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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.



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...**

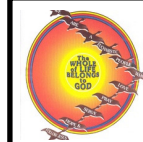
Let us ask the Lord to grant that the country may grow in the spirit of brotherhood, and that all hurts, fears and divisions will be overcome. We have spoken about the Holocaust. But let us think too that [in Ukraine] millions of people were killed [1932-1933]. They are a people who have suffered; they 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
Monday 10.30 am (Funeral)
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

Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1, 3-8
Ps 79:2-3,15-16,18-19 R.v.4
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13: 33-37



26th November 2023 ~ Solemnity of Christ the King Year A

Focus on the Scriptures

"It has long been a common custom to give to Christ the metaphorical title of King." These are the words of Pope Pius XI who established this feast between two world wars in the hope of counteracting the growing secularism "in public affairs and politics" and of finding a way towards global peace. Peace would never be achieved, wrote Pope Pius XI, until and unless individuals and nations accept the "rule of our Saviour".

In many ways, hope for the global reign of the Prince of Peace seems more remote than ever. The challenge of war and the plight of those denied humanitarian assistance have marked new low points in more than a century of violent and ongoing conflict which is claiming lives in ever-increasing numbers. The three-year pandemic underscored the vulnerability to violence of those rendered poor by the prevailing inequitable global economic system. The world needs the sort of leadership that Jesus of Nazareth advocated in first century Palestine, the kind of leadership that Pope Francis offers to our world.

The gospel for today provides a blueprint for Christian living in general and for leadership in particular. Matthew presents Jesus as both shepherd and sheep: as judge and king on the one hand and as a suffering human ("the least") on the other. Works of mercy are the measure of justice or righteousness. Those who feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, and set the prisoners free are "the righteous/the sheep" who will inherit God's empire and have life. Those who fail in these respects are the unrighteous/the goats who fail to recognise the presence of the shepherd/king in the suffering of "the least". Why sheep and goats? "Sheep" is a frequent biblical designation for the people of God's fold. While goats grazed with the sheep, they were never imaged as God's people, somewhat unfairly, I suggest.

This gospel story is replete with mixed metaphors. It is the gospel source of the spiritual and corporal works of mercy that have informed the Christian way of life for centuries. It focusses on suffering humanity. In proclaiming an eighth work of mercy, care for our common home, Pope Francis has asked us to expand our horizons and to extend our concern to the suffering of the whole Earth community, human and other-than-human.

The Feast of Christ the King brings the church year to a close. It invites us to consider ways to achieve the things that make for peace. If we wish God's reign of peace to be realised on planet Earth, then we might heed the invitation of Pope Francis (in both Laudato Si' and more recently in Laudate Deum) to engage in "grateful contemplation of God's world" and in daily gestures that "break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness." We might also take seriously his urgent plea to become a synodal church, listening to one another and walking together in faith and hope.

- Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm: (R.) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David! Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Keith Gillett, Agnes Hughes (nee Arundell)

Anniversaries: We remember: Mollie Bruty, Kevin Hanrahan, Bill Smith, Clare McGoldrick, Adele Carter, Kevin Glenane

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

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

Max Kane Hingston son of Claire and Miles.

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

May Max grow in faith with the support of his family and our Catholic Community.

Making a Scene at Christmas Over 500 Christmas Nativities from more than 60 countries will be displayed at the Bridge Mall Ballarat and at the Catholic Diocesan Archives from Tuesday, December 5 to Friday, December 22, 2023. You can see and smell real frankincense and myrrh; see coins minted around the time the census was called that brought Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem; see hand crafted cultural nativities from Australia, Africa, Asia, North & South America and Europe (and one that went to Antarctica); nativities that prize social justice and the environment. Schools can book for an educational experience. For more information on the Ballarat Bridge Mall display, please contact Fiona Tonkin Fiona.tonkin@ballarat.catholic.org.au. Everyone welcome. Entry by gold coin donation.

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 Christmas Lunch- December 25th at OLHC Parish Hall OLHC Parish Wendouree volunteers are hosting lunch on Christmas Day in the Parish Hall, 482 Gillies Street, Wendouree from 12.00noon – 2.00pm. Bookings are essential as seating is limited, ph. 0419 975914. If you are able to volunteer on this day, please phone the number listed to register your availability.

St Columba's 3rd Dec	(next week)	Sun 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG		Terry Ranger
COMMENTATOR		Fiona Newton
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Anthea Hinchey
COMMUNION MINISTER		Judy Brown
DIGITAL PROJECTOR		Vicki Moroney
SACRISTAN		Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe

Collections Last Weekend Columba's Thank you for your contributions.
 Presbytery: \$ 418.25 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 808.70

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 For those who may have missed the newsletter last Sunday, 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 to our new Vicar General- Fr. Marcello!

150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat - Significant Catholic Person/People from your Parish In preparation for the Ballarat Diocese's 150 year Anniversary in 2024, the anniversary committee for the Mass of the Oils are searching for 1 or 2 significant Catholics from your parish for a display to be presented in the Hall after the Mass of the Oils on Monday, March 25, 2024. This could be a well-known person who has achieved success in their chosen field or it could be someone who has left a legacy in your parish, as a benefactor, contributor or historian. Please provide names, supporting information and photo to jane.collins@ballarat.catholic.org.au before February 5, 2024.

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.

Choir for the Ordination to the Diaconate Mass for Cay Peter Trinh – Saturday, December 16, 2023 Singers and musicians in the diocese are invited to join the music group which is being formed for Cay Trinh's Ordination to the Diaconate Mass on Saturday, December 16, 2023 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 10.00am. We especially invite parishioners from the parishes of Camperdown and Western Border, where Cay has been part of these communities during his pastoral work. Practice times are Sunday, December 3 and Sunday, December 10 at the Cathedral (times to be confirmed). There will also be a run through prior to Mass on December 16. Please contact Julie Boyd in the Pastoral Ministry Office to register your interest julie.boyd@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7159.

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

Laudato Si': Love Natural Resources 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.

Position Vacant – Secretary in the Bishop's Office Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the position of Secretary in the Bishop's Office, 2-3 days per week. Position and application details on the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/our-diocese/employment/>

Announcement regarding CDF Merger Bishop Paul Bird CSsR has made an announcement regarding the merger of our Ballarat Catholic Development Fund with the Melbourne-Sale-Bunbury Catholic Development Fund. Further details: <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/new-era-for-cdf/>

Knox Public Lecture 2023 Presented by Dr Susan Connelly RSJ, "Truth and Peace: Timeless Twins" on Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 7.30pm, live via zoom. To book please go to <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1141646>

OLHC 2nd December	(next week)	Saturday 6.00pm
LEADER OF SONG		Paul Hogan
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Volunteer, please
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Laureen Rhodes & Val Bourke
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Trish Lawson & Pat Dillon
SACRISTAN		Geoff & Marg McLean

Collections Last weekend OLHC Thank you for your contributions.
 Presbytery: \$ 413.10 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 545.00