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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...**

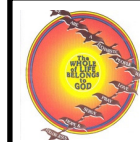
Let us ask the Lord to grant that the country may grow in the spirit of brotherhood, and that all hurts, fears and divisions will be overcome. We have spoken about the Holocaust. But let us think too that [in Ukraine] millions of people were killed [1932-1933]. They are a people who have suffered; they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

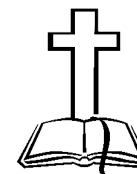
**St Columba's**  
Sunday 10.00 am  
Wednesday No Mass

**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 45:1,4-6  
Ps 95:1,3-5,7-10. R.v. 7  
1 Thessalonians 1:1-5  
Matthew 22: 15-21



**15th October 2023 ~ 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

The increasing wealth of the few and the growing divide between rich and poor, particularly in the developing world, are challenging us all to consider our attitudes to the planet's resources and to the economic systems that maintain that imbalance. The economic divide is highlighted by the vulnerability of those rendered poor or even homeless in our world.

Today's gospel brings a warning. Like the invited guests in Matthew's parable of the wedding banquet, we are in danger of turning our backs on a gracious invitation or "call" not only to share in but also to ensure that all God's creatures might share in the fruits of the earth. The king's invitation to successive and diverse groups recalls Israel's prophetic tradition where God's ultimate reign is imaged as a feast of the best food and wine, not just for a privileged few, but for all.

Many other aspects of the parable are quite troubling. Its focus is on the human community. Privileged humans are the first to be invited: the invitation to the less privileged comes only after those on the initial guest list have refused to come. This aspect of the story hardly reflects the values of God's empire or reign. Furthermore, the violent retaliation of the spurned host is hard to reconcile with an image of God's reign. This is also true of the treatment of the guest without a wedding robe in a situation where none of the guests has had the opportunity to procure the right attire. It becomes clear that this is not a story to be taken literally. Rather, it invites the reader to critique interpretations that see the king's behaviour as a reflection of how God deals with God's creation.

So, what might this story be telling us? If we look again at the despotic aspects of the king's character, we might find there a reflection of our own capacity to look after ourselves at the expense of the vulnerable people in our world and of the other-than-human. We might find an image of our nation's long-term redirecting of the foreign aid budget towards keeping refugees from settling in our land.

On the other hand, if we put ourselves in the place of the original audience, we might find ourselves quite amazed at the inclusiveness of the king in a world where the people on the street would never have been invited to such a wedding banquet. If we think about the wedding garment as symbolic of a "right" disposition or attitude in relation to the host, the company, and the riches to be shared, we might be drawn to handle Earth's precious resources with a little more care for the common good of all the inhabitants of our planet. Our gospel tradition tells us that God's empire will be realised only when all have the opportunity to share in the feast of life and when other-than-human Earth inhabitants have the resources that enable them to flourish.

~ Veronica Lawson RSM

**Responsorial Psalm:(R.)** I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart. that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called. Alleluia!

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

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Tom Prendergast, Rumar Tan Andanar, Steve Martin, Margaret (Peg) Nijam, Nell Bourke

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

**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.

**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.

**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**.

**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)

**October is World Mission Month** World Mission Day Appeal on the weekend of 21st and 22nd October. In his World Mission Day message for 2023, Pope Francis reminds us through Luke 24:13-35, "hearts on fire, feet on the move", that the missionary journey of all disciples is that upon encountering Jesus, our hearts burn within, our eyes are opened and ultimately, our feet are set out on the way. Catholic Mission has launched the World Mission Month 2023 Appeal, highlighting the Work of Salesian Sisters in Timor-Leste. Sr Carolina, who is the face of the awareness and fundraising campaign, is a great example of the devotion of missionaries, dedicating herself to providing critical healthcare services to the rural community of Venilale in Timor-Leste.

St Columba's 22nd Oct	(next week)	Sun 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG		Terry Ranger
COMMENTATOR		Tom Keogh
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Jo-anne van der Voort
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: \$ 296.60 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 456.25

**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/>

**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!

**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.

**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: [@16ordinarygs](https://www.instagram.com/16ordinarygs)

OLHC 21st October	(next week)	Saturday 6.00pm
LEADER OF SONG		Corrie Harbour
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Lyn Gray
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Ena Bruty & Laureen Rhodes
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Trish Lawson & Tony Bruty
SACRISTAN		Lyn Gray & Michael Rienets

**Collections Last Weekend** Thank you for your contributions  
 Presbytery: \$ 401.45 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 640.00