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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...**

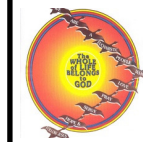
Let us ask the Lord to grant that the country may grow in the spirit of brotherhood, and that all hurts, fears and divisions will be overcome. We have spoken about the Holocaust. But let us think too that [in Ukraine] millions of people were killed [1932-1933]. They are a people who have suffered; they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

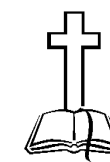
St Columba's
Sunday 10.00 am
Wednesday 10.00 am

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 10.00 am
Friday 10.00 am

Readings for Next Weekend

Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17
Ps 22:1-3, 5-6, R. see v.1
1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28
Matthew 25: 31-46



19th November 2023 ~ 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Focus on the Scriptures

In answer to my greeting, "G'day Muff, what are you up to?", my polymath brother-in-law, David (nicknamed Muff), would invariably reply, "Just contemplating the eternal verities!" The ensuing conversation would confirm the veracity of his response: contemplating the eternal verities was a way of life for my brother-in-law.

As the end of the church year approaches, the liturgy presents us with texts that invite us all to consider the big questions of life and death, including the day of reckoning that will inevitably confront each one of us. Matthew's parable of the talents is part of a discourse about the final realities. It is sandwiched between the parable of the ten lamp-bearers, five of whom are unprepared for the bridegroom, and the end time judgement of the nations.

The previous story has concluded with the warning: "Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour." This is usually interpreted as a reference to the future coming of Christ. Today's story continues this motif. It opens: "For it is as if a man going abroad summons his slaves and entrusts his property to them...." Once more, we find slavery taken for granted. Once more, we might take this as a reminder to commit ourselves to the elimination of all power over others. The slaves are entrusted with phenomenal wealth: ten talents, five talents, and one talent respectively. A talent was a measure of weight, one silver talent being the equivalent of 1000 days wages for an ordinary labourer. The scenario is dramatically far-fetched, as is often the case with parables.

The slaves are given amounts "according to their ability". They receive no instructions, but later events indicate that the master expects a good return on his money, despite the prohibition on usury in that society. The first two slaves deliver and are invited into "the joy of the master", another possible reference to the end time when God will embrace those who are faithful to their mission. The third slave does what was expected in that culture: he buries his talent. He also provides a reasonable rationale for his action: the master is a hard man who inspires a fear-ridden response. The master does not renege from this description and expels "into outer darkness" the one who challenges his behaviour.

Is the master an image of God? Some elements in the story point in this direction. Other features, such as the concentration of wealth in one person and the treatment of the fearful slave, inhibit an unequivocally affirmative answer to this question. In face of present inequities even within the most affluent countries, we may find ourselves in sympathy with the third slave insofar as he challenges the violent and exploitative actions of the master. Parables are open to multiple interpretations and the eternal verities cannot be encapsulated in one story or one image. They bear ongoing reflection and call us to responsible action for the sake of the equilibrium or balance that Pope Francis advocates.

- Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm: (R.) Happy are those who fear the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Gerard Willis, Jean Dumaresq

Anniversaries: We remember: Connor Prunty, Desmond Burke, Barry Mitchell, Pat Hogan, Barry James, Kevin Duggan, Bernard O'Callaghan, Mary Gercovich, Sr. Kate McGrath RSM, Sr. Connie Walsh RSM, Kevin Glenane

We pray: for all in areas of conflict, war and natural disasters, for the sick and all in need of our prayers.

World Day of the Poor, November 19, 2023 The call to serve the poor has been greatly emphasised under the papacy of Pope Francis, who established the World Day of the Poor in 2017. The Holy Father's message for 2023 is "Do not turn your face away from anyone who is poor" (Tob 4:7). The Church is encouraged to "go forth", beyond its own walls, to encounter poverty "in the multiple meanings in which it manifests itself in today's world." Read the Pope's message on the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

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 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. For comments or questions, please feel free to contact: Simone Noelker, Manager, Pastoral Care- 5320 8614; Paul Ryan, Base Hospital Site- 0467 297 733; Tracy Sillickens, 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 26th Nov	(next week)	Sun 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG		Tony Beggs
COMMENTATOR		Colleen Wakefield
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Vicki Moroney
COMMUNION MINISTER		Bruce Chapman
DIGITAL PROJECTOR		Bruce Chapman
SACRISTAN		Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe

Collections Last Weekend Columba's Thank you for your contributions.
 Presbytery: \$ 368.35 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 2,100.60

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.

Bishop Paul's announcement of the new Vicar General, Diocese of Ballarat Bishop Paul Bird CSsR had earlier informed the Diocese that Fr Kevin Maloney will conclude his responsibilities as Vicar General because of health concerns, and has sincerely expressed his appreciation for Fr Kevin's dedicated service in this position over the past five years. Bishop Paul is pleased to announce the appointment of Fr. Marcello Colasante as the new Vicar General of our Diocese. Fr Marcello will continue in his services as Parish Priest of St Columba's (Ballarat North) and Our Lady Help of Christians (Wendouree). Bishop Paul: "I am very grateful to Fr. Marcello for his generosity in accepting this additional role."

Congratulations and all the best, Fr. Marcello!

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.

Reports from the first assembly of the Synod of Bishops on Synodality

At the end of the first session of the Synod, the participants have prepared and published a "Letter to the People of God" and adopted a Synthesis Report, "A Synodal Church on Mission." Both documents are available here: diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/for-a-synodal-church-communion-participation-and-mission/>

Laudato Si': "Love Natural Resources" Did you know ? Animals, plants, water and soil...these are some of the things we use from the earth. We must take good care of them so that the planet stays as we found it.

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 on the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/pnews/celebrating-the-end-of-an-era-at-st-brendans-primary-school-dunnstown/>

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

St Columba's Parish Ballarat North

30th June 2022	Statement of Income and Expenditure	30th June 2023
\$	INCOME	\$
62,920	Stewardship Program & Loose Plate	58,181
50,000	Rental Income 802 Armstrong St	50,000
14,470	Interest, Donations, Latin Mass	24,169
<u>1,050</u>	Advertising Subscriptions	<u>1,106</u>
128,440		133,456
	EXPENDITURE	
23,793	Salaries, Superannuation, Workcover	34,519
15,945	Administrative Expenses	22,213
17,732	Diocesan Levies	16,677
36,518	Property Costs ie: Insurance, Rates, Utilities	42,709
682	Clergy Assistance Fund Levies	1,307
<u>6,224</u>	Liturgical & Pastoral Expenses	<u>3,636</u>
100,894		121,061
27,546	SURPLUS	12,395

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.

OLHC 25th November	(next week)	Saturday 6.00pm
LEADER OF SONG		Sue Searls
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Elly Green
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Sue Calistro & Pauline Newman
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Harry Kennedy & Tony Bruty
SACRISTAN		Lyn Gray & Michael Rienets

Collections Last weekend OLHC Thank you for your contributions.
 Presbytery: \$ 261.35 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,305.00