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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...**

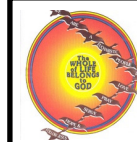
Let us ask the Lord to grant that the country may grow in the spirit of brotherhood, and that all hurts, fears and divisions will be overcome. We have spoken about the Holocaust. But let us think too that [in Ukraine] millions of people were killed [1932-1933]. They are a people who have suffered; they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

Thursday No Mass

Friday 10.00 am

Readings for Next Weekend

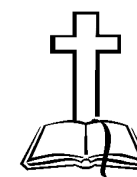
Isaiah 5: 1-7

Ps 79: 9. 12-16. 19-20

(R.) Is 5:7

Philippians 4: 6 – 9

Matthew 21: 33 - 43



1st October 2023 ~ 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Focus on the Scriptures

Three milestones in our journey of faith coalesce on Wednesday of this week: the final day of the Season of Creation 2023 with its call to "let justice and peace flow"; the release of Pope Francis' new exhortation on integral ecology; and the opening in Rome of the Synod on Synodality. The plight of our planetary community impels us to ponder, in light of these separate but related events, the ways in which Earth cares for us.

Vineyards have provided nourishment in the ancient Mediterranean world since about 10,000 BCE. It is not surprising then that the biblical record frequently references vines and vineyards and that the vineyard becomes a metaphor for God's "workplace". In today's gospel, Jesus tells the story of a father who sends his sons to work in the vineyard. One refuses and then reconsiders: he has the courage to change his mind. The second son agrees and then fails to do as his father requests: he is not prepared to make his contribution to family life and wellbeing. These siblings find their counterparts in every age. There are those who make an art form of saying yes and failing to follow through with action: such people can seriously undermine the best of projects or plans. And then there are the slow starters, those who take time but eventually come on board.

Jesus' parable is a response to the Temple authorities who are angered by the "amazing things" he does and by the public recognition he receives. Like the second son, the chief priests and elders profess to do the will of God, but their actions belie their words. Jesus spells out the meaning of the parable as it relates to the disjunction between what they say and what they do. They have rejected the prophet John who came to them "in the way of righteousness". The tax collectors and prostitutes, "sinners" from the perspective of the authorities, accepted John's message, albeit belatedly like the first son, and are making their way into God's empire ahead of the guardians of the religious institutions.

Changing one's mind is seen as a sign of weakness in our society. For evidence of this, one has only to listen to the taunts when a political leader changes course. Changing one's mind or one's course of action can be an act of great courage and humility, even heroism. This is particularly so if it involves abandoning a self-serving direction for the sake of justice or compassion for the common good. Voluntary changes in behaviour come from a change of heart, from what the gospel calls "metanoia". There is always a cost in the pursuit of justice, including the cost to those who challenge the refusal to act on the climate crisis. Today's parable invites us to bring our actions into line with what we profess, no matter the cost. That is what it means to accept today's invitation to work in the vineyard, God's workplace.

~ Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm: (R.) Remember your mercies O Lord

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; Alleluia! Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Doreen Donne

Anniversaries: We remember: Marie Linane, Maurice Cowie. Jan Mullaly, Margaret Butler, Kevin Dower, Tim McKeegan, Carmel Mitchell.

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

Synod on Synodality Ecumenical Prayer Vigil Catholic communities around the world are invited to host an ecumenical prayer vigil on the weekend of Sep 30 – Oct 1 in solidarity with a major international gathering in Rome ahead of the first session of the Synod on Synodality. 15 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/>

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**.

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, this **Thursday, 5th October 2023**. You may attend either the 10.00 am or the 5.30 pm session.

Wisdom at the Cathedral All are welcome to the final talk for the year in the Cathedral parish's series Wisdom at the Cathedral. Sister Rosie Drum, MGL, will speak on *The Holy Spirit: Not Just a Fluffy White Dove*. The talk and discussion time will go for an hour and will be followed by a cup of tea. 7pm sharp, Thursday 19 October in the MacKillop/Glowrey rooms. Entry by donation. For all enquiries please contact Fiona Bradley on fionalouisebradley@gmail.com

Diocesan Social Justice Statement launch The Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission have released presentations for the diocesan launch of the Social Justice Statement 2023: **Listen Learn Love: A New Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples**. This event is pre-recorded and in digital format so that individuals can access these resources at their convenience. See this link for more information: <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/social-justice/social-justice-statement/>

St Columba's 8th Oct	(next week)	Sun 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG		Terry Ranger
COMMENTATOR		Vicki Moroney
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Min Myers
COMMUNION MINISTER		Volunteer
DIGITAL PROJECTOR		Bruce Chapman
SACRISTAN		Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe

Collections Last Weekend St Columba's Thank you for your contributions
 Presbytery: \$ 342.60 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 615.00

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.

Laudato Si': Everything is connected In his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis reminds us that everything is connected. Our relationship with nature is not separate from our relationship with God and others. This concept of integral ecology encourages us to care for the Earth and each other. It calls us to action.

The Diocesan Social Justice Commission, in collaboration with Caritas (Diocese of Ballarat), Earthcare Ballarat and the Pastoral Ministry Office, is providing monthly *Laudato Si* banners for use in parish bulletins. The banners include a quote taken directly from the encyclical with the reference number provided for parishioners to look up and read more deeply about that area. The banners (as below) are designed to help reflect and respond to the encyclical and foster faith and action:



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. More 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/>

We encourage you to help our community to change the world!
Close the Fridge Door Leaving the Fridge Door open releases all the cool air and turns the food warm. Keeping the door closed will reduce your electricity bill and limit food waste.

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. A further session will be held on October 10 from 7:00-8:15pm online via Zoom. More information and registration details are available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/aboriginal-catholic-ministry/>

institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea Chapter ISMAPNG would be grateful for your prayer, seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit, during the coming weeks as they gather for their Chapter – a time of evaluating the past and planning for the future. Venerable Catherine McAuley, pray for us.

Praying with Pope Francis The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) is an international movement that is more than 170 years old. Each month, the Pope puts forward a prayer intention and asks Catholics around the world to join him in prayer. These intentions cover all sorts of areas of life, encouraging faith, renewing hope and calling us to loving service. Praying each month 'The Pope Video' forms part of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network – view at www.thepopevideo.org.

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 Brigid's College Horsham Reunion St Brigid's College Horsham invite past pupils of the classes of 1973, 1983, 1993, 2003 and 2013 for a reunion. The reunion will be held at St Brigid's College on Saturday, October 21, 2023 at 2.00pm. For more information visit <https://www.stbc.vic.edu.au/alumni-2/>

Mass in Memory of Eileen McManus will be celebrated in the Main Chapel at Nazareth House on Monday, **October 2, 2023 at 10.00 am**

OLHC 7th October	(next week)	Saturday 6.00pm
LEADER OF SONG		Paul Hogan
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Ely Green
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Sue Calistro & Vin Dillon
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Jennifer Adams & Bev Hayward
SACRISTAN		Kath Leonard & Anne Slattery

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 Presbytery: \$ 271.90 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 200.00