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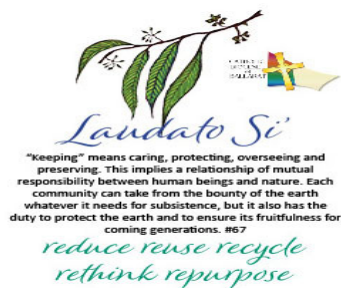
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Nazareth House Auxiliary Garage Sale

Will be held on Saturday, November 18, 2023 at 218 Mill Street, Ballarat at 10.00am. Furniture, books, prints, cake and gift stall, morning tea. Cash only. Contact Margaret, ph. 0419003415.

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...**

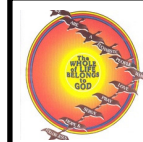
Let us ask the Lord to grant that the country may grow in the spirit of brotherhood, and that all hurts, fears and divisions will be overcome. We have spoken about the Holocaust. But let us think too that [in Ukraine] millions of people were killed [1932-1933]. They are a people who have suffered; they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

Proverbs 31:10–13, 19-20, 30-31
Ps 127:1-5, R. v.1
1 Thessalonians 5:1-6
Matthew 25: 14-30



12th November 2023 ~ 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Focus on the Scriptures

How often were you told as a child to get ready for an outing or for the arrival of visitors or for something else when you simply wanted to stay as you were? Sometimes being prepared matters not. At other times it matters and today's gospel parable depicts a situation where it is of crucial importance. Wisdom resides in readiness, foolishness in failure to prepare.

The imminent event in today's parable is a wedding celebration. The betrothal period is over and the bridegroom has left to bring the bride from the home of her parents to his family home. Ten young women of his household will watch for the arrival of the couple and will light their way into the wedding feast. These young women can expect to be welcome at the feast. Five are well prepared for the arrival and five are not. The five who bring (olive) oil for their lamps are designated "wise" while the other five who bring no oil are said to be "foolish". Negotiating the terms of the marriage contract takes longer than expected so that the bridegroom is delayed. The young women wait and wait, then fall asleep. At midnight, the bridegroom's arrival is signalled and the young women rise to trim their lamps in readiness for their role of lighting his way.

The bride is invisible in the telling of the story, presumably because the focus must be on the bridegroom alone. Earlier in Matthew's gospel (9:15), Jesus is depicted as "the bridegroom". The attentive reader of the gospel is aware that the parable is about Jesus and that it forms part of Matthew's end-time discourse (24:1-25:46). The delay of the bridegroom evokes the community's expectation that Jesus who has died and been raised will return at an undisclosed time. In the interim, the members are to be actively watchful and ready, living in the spirit of Matthew's first discourse (5:1-7:29) with its emphasis on right relationship. Matthew 7 concludes with reference to wise and foolish decisions: the foolish build on sand while the wise build on rock.

The behaviour of the "wise" in today's parable is as puzzling as that of the "foolish". The "foolish" fail to prepare: they have no oil and cannot expect to light the way without it. The "wise" have prepared and they receive their reward. Is there any wisdom, however, in sending their "foolish" companions to buy olive oil at midnight? We can identify with both the wise and the foolish. We can identify with the foolish in our inattention to the plight of our planet. We can identify with the wise insofar as we have the wisdom to ensure that the produce of God's Earth, represented by the olive oil, is received as gift and used in right measure and in right relationship. Between the Synod sessions, wisdom might reside in patience rather than foolish haste in evaluating outcomes for the future of our faith community.

- Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm: (R.) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Be watchful and ready: you know not when the Son of Man is coming. Alleluia!

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

Anniversaries: We remember: Michael Sullivan, John Maher, Raymond Lewis, Mark Wise, Lina Muller

We pray: for the people of Ukraine, Israel and all in areas of conflict and war, and those who live in the earthquake, fire and flood affected areas of the world. For the sick in our parish and those in need of our prayers.

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, December 7, 2023**. You may attend either the 10.00 am or the 5.30 pm session.

An Invitation – Remembering & honouring those who have died

The Pastoral Care Team (Ballarat) invites families, friends, and members of our community to come together with staff from **Grampians Health Ballarat** to remember and honour those people who have died - those we have cared about and those we have cared for. By way of 2 activities:

Remembering Activity is an informal activity that invites people to write the name of the people they are remembering on a pebble and place it in a pottery bowl set up in the central corridor (QE Site) or the ground floor foyer – Gardiner Pittard (Ballarat Base Site). · QE Site from **Monday 20 November**, Central Corridor. Ballarat Base Hospital Site from Monday 20 November, Ground Floor, Gardiner Pittard – Drummond St entrance.

Remembering Ceremonies/Rituals offers an opportunity for families and friends to come together with staff to acknowledge those who have died. · **QE Site | Monday 27 November 4.00PM | near café**
· **Ballarat Base Hospital Site | Thursday 30 November 5.30PM near café** – ground floor Gardiner Pittard – Drummond St entrance. An RSVP is not needed for the Remembering Ceremonies, however, to assist with planning, please email pastoralcareballarat@gh.org.au if you are attending. If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to contact: · Simone Noelker | Manager | Pastoral Care | 5320 8614 · Paul Ryan | Base Hospital Site | 0467 297 733 · Tracy Sillekens | QE Site – Gandarra Palliative Care | 5320 3675

YCW Cricket Club get together All former players, supporters and families are invited to a get together and lunch at Robin Hood Hotel on Sunday 3rd of December at 12 Noon. Numbers are needed by Sunday 26th of November. For further enquiries or to book please call Terry on 0401 730 670 or John 0409 864 080

St Columba's 19th Nov	(next week)	Sun 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG		Terry Ranger
COMMENTATOR		Maree Phelan
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Jo-anne van der Voort
COMMUNION MINISTER		Gina Hinchey
DIGITAL PROJECTOR		Bruce Chapman
SACRISTAN		Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe

Collections Last Weekend Columba's Thank you for your contributions.
Presbytery: \$ 372.05 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 640.80

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.

Baptism This weekend we welcome to our Parish through the sacrament of Baptism:

Brigid Grace Hardstaff daughter of Benjamin and Kathleen.

"The Church gives the faith to your child through Baptism and you have the task to make it grow...." - Pope Francis

May Brigid grow in faith with the support of her family and our Catholic Community.

An Urgent Prayer for Peace

*God of compassion, we turn to you with heavy hearts
as we consider the needs of your family.
Israelis and Palestinians, we are all your people, each of us loved by
You and called to live in peace and justice.
We lament the dreadful loss of life, destruction of property
and loss of human dignity.
We are pained by so much suffering. We beg you to bring healing
to this ancient place. Help your people find a way forward.
Enable everyone to look each other in the eye, and embrace each
other as sisters and brothers, as they find your image in every face.
We ask that courage and grace will help create a wiser
and more gentle future, where everyone has a home.
God of wisdom, come to our aid. Amen.*

By Michael McGirr / Caritas Australia

Ordination to the Diaconate Seminarian Cay Trinh will be ordained Deacon for the Diocese of Ballarat on Saturday, December 16, 2023 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 10.00am. All welcome to attend.

Today is Prison Sunday – November 12, 2023 Prison Sunday commenced in 2016, during the Year of Mercy, as an initiative of Pope Francis to observe the Jubilee for Prisoners. "We need to nourish the roots of our hope so that they can bear fruit ... despite whatever evil we have done. There is no corner of our heart that cannot be touched by God's love," Pope Francis said at the time. Each year in November, the Catholic Church in Australia marks Prison Sunday, bringing attention to the plight of prisoners and highlighting the important work that prison chaplains undertake. Resources are available at <https://www.catholic.au/s/article/Prison-Sunday>

Parish of Gordon Cemetery Mass All are welcome to Mass at the Gordon Cemetery on Sunday, November 19, 2023 at 11.00am.

Mowing of Church Lawns The Church lawns have been maintained by a team of volunteers over many years and we are now 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 November- For the Pope We pray for the Holy Father. As he fulfills his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit. Lord, hear us.

Celebrating the "End of an Era" at St Brendan's Primary School, Dunnstown All are invited to celebrate the 'End of an Era' at St Brendan's Primary School, Dunnstown on Saturday, November 25, 2023. Please feel free to pass this invitation on to anyone that you think may be interested. More information is available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/pnews/celebrating-the-end-of-an-era-at-st-brendans-primary-school-dunnstown/>



We would like to thank you again for your generosity, whether it be a one-off gift or through your commitment as a Mission Partner, through the recent Catholic Mission Appeal.

Your generosity and prayers are supporting life-changing mission programs like the Maria Auxiliadora Clinic in Venilale, Timor-Leste, where they are addressing critical health issues such as tuberculosis, malnutrition and maternal mortality.

To learn more about the impact of your support, visit catholicmission.org.au/our-work, where you can also sign-up for our regular newsletter.

If you missed your opportunity to learn about this vital mission program, or want to give a gift in support, please go to catholicmission.org.au/timor today.

Free call: 1800 257 296
catholicmission.org.au/timor

Thank You to the members of the **SEW and SO** group from St Columba's and OLHC parishes, who have presented 295 'Baby Packs'. These packs will be delivered to Timor, and will be greatly appreciated by the members of that community.

OLHC 11th November	(next week)	Saturday 6.00pm
LEADER OF SONG		Corrie Harbour
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Lyn Gray
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Trish Pora & Darryl Clark
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Bev Hayward & Val Bourke
SACRISTAN		Ann Slattery

Collections Last weekend OLHC Thank you for your contributions.
Presbytery: \$ 529.30 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 630.00