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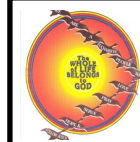
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*Interest rates subject to change. View current rates on the [CDF website](http://www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au).



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

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

Acts of the Apostles 4: 32-35

Ps 117:2-4, 15-18, 22-24 R. v.1

1 John 5:1-6

John 20:19-31



31st March 2024 ~ Easter Sunday Year B

Focus on the Scriptures

Resurrection faith as a commitment to life At the foot of Geboor (Mount Macedon), where I spent my whole childhood, stands the lovely Anglican Church of the Resurrection, built in the aftermath of the devastating 1983 Ash Wednesday bushfires. Members of both Catholic and Anglican communities had wanted to build one church for the two communities but the respective insurance policies determined otherwise: two churches replaced the two that were destroyed in the fires. The most striking feature of the Anglican Church is Leonard French's stained glass depiction of the resurrection experience of a devastated community, a statement of hope in the face of death and seeming hopelessness. Geboor has risen from the ashes and is once again a vibrant community. The Church of the Resurrection serves as a reminder of the community's faith and provides a context for "re-membering" events that united its members in unexpected ways. In a particularly graphic way, it brings the lower-key experience of the local community into dialogue with its upper-key Story of the death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth.

We take time at Easter to re-member, re-enact, and re-tell the originating stories of our tradition. We dramatise and celebrate in solemn ritual what we celebrate in lower key every Sunday of the year. In our faith inspired re-telling, all the power and grace of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth are made present to us and to our world. Resurrection faith is a commitment to life.

In Mark's resurrection account the place of death, the tomb, lies empty and the message of life is proclaimed. God's messenger sends the women who have witnessed the death and burial of Jesus to proclaim the news of his resurrection to the male disciples. Some interpret the silence of the women as failure; the male disciples have denied and abandoned Jesus and now the women fail to proclaim the news of the resurrection. Others see the women's silence as the appropriate stance before the wonder of God's power. The women's silence has particular resonance at a time when women are finding the courage to speak out against the abuse they have endured. Might the silence of the women in the gospel story be simply a first century male construct? The gospel narrative itself bears witness to a mission ultimately accomplished.

The global experience of war, of fire, of flood and of unequal access to planetary resources foregrounds the language of death and resurrection at this time. As we enter into the Easter mysteries, we carry with us the chaos of broken communities. We mourn the deaths of thousands of innocent people, we pray for order out of the chaos, we ask questions about the plight of the other-than-human community and we do all we can to ensure a real return to life for the bereaved, the struggling and the displaced. We join with those who are sharing their resources and re-ordering their way of being in the Earth community in order to make this happen.

~ Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm: (R.) This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Christ has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with joy in the Lord. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: all who have died recently

Anniversaries: We remember: Tony McDonald, Brendan Love, Bill Eddy, Eleanor Eddy, Monica Eddy

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) Thank you to all who attended and participated in the Mass of the Oils last Monday at St Patrick's Cathedral, either in person or online via the livestream. The representation from parishes, schools and agencies of the diocese in the choir, procession of parish symbols, procession of the oils, collection of the parish oils and various other ministries, made this a truly diocesan celebration. Special thanks to those who travelled considerable distance to attend the Mass. A report, photos and the livestream link from the Mass are available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/mass-of-the-oils-2024/> During the procession of symbols, we presented our St Columba's album which was compiled by Margaret Ranger several years ago. We'd like to thank Margaret once more for the album that is a precious keepsake for our parish community.

Equipped for Mission: Answering the call to 'Go Make Disciples' Get ready to ignite your passion and unlock your potential! Join us for the Divine Renovation Equipped for Mission: Answering the call to 'Go Make Disciples' event, where we will empower you to make a real difference in your parish. Saturday, April 13, 2024 from 9.15am - 4.30pm at Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, 496 Nepean Highway, Narre Warren. Register to attend at <https://brushfire.com/divinerenovationministry-au/EquippingForMission/572688>

St Columba's April 7th	(next week) Sunday 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG	Terry Ranger
COMMENTATOR	Bruce Chapman
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Geraldine Mugavin
COMMUNION MINISTER	Bruce Chapman
DIGITAL PROJECTOR	Fiona Newton
SACRISTAN	Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe

Collections Last Weekend Columba's Thank you for your contributions.
 Presbytery: \$ 456.55 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,115.00

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 Easter with a Special Anniversary This Easter, our diocese will be marking a special anniversary. It was on March 30, 1874, that Pope Pius the Ninth issued a decree establishing the Diocese of Ballarat. So, when we gather for the Easter Vigil on March 30 this year, it will be 150 years to the day since our diocese began.

The official description of a diocese focuses on the people who make up the diocesan community. The Code of Canon Law describes a diocese as "a portion of the people of God, which is entrusted to the care of a bishop" (Canon 369). So, when the number of people increases, there comes a time when a new bishop is appointed to care for that community. This is what happened in 1874 with the start of the Diocese of Ballarat. The population in the Colony of Victoria had grown so much that there were too many people for the Bishop of Melbourne to care for, so the Pope appointed two new bishops, one in Ballarat and one in Sandhurst (Bendigo), with responsibility to care for the communities of those regions.

Pope Pius the Ninth wrote as "the successor of Saint Peter to whom the Eternal Pastor gave the care of his flock". This is how he explained the setting up of the new dioceses.

"Lest spiritual helps become lacking to the flock of believers, we are accustomed to increase the number of bishops for their assistance and convenience when we learn that the number of the flock has increased. Since by now the size of the territory of the Church of Melbourne in the Australian Colony of Victoria and the number of the faithful living there are such that, in the opinion of the bishops of Australia and especially of the Bishop of Melbourne himself, it is too difficult for one bishop to exercise care for that part of the Lord's flock, it seems to us that for the spiritual good and convenience of the faithful we should erect two new dioceses in the aforesaid territory. Wherefore, after we have considered maturely all the circumstances of this matter, and after we have heard the advice of our beloved brothers in the Congregation of the Propagation of the Faith, we, by our apostolic authority and by the force of these letters, erect and constitute in the territory of the Church of Melbourne in the Australian Colony of Victoria two new dioceses, one in the city of Sandhurst and one in the city of Ballarat."

The Pope's decree described the boundaries of the new dioceses. The Diocese of Ballarat would include the western region of Victoria. "For the Diocese of Ballarat, we define as the boundaries the 144th degree of longitude as far as the sea and the Murray River, and that boundary which separates Victoria from the Diocese of Adelaide, or from the Colony of South Australia, in such a way that the same Murray River will be the northern boundary and the sea will be the southern boundary." One hundred and fifty years later, we continue to echo the Pope's words in describing our diocese today. Our diocesan vision statement begins with the words, "We are a community of communities from the Murray to the sea." The 150th anniversary will occur on March 30, which in 2024 happens to be Holy Saturday. This means that we will be able to mark the anniversary as we celebrate the Easter Vigil. Each time we light our tapers from the Easter candