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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

Wisdom 6:12-16
Ps 62:2-8, R. v.2
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25: 1-13



5th November 2023 ~ 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Focus on the Scriptures

Today's gospel has particular relevance for all in positions of authority. Appointment or election to such positions is not for the sake of status or self-aggrandizement. Neither does the specialised knowledge associated with such roles bring with it the right to special privileges. Sadly, both civic and religious leaders can easily develop a sense of entitlement that shifts the exercise of their authority from service to privilege and oppression. That seems to have been the case for certain religious leaders in first century Palestine.

Shortly after I took up a five-year term as elected leader of my religious congregation, I handed the members of my council an article about leaving office gracefully. They objected that we had only begun our ministry of leadership. What was I suggesting? I was convinced then as now that gospel-inspired leadership requires that one hold one's position lightly, ever aware that leadership is a service for a time, an opportunity to create or maintain the conditions for all in the community or organisation to take their own power and to exercise it responsibly within the parameters of their core commitment. Leaders can call their members to authentic living of their commitment only if their own lives are congruent with what they profess.

Within Second Temple Judaism, the Pharisees were the respected teachers and interpreters of the Law of Moses. Some of them abused their positions and so became the subject of Jesus' scathing and cumulative criticism. They exploited their specialised knowledge to exercise power over the people and create intolerable burdens while at the same time failing to observe their own rules. They sought the adulation of the people through their exaggerated and ostentatious observance of certain religious customs. They are accused of broadening their phylacteries, the little leather boxes containing the words of the Shema (Deuteronomy 6:4-6) that observant Jews bound to their heads and arms, and of lengthening the tassels attached to their cloaks (in observance of Deuteronomy 22:12). They looked for special treatment, for places and titles of honour, and for public recognition. They failed to understand that the Shema is intrinsically a call to listen, to hear and to obey the love commandment.

Matthew attaches to this condemnation of the scribes and Pharisees several loosely connected sayings of Jesus that link service and humility. Greatness lies, not in the pursuit of power over others, but rather in knowing one's proper place in the scheme of things and so recognising that God is the source of all human power and authority. In *Treading Lightly: The Hidden Wisdom of the World's Oldest People*, Karl-Erik Svelby and Tex Skuthorpe demonstrate how the story of one indigenous community, the Ngunnabarra, offers a compelling alternative to hierarchical leadership in our times, namely the age-old "context-specific" leadership for sustainability. *Treading Lightly* offers a vision utterly congruent with the gospel-inspired and earth-conscious leadership of Pope Francis that is being exercised so powerfully in the context of Synod 2021-2024.

- Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm: (R.) In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! You have one Father, your Father in heaven; you have one teacher: the Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Rod Stott, Mary Cullinan

Anniversaries: We remember: Kathleen Kenna, Jack Scanlon, Des Heenan, Margaret Haintz, William O'Loughlin, Raymond Jackson, James Walters

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.

Tea and Coffee after Mass today and every first Sunday of the month at St. Columba's You are all warmly invited to tea and coffee after mass today and looking forward to having a cuppa and catch up with you on **December 3, 2023** as well.

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.

Bishop Paul Bird CSsR has informed the Diocese that Fr Kevin Maloney will conclude his responsibilities as Vicar General, and has sincerely expressed his appreciation for Fr Kevin's dedicated service in this position over the past five years. A new appointment to this position will be announced shortly.

World Mission Appeal 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. 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. **Thank you** to all who have already responded via the Catholic Mission World Mission month appeal envelopes. God bless!

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/>

St Columba's 12th Nov	(next week)	Sun 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG		Mark Lacey
COMMENTATOR		Anthea Hinchey
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Geraldine Mugavin
COMMUNION MINISTER		Bruce Chapman
DIGITAL PROJECTOR		Fiona Newton
SACRISTAN		Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe

Collections 15th - 29th October St Columba's Thank you for your contributions.
 Presbytery: \$ 940.65 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 2,955.00

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.

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

Diocesan Youth Booklet The Ballarat Diocese has produced a booklet which outlines opportunities to assist young people on their faith journey. There is information about a variety of youth ministry and young adult activities, as well as details on faith formation, social justice and outreach initiatives. A range of social media networks and online forums offering choices for young people to connect with the wider Catholic community is also included. There is information about reflection days, festivals, immersions and pilgrimage experiences for them to take part in to grow in their faith, and qualifications available in theology, ministry formation, training and much more. With the support of Bishop Paul Bird CSsR, the booklet has been distributed to all secondary schools for Year 12 students and senior school leavers. For questions or copies, please email at pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au

SEW and SO Thursday, November 9, 2023 at 1:30 pm at the St Columba's Church Foyer. Come and have an enjoyable afternoon with us. Enquiries Margaret 5331 4032.

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.

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.

Celebrating the birth of Jesus: Do you have a Nativity scene which has a personal story? The first nativity scene recorded in history was in 1223. After visiting the Holy Land and birthplace of Jesus, St. Francis of Assisi was concerned that the meaning of Christmas was being forgotten. To highlight the importance of the birth of Jesus, St Francis obtained permission from the Pope to construct a nativity scene in a cave near Greccio, Italy. It was to include the people of the town and animals, making it a living nativity scene. Although this tradition still continues today, the 19th century saw the nativity scene gradually being replaced with static displays with baby Jesus, Mary and Joseph in a manger surrounded by richly robed figurines. The Diocesan archive is organizing an exhibit of Nativity scenes from the 20th November till late January 2024 and would like to include pieces from different Parishes within the Diocese. If you have a Nativity scene you would like to put on display either in the archives or via the online Nativity display please contact Samantha Fabry on archives@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Parish of Bungaree Cemetery Mass All are welcome to Mass at the Pootilla Cemetery on Sunday, November 12, 2023 at 9.30am.

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.

OLHC 11th November	(next week)	Saturday 6.00pm
LEADER OF SONG		Vin Dillon
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Kath Leonard
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Trish Lawson & Kevin Murphy
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Christine Richardson & Jennifer Adams
SACRISTAN		Tony & Pauline Newman

Collections 14th - 28th October OLHC Thank you for your contributions.
 Presbytery: \$ 781.85 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,950.00