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Environmental education should facilitate making the leap towards the transcendent which gives ecological ethics its deepest meaning #210

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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...**

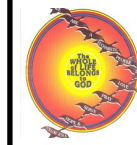
Let us ask the Lord to grant that the country may grow in the spirit of brotherhood, and that all hurts, fears and divisions will be overcome. We have spoken about the Holocaust. But let us think too that [in Ukraine] millions of people were killed [1932-1933]. They are a people who have suffered; they 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 Phone: 5339 4726

School Co-Principals: Bambi Afford & Shaun Mohr
School Phone: 5332 4894

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

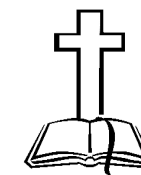
Our Lady Help of Christians
Parish Co-ordinator and
Safeguarding Officer:
Maree Roache
Wed-Friday 9:00am -1:00pm

MASS TIMES (This week)

St Columba's
Sunday 10.00 am
Wednesday 9.30 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

Sirach 27:30 –28:7
Ps 102:1-4, 9-12. R.v.8
Romans 14: 7-9
Matthew 18: 21-35



10th September 2023 ~ 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Focus on the Scriptures

As we mark the second Sunday of the Season of Creation, we are conscious of the need for the human community to be reconciled with Earth and with all that inhabits our common home. The theme for the 2023 Season of Creation is "Let Justice and Peace Flow" and the symbol is "a mighty river" Both theme and symbol are inspired by the words of the prophet Amos: "But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!" (Amos 5: 24). Today's first reading from the prophet Ezekiel warns of our responsibility to warn transgressors. The second reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans speaks of the debt of mutual love. The gospel reminds us of our responsibility to act in the face of transgression.

At the corporate level, we might ask if those who refuse to listen to the science on the climate crisis should be deterred by more stringent legislation and heavy penalties. On the personal level, the shaming of offenders is rarely effective. So, what does a just society do with its persistent offenders, with those whose behaviour continually disrupts the very future of life on the planet? There is no easy answer.

What does the gospel tradition offer in this respect? Today's gospel indicates that the power to deal with transgression is firmly in the hands of the community. All care must be taken to allow offenders to recognise and acknowledge their offences without being publically shamed. If that fails, the matter is referred to a group of witnesses, in line with Israel's ancient legal practice (Deuteronomy 19:15). The next step is referral to the assembled community. Those who refuse to listen are to be treated as "Gentiles" or "tax-collectors". Some scholars suggest that the Matthean Jesus is proposing expulsion of those who refuse to listen. Others consider that he is advocating the sort of compassionate approach he has personally shown to outsiders, to those in need of conversion. Since every one of us needs conversion in relation to planetary health, compassionate persistence and leading by example are attractive options.

We do well to seek the wisdom of others. We have the assurance that Christ, God-with-us, is present in the assembly. We also have the assurance that our failure to deal with transgression can leave perpetrators unreconciled and susceptible to reoffending. We need to "loose" the sins of those who acknowledge their offences. In other words, we are called to forgive them and thus set them free from the burden of their transgressions. While the gospel passage focusses on forgiveness, our first concern must be with those who suffer at the hands of offenders, including the Earth itself. We must "surrender to the sky [our] heart of anger" (James K. Baxter) and, at the same time, work actively to provide our planetary home and all of its inhabitants with the care that is surely needed.
~ Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm:(R.) O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us. Alleluia!

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

Anniversaries: We remember: Rita Keogh, Sr Anne McMillan, Margaret Hall, Danny Frawley, Giuseppe Finocchiaro, Michael Crowley, Joseph Davis, Nancy Davis, Val Allan, Kevin McLaughlin, Muriel Mugavin

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

Ballarat Clergy Support Fund: Collection for Sick and Retired Priests



Creating a secure retirement future for the priests of the diocese is a duty and care in which we can all participate. Seventeen retired priests are currently supported by this Fund. Some live privately, some are retired in units in Ballarat or elsewhere, others live in supported accommodation. A credit card facility is available for your convenience, and contributions over \$2.00 are tax-deductible. *Caring for those who care for us – the Church community's responsibility.*

Sew and So on Thursday 14th September, 2023 at 1.30pm, St Columba's Church Foyer. Join the happy ladies for a cuppa. Any knitting or crochet for East Timor will be collected. Thank you. Enquiries Margaret 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, 5th October 2023**. You may attend either the 10.00 am or the 5.30 pm session.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults RCIA There will be an information/enquiry meeting on **Tuesday 12th September, 5.30pm** at St Aloysius Parish Centre, Ripon Street Redan (between the school and Church). This meeting is for anyone over the age of 16 who is considering becoming a Catholic. This is the initial enquiry meeting, you will be given all relevant information, no commitment needs to be made at this stage. If you require further information, please contact Bernadette at the **St Aloysius Parish Office on 0455 212 123**.

