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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, April 4, 2024.** You may attend either the 10.00 am or the 5.30 pm session.

St Patrick's Day

Irish Blessing

May the road rise
to meet you,
May the wind be always at
your back,
May the sun shine warm
upon your face,
the rain fall soft upon your
fields and until we meet
again,
May God hold you in the
palm of His hand.

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

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.



Laudato Si'



"Both everyday experience and scientific research show that the gravest effects of all attacks on the environment are suffered by the poorest" (Laudato Si' 48).

reduce reuse recycle rethink repurpose



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 Phone: 5339 4726

School Co-Principals: Bambi Afford & Shaun Mohr

School Phone: 5332 4894

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 (Anointing)

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 11.00 am (Kelaston)

Friday 10.00 am

Readings for Next Weekend

Isaiah 50: 4-7

Ps 21:8-9, 17-20.23-24 R. v.2

Philippians 2:6-11

Mark 15:1-39



17th March 2024 ~ Fifth Sunday of Lent Year B

Focus on the Scriptures

"And I, if I am lifted up, will draw all to myself" Today's gospel tells us that among those who go up to Jerusalem to worship at the feast of Passover are some "Greeks". The reference is probably to a group known in the early church as "God-fearers", although that designation is found only in Luke's second volume, the Acts of the Apostles. These people were, in relation to Judaism, a bit like RCIA candidates in the Catholic tradition. They were certainly interested in Judaism and, because of their active interest in the Jewish faith, were possibly better informed about many of the Jewish traditions than those who had been members of the Jewish community all their lives. God-fearers seem to have been among the first Gentiles (non-Jews) to join the early Christian Jewish movement, i.e. the Jews who accepted Jesus as Messiah (or Christ).

For Jesus, the arrival of these God-fearing Greeks signals his "hour". Earlier in John's gospel, Jesus has insisted that his "hour" had not yet come. Now that his message receives global acknowledgement, or in the words of the Pharisees, now that "the world has gone after him" (John 20:19), he can announce that the hour of his glorification has come. Characteristically, Jesus uses a potent agricultural image to capture the transformative nature of his imminent death: like the grain of wheat, he must go into the earth and die in order to bear fruit. The same is true for his followers: to be concerned only with self-preservation is to "lose" one's life; to give one's life is to "keep it for eternal life".

Although the language is more explicit in John, the grain of wheat image echoes some aspects of the first reading from the prophet Jeremiah (31:31-34). Jeremiah presents the God of Israel as One who forgives and who is even prepared to forget the sins of the past. The people will be God's garden: the seed planted within them is God's Law. They will be God's own billboard: the law of forgiveness and mercy will be written in their hearts. John uses the "eternal life" metaphor in much the same way as the other gospel writers use the "reign of God" or "kin-dom" image. To keep one's life for "eternal life" has to do with living God's transformative vision for creation in the present so that it might one day be fully realised.

In John's gospel, Jesus' death is also his being lifted up in glory. The moment of his death becomes the moment of drawing "all" to himself. The "all" includes all people, but is not restricted to the human community. It also allows for an ecological interpretation: in his death and exaltation, Jesus gathers the whole Earth community into the mystery of God's redemptive and transforming love.

~ Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm: (R.) Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Gospel Acclamation: Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, my servant will also be. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Graeme Beaston, Sr Joan Dalgleish RSM, Brian Dooley

Anniversaries: We remember: Bernie Klein, Anne Cheesman, Annie Sullivan, John McNamara, Brian Troy, Connie Vincent

We pray: for all in areas of conflict, war and natural disasters, for those who are sick in our parish and all in need of our prayers.

Tea and Coffee after Mass every first Sunday of the month at St. Columba's Our next tea and coffee is on Sunday, the 7th of April, after mass. It also happens to be the last Sunday mass which Fr Marcello will celebrate with us as our Parish Priest. Please join us for a cuppa, a chat and a chance to wish Fr. Marcello all the best in his new ministry district (Daylesford, Creswick and OLHC Wendouree) and thank him for all his generous service to our St Columba's community.

Diocese of Ballarat 150th anniversary (1874 - 2024) At the 150th anniversary Mass of the Oils (11.30am Monday March 25th), each parish is invited to bring in the entrance procession a symbol or photo representing them. Without being too prescriptive a photo collage might be the most effective way to symbolise the Parish of Ballarat North and the Parish of Wendouree. Photos of celebrations such as weddings, first communions, confirmations are being sought from parishioners so that we might create the photo collage. Please contact either Parish office if you are able to assist in any way.

