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**Prayer Service for the Referendum: Moments of healing this country** "One Journey, Together" online prayer event will be held on Friday, October 13, 2023 from 8.30am – 9.30am AEDT. This will be an opportunity to pause, and to reflect on our hopes for the referendum, reconciliation more broadly and for what will follow.

Scan the QR code to register for the prayer service:



**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...**

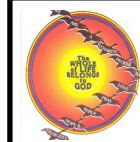
Let us ask the Lord to grant that the country may grow in the spirit of brotherhood, and that all hurts, fears and divisions will be overcome. We have spoken about the Holocaust. But let us think too that [in Ukraine] millions of people were killed [1932-1933]. They are a people who have suffered; they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

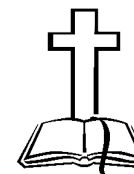
**St Columba's**  
Sunday 10.00 am  
Wednesday No Mass

**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 No Mass

**Readings for Next Weekend**

Isaiah 25: 6-10  
Ps 22. R.v. 6  
Philippians 4:12-14,19-20  
Matthew 22: 1-14



**8th October 2023 ~ 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

The 2021-2024 Synod on Synodality, presently in session in Rome, is concerned with the call to integral ecology, to environmental as well as social justice. In other words, it is concerned with our hearing and responding to the cry of the Earth and the cry of those rendered poor. Among the most abandoned of Earth's "poor" are those who are still enslaved. While the international community has long-since outlawed slavery, we have become increasingly aware of the persistence of a lucrative global industry structured around the sexual and labour enslavement of vulnerable people and exacerbated by the recent experience of pandemic.

Today's gospel features a parable about an absentee landowner with slaves to do his bidding. Commentators focus on almost every aspect of this parable, particularly the judgement on the religious authorities who have rejected God's messengers. Few consider the fate of the slaves as slaves in the parable. Our contemporary sensibilities in relation to slavery invite a new reading of such texts, a reading that critiques the power that some in the Earth community exercise over other humans and over the natural world that has for so long been treated as the property of humans to manipulate at will.

The frequent translation of the Greek *doulos* (m.) and *doulē* (f.) as "servant" rather than as "slave" masks the underlying reality that some members of the community, even within the circle of believers gathered at the Eucharistic table, were actually the property of others in the community. The fact is that nobody in the ancient world, not even Jesus of Nazareth, questioned this situation. The injustice was systemic. It is not surprising, therefore, that the slaves in today's parable are considered by the "tenants" to be dispensable. Their role is to collect the fruit from the harvest on behalf of the absentee landowner.

The "tenants" clearly have no intention of parting with any portion of the produce, presumably the tax imposed on them as a condition of their tenancy. They react violently when confronted by the three slaves who are the landowner's emissaries. They beat one slave, kill another and stone yet another. The slaves represent the landowner whose demands they refuse to meet. The landowner risks the lives of other slaves by sending yet another and bigger delegation. This second group of emissaries meets the same fate as their predecessors. Finally, the landowner sends his own son in the expectation that the tenants will show him the respect they have denied the slaves, his property. In fact, the son receives the same treatment as the slaves. He too is dispensable from the perspective of those wanting to seize "the inheritance", those wishing to take control of the vineyard for their own purposes. As we reflect on gospel stories that take slavery for granted, we might commit ourselves to eliminating all exercise of power over others or over any "vineyard" entrusted to our care and to addressing issues of systemic injustice.

~ Veronica Lawson RSM

**Responsorial Psalm:**(R.) The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. Alleluia!

**Recently Deceased: We commend to God:** Elena laFrate, Dorothy Elliott, Shirley Mitchell

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Tony Pennington, John Kirby, John Sullivan, Connie Rice, Josephine Reilly, Carmel Brinkmann, Walter Gercovich.

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

**Sew and So** this Thursday, 12th of October, 1.30 pm at the Saint Columba's Church Foyer. Come and enjoy a chat and a cuppa. All welcome. Enquiries Margaret 53314032 .

**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 **5th of November 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, **Thursday, 2nd November 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](mailto: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. For more info go to: <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/social-justice/social-justice-statement/>

**Faithful invited to pray for Synod of Bishops** The Vatican is asking all baptised people, regardless of whether they will be in Rome, to participate in October's assembly of the Synod of Bishops with their prayers.

St Columba's 15th Oct	(next week)	Sun 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG		Mark Lacey
COMMENTATOR		Anthea Hinchey
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Tom Keogh
COMMUNION MINISTER		Bruce Chapman
DIGITAL PROJECTOR		Kathleen Keogh
SACRISTAN		Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe

**Collections Last Weekend St Columba's** Thank you for your contributions  
 Presbytery: \$ 407.85 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 985.00

## 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:



We encourage you to help our community to change the world!

**Be Food Smart** Did you know? One in five bags that we take home from the supermarket ends up in landfill. To see how much food you waste and to find ways to avoid it, keep a diary for a week and record all the food wasted in your house.

**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](mailto: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, the 21st of October 2023 at 2.00pm. For more information visit <https://www.stbc.vic.edu.au/alumni-2/>

**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 this month. 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/>

**Fr Marcello's holidays** Fr Marcello will be taking annual leave from Monday 9th October, returning on Saturday 4th November. In his absence Fr Kevin Maloney will be celebrating the St Columba's and OLHC weekend Masses. Please note: there will be no weekday masses while Fr Marcello is on leave. If you require assistance, please contact St Columba's Parish Office. Should you require a priest, please contact St Patrick's Cathedral (ph: 5331 2933). We wish Fr Marcello a restful and rejuvenating break and a warm welcome to Fr Kevin!

**Mowing of Church Lawns** The Church lawns have been maintained by a team of volunteers over many years and we now are calling for more volunteers to come and join the roster. If you are interested in joining our team or need more information please call Helen on 0409501926.

**Pope's intention for October- For the Synod:** We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit toward the peripheries of the world. Lord, hear us.

**Special Social Media Channels for the XVI Assembly** You can follow the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on:

Facebook: [@16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops](https://www.facebook.com/16thOrdinaryGeneralAssemblyoftheSynodofBishops)

Twitter: [@16SynodAssembly](https://twitter.com/16SynodAssembly)

Instagram: [@16ordinaryggs](https://www.instagram.com/16ordinaryggs)

OLHC 14th October	(next week)	Saturday 6.00pm
LEADER OF SONG		Vin Dillon
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Kath Leonard
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Darryl Clark & Zeena Lazarus
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Harry Kennedy & Pat Dillon
SACRISTAN		Tony & Pauline Newman

**Collections Last Weekend** Thank you for your contributions  
 Presbytery: \$ 201.50 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,390.00