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

St Columba's 17th Sept	(next week)	Sun 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG		Mark Lacey
COMMENTATOR		Colleen Wakefield
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Anthea Hinchey
COMMUNION MINISTER		Judy Brown
DIGITAL PROJECTOR		Bruce Chapman
SACRISTAN		Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe

Collections Last Weekend St Columba's *Thank you for your contributions*
 Presbytery: \$ 723.05 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 665.00

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.

First Eucharist Celebration Congratulations to all the children celebrating First Eucharist today! There are 46 candidates for First Eucharist this year with 23 receiving the sacrament today while the rest celebrated the sacrament last Sunday. Please keep the children and their families in your prayers.

Thank you! A massive thank you to all the parent group leaders who kindly shared their time and talents to facilitate in the preparation sessions, the families who attended the 6 weeks of sessions for both Reconciliation and First Eucharist preparation evenings and St Columba's School for supporting the program. You are all part of the success of our family based, school supported and parish coordinated Sacramental Program for the year.

The Season of Creation celebration **began September 1**, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and **ends October 4**, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations. Every year Catholic Earthcare Australia (Caritas and the Australian Bishops Conference) joins with Christian communities globally to celebrate the Season of Creation, to celebrate the gift of our common home. The theme for 2023 is "Let Justice and Peace Flow" drawing on the river imagery in Amos 5:24. It challenges us to act for ecological justice, creating change and speaking out with communities most impacted by rising sea levels, biodiversity loss and other consequences of climate change. Resources for the Season of Creation are available at <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/catholic-earthcare-ballarat-diocese/season-of-creation-2023/>

Please join us for a Kitchen Table Conversation! A Kitchen Table Conversation is a wonderful opportunity to join with others and listen, learn and reflect on the Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum that will be held in the coming months. Sessions will be held on September 11 and September 28 from 3.30-4.45pm online via Zoom. More information available at: <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/aboriginal-catholic-ministry/>

Tea and Coffee after Mass every first Sunday of the month at St Columba's You are all warmly invited to tea and coffee after mass every First Sunday of the Month. Looking forward to having a cuppa and catch up with you on the 1st of October 2023.



Today is Safeguarding Sunday, September 10, 2023 The Catholic Church in Australia marks Safeguarding Sunday (formerly Child Protection Sunday) on the second Sunday of September, at the conclusion of National Child Protection Week. Safeguarding Sunday seeks to acknowledge the immense damage caused by the sexual abuse of children and adults at risk, including by priests, religious and lay people within Catholic contexts. It makes a commitment to practices and protocols that create and maintain safe environments for all people. It invites people to pray for those harmed by abuse directly and indirectly. The following resources are available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/safeguarding-sunday-september-10-2023/>

Synod on Synodality Ecumenical Prayer Vigil Catholic communities around the world have been invited to host an ecumenical prayer vigil on the weekend of September 30 – October 1 in solidarity with a major international gathering in Rome ahead of the first session of the Synod on Synodality. Fifteen people from Australia will be participating in the Synod and they have asked for the Catholic community's prayers as they prepare for their important task. A prayer vigil would be a great way to respond to their request and to gather with Christian sisters and brothers in our shared faith. Find out more and register your vigil at <https://together2023.net/>

Migrant & Refugee Sunday, September 24, 2023 The Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office have provided materials for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees on September 24. Resources are available on the diocesan website: <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/109th-world-day-of-migrants-refugees-sunday-september-24-2023/>

OLHC 16th September	(next week)	Saturday 6.00pm
LEADER OF SONG		Vin Dillon
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Volunteer please
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Jennifer Adams & Ena Bruty
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Pauline Newman & Tony Bruty
SACRISTAN		Lyn Gray & Michael Rienets

Collections Last Weekend *Thank you for your contributions*
 Presbytery: \$ 468.05 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,455.00