Funeral Mass for Sr Joan Dagleish rsm The Funeral Mass for Sr Joan Dagleish will be held on Monday, March 18, 2024 at St Alipius Church, Ballarat East at 10.30am. The funeral will be livestreamed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AhWByNDRhcM>

Ballarat Rural Australians for Refugees – Palm Sunday Rally and Walk for Justice and Peace With wars in so many countries Australia needs to offer compassionate protection to those who flee from war and persecution. All governments and citizens must protect human rights, protect civilians and seek to build peace. All are welcome to the Palm Sunday Rally and Walk for Justice and Peace on March 24, 2024 from 2.00pm – 3.30pm at the McDonald Bandstand, Lake Wendouree Foreshore, opposite the Floral clock in the Botanical Gardens, between Pipers and large playground. Further information is available from the Ballarat Rural Australians for Refugees facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/BallaratRAR/>

| St Columba's March 24th | Palm Sunday 10.00 am |
|---------------------------|--|
| LEADER OF SONG | Terry Ranger |
| COMMENTATOR | Tom Keogh |
| MINISTER /NARRATOR/READER | Tim O'Farrell/Anthea Hinchey/Bruce Chapman |
| COMMUNION MINISTER | Colleen Wakefield |
| DIGITAL PROJECTOR | Vicki Moroney |
| SACRISTAN | Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe |

Collections Last Weekend Columba's Thank you for your contributions.
 Presbytery: \$ 396.50 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 625.00

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.

Lent resources There are a number of Lent prayer resources available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/liturgy-sacraments/liturgy-resources/>

Easter Liturgies

Anointing Mass Wednesday 20th March Ballarat North 10.00 am
Reconciliation Tuesday 26th March Wendouree 7.00 pm

Holy Week Liturgies

Holy Thursday 28th March Ballarat North 7.00 pm
Good Friday 29th March "Way of the Cross" Waubra 10.00 am
Good Friday 29th March Wendouree 3.00 pm
Easter Vigil 30th March Wendouree 7.00 pm
Easter Sunday 31st March
 Lexton 8.30 am
 Ballarat North 10.00 am

Fair Trade Easter Campaign The Fair Trade Easter Campaign aims to contribute to the broader global Fair Trade movement by advocating for the purchasing, sales and consumption of ethically produced chocolate at Easter time. By buying cocoa beans that are certified Fair Trade, Rainforest Alliance or UTZ Certified, these chocolate producers ensure there is no forced labour or trafficked labour on cocoa plantations (check for logos like these on the packaging). Join millions of people around the world in an effort to make all chocolate slavery-free <https://acrath.org.au/fair-trade-chocolate-for-easter/>



Mass of the Oils livestream This year the Mass of the Oils will be livestreamed at <https://youtube.com/live/SdivlIKiHSs?feature=share>

"Walk, cycle or use public transport" Did you know? Choosing active transport like walking and cycling can not only dramatically reduce your carbon footprint, but you could end up saving money and staying fit at the same time! When walking or cycling is not an option, swapping the car for a bus or train can also make a significant dent in emissions.

Caritas AUSTRALIA Project Compassion Sunday March 9 & 10



Fifth Sunday of Lent: Partnerships in Action The work of Caritas Australia is only possible with generous supporters and the dedication, passion and tenacity of our local partners who implement the programs. They are the heroes on the ground working tirelessly behind-the-scenes every day to create a better future for their communities.



Please donate to Project Compassion Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow for all future generations. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting <https://www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion> or by calling 1800 024 413.

Photo: Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia

Download the weekly reflection by Michael McGirr from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/mission-and-outreach/project-compassion-2024/>

Pope's intention for March – for new martyrs: Let us pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world might imbue the Church with their courage and missionary drive. Lord, hear us.

Mary Ward for Saint Mary Ward supporters are seeking support for their cause for canonisation of the foundress of the Loreto Sisters (IBVM). To sign the petition go to their website: [Petition · Help our cause to have Mary Ward declared a Saint! · Change.org](https://www.maryward.org.au/petition)

East Timor Knitting After a successful effort last year, it would be nice to have additional people to knit little sets or crochet rugs. Donations of time, 8ply acrylic yarn or money to buy the yarn are welcome. Contact Lauren 0405277778 with donations or money or, alternatively, money can be put in an envelope marked East Timor Project and left on the collection plates.

| OLHC March 23rd | (next week) | Saturday 6.00pm |
|------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|
| LEADER OF SONG | | Paul Hogan |
| PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL | | Elly Green |
| MINISTER OF THE WORD | | Jennifer Adams & Laureen Rhodes |
| COMMUNION MINISTERS | | Bev Hayward & Val Bourke |
| SACRISTAN | | Geoff & Marg McLean |

Collections Last weekend OLHC Thank you for your contributions.
 Presbytery: \$ 279.75 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 250.00