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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.

"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.

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.



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*Interest rates subject to change. View current rates on the [CDF website](http://www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au).

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
Thursday 7.00 pm
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) 7.00 pm
Tuesday 3.30 pm (Funeral)
Friday 3.00 pm
Readings for Next Weekend
Acts of the Apostles 10: 34, 37-43
Ps 117:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 R. v.24
Colossians 3:1-4
Mark 16:1-7

24th March 2024 ~ Palm Sunday Year B

Focus on the Scriptures
Mark 11:1-10 Mark's account of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem is more restrained and less victorious in tone than the other gospel accounts. In keeping with Mark's gospel as a whole, it forms part of the relentless journey of Jesus the suffering Messiah towards Jerusalem, the place of his death. The longed-for liberation will come about in Jerusalem, through powerlessness, suffering and death rather than through the exercise of might and power.
Mark 14:1-15:47 The gospel account of the suffering and death of Jesus opens with the story of an insightful but unnamed woman who pours out healing ointment on the head of Jesus. We might reflect on the Eucharistic character of her actions of breaking and pouring and of Jesus' assurance that what she has done will be told in memory of her. She did "what she could". The story of her support for Jesus is sandwiched between two stories of opposition: an assassination plot on the part of the religious authorities, and the foreshadowing of Jesus' betrayal at the hands of a close follower. Status does not guarantee goodness or insight.
As the story unfolds, we hear that, despite his earlier instruction to "stay awake", Jesus' closest followers fall asleep when he most needs them. Worse than that, they betray, deny, and abandon him. Some Galilean women remain faithful. They have followed him and looked after him on the long journey from Galilee to Jerusalem. They become witnesses to his death and burial. These women will also discover the empty tomb and take the message of the resurrection to the male disciples. A foreign passer-by, Simon, whose sons are known to Mark's community, shoulders part of the burden. An ordinary Roman soldier realises and proclaims that Jesus is of God.
The story has come full circle: the first verse of the gospel announced the beginning of the good news of Jesus, the Christ and the Son of God. Now the reader understands what it means to make such a proclamation. The final chapter is to be celebrated next weekend. The mystery is to be lived every day of every week. As we enter into the holiest week of the liturgical year, we might consider our call to bring the power of Christ's redeeming love to those who suffer crucifixion in our own times: those enduring the ravages of war; the more-than-human Earth community affected by climate change; asylum seekers and refugees who look for justice.
For stories of hope in the face of despair, you may like to visit the Mercy Works website (mercyworks.org.au). It is all too easy to deny, betray, and abandon the suffering other. Like the woman who poured out the healing ointment on the head of Jesus, we also must do what we can.
~ Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm: (R.) My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?
Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! Christ became obedient for us even to death, dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Nola Jones
Anniversaries: We remember: Peter Reidy, Alice Westbrook, Basil Clark, Peter Molloy, Nell Molloy, Kaylene Jarvis, Bill Walsh, Julianne Spice, Adele Byrne
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. If anyone is happy to bring a small plate of something to share at our morning tea, that would be much appreciated. Thanks in advance.



Mass of the Oils 2024 & 150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat (1874 - 2024) All are welcome to attend the Mass of the Oils this year, which will incorporate acknowledgement of the 150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat. Mass will be held on Monday, March 25, 2024 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 11.30am. Light lunch and displays will follow in the Hall. The Mass will also be livestreamed at <https://youtube.com/live/Sdivl1KiHSs?feature=share>

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 to 3.30pm at the McDonald Bandstand, Lake Wendouree Foreshore, opposite the Floral clock in the Botanical Gardens, between Pipers and large playground. More information is available from the Ballarat Rural Australians for Refugees facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/BallaratRAR/>

St Columba's March 31st		Easter Sunday	10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG	To be confirmed		
COMMENTATOR	Maree Phelan		
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Fiona Newton		
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: \$ 395.05 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,215.00

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.

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

James Christopher Rowe son of Simon and Ann-Maree.

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

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

Holy Week and Easter Liturgies

Reconciliation Tuesday 26th March	Wendouree	7.00 pm
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/>



The Neil Street Choir Easter musical All invited to "This We Believe", on Sunday, March 24th at 9am, and Tuesday, March 26th, at 7.30pm, at York Street Church of Christ. Admission is free (a freewill offering will be received at the Tuesday evening performance to support the work of the choir) and there will be light refreshments available afterwards.



CARITAS Australia
Project Compassion 2024



As we near the end of Project Compassion 2024, Caritas want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to your parish community for the incredible support throughout this Lenten Season. Your commitment to making a positive impact has been truly inspiring, and we are deeply thankful for your collective efforts. We hope the inspiring stories of Ronita, Leaia and Memory have touched your hearts and



ignited a spirit of reflection on the incredible impact of your support. Please remember to return your Project Compassion boxes and envelopes to your Parish Office or donate online or through the QR code. If you donate online or through the QR code, remember to fill in your details and postcode so the Diocese of Ballarat giving total can be recognised.

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-help-our-cause-to-have-mary-ward-declared-a-saint-change.org)

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 Laureen 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 30th	(next week)	Easter Vigil	7.00 pm
LEADER OF SONG	Sue Searls & Corrie Harbour		
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL	Volunteer please		
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Volunteer please		
COMMUNION MINISTERS	Volunteer please		
SACRISTAN	Volunteer please		

Collections Last weekend OLHC Thank you for your contributions.
 Presbytery: \$ 503.35 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 660.00