



**6th August 2023 ~ The Transfiguration of the Lord**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

The Feast of the Transfiguration takes precedence over the 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time and features its own particular readings. Today we are invited to reflect on a transformative moment in the life of Jesus as experienced by his closest followers. It is important to note that Matthew's account of the "transfiguration" is loosely framed by reminders that Jesus is to suffer and eventually to meet a violent death (16:21 and 17:23). It would seem that Jesus' three companions, Peter, James and John, get a glimpse of God's glory shining on his face and penetrating even his clothing, a hint that God's grace is more life-giving than the forces of violence and opposition to God's reign. Peter, James and John see Moses and Elijah, the key prophetic figures of Israel, speaking with Jesus, God's new and definitive prophet.

The "transfiguration" seems to point to a time in Jesus' ministry when he comes to terms with the fate he is likely to meet: if he continues to confront the forces of oppression and injustice, he is certain to encounter opposition, even death. He struggles with that realisation in the wilderness at the outset of his ministry. He comes to peace with what it involves on the mountain top. Peter wants to hold on to the experience of glory, to "make tents" for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. He prefers not to face the difficulties involved in fidelity to the mission. But that is not the way of discipleship. Rather, he and his companions are called to "listen" to Jesus, the beloved of God.

Like Jesus and his companions, we too need the occasional glimpse of final victory. We also need the good sense to listen and to follow through on the path that brings life to all of earth's inhabitants, despite the pain. We can feel overwhelmed by the enormity of the challenges facing us and by the opposition we experience from the most unexpected quarters. If we are to sustain the struggle for a healthy, safe and peace-filled world, we have to resist the temptation to hold on to the experience of glory and come to terms with the personal cost of going all the way to Jerusalem, to the place of victory.

We might take time this Sunday to consider the challenges facing us as contemporary disciples. According to the 2023 International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) Report, 768 million people in our world are undernourished and of the 200 million plus who face acute food insecurity, most live in protracted crisis situations. Im "situations marked by prolonged civil strife and conflict, repeated weather shocks, and economic decline, or some combination thereof." Meanwhile, the gap between rich and poor in our world is widening and the planet is experiencing life-threatening weather events. Only when we willingly accept the pain of relinquishing our hold on an unfair share of the world's resources will we understand the meaning of this feast.

- Veronica Lawson RSM

**Responsorial Psalm:**(R.) The Lord is king, the most high over all the earth.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! This is my Son, my beloved, in whom is all my delight: listen to him. Alleluia!

**Recently Deceased: We commend to God:** Mary Elizabeth (Betty) Glenane, Fr. Frank Smith CSsR

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Des Watts, Tony Driscoll, Carmel Sheehan, Ella Deady, Kevin Deady, Hugh Deady, Henry Morgan, Rodney Stapleton

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

**Sew and So** Thursday, 10th August 2023 at 1.30pm at the St Columba's Church Foyer. We would love to see you join us for a cuppa and catch up. Since our July gathering Margaret Irvin has gone to God. May she rest in peace. Enquiries: 53314032.

**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.

**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/>

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

St Columba's 13th August (next week) Sun 10.00 am	
LEADER OF SONG	Terry Ranger
COMMENTATOR	Tom Keogh
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Peter Marquand
COMMUNION MINISTER	Judy Brown
DIGITAL PROJECTOR	Vicki Moroney
SACRISTAN	Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe

**Collections Last Weekend St Columba's** Thank you for your contributions  
 Presbytery: \$ 408.30 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 760.00

*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.*

**St Columba's Sacramental Program** Preparation sessions are ongoing and the Sacrament of Reconciliation was celebrated 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.

**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.

**World Youth Day 2023: August 1-6, 2023** More than 3000 Australian pilgrims are attending 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 Vytlingam (St Mary MacKillop College Swan Hill staff member);
- John-Paul Walker (Linton & Sebastopol Parishes);
- Laura Bruty (Linton Parish & Australian Catholic University Ballarat Campus)

**World Youth Day Prayer**

*God, merciful Father, in your Son, Jesus Christ,  
 you have revealed your love and poured it out  
 upon us in the Holy Spirit, the Comforter.  
 We entrust to you today the destiny of the world and  
 of every man and woman.  
 We entrust to you in a special way young people  
 of every language, people and nation:  
 guide and protect them  
 as they walk the complex paths of the world today  
 and give them the grace to reap abundant fruits  
 from their experience of the Lisbon World Youth Day. Amen.*

**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/>

**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 Mazarello 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](https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/dpc/documents/20230528_dpc-verso-piena-presenza_en.html)

**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 online [www.catholiccarevic.org.au](http://www.catholiccarevic.org.au) or call (03) 9287 5513.

OLHC 12th August (next week)	Saturday 6.00pm
LEADER OF SONG	Paul Hogan
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL	Kath Leonard
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Trish Lawson & Jennifer Adams
COMMUNION MINISTERS	Pauline Newman & Pat Dillon
SACRISTAN	Pauline & Tony Newman

**Collections Last Weekend** Thank you for your contributions  
 Presbytery: \$ 285.30 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 975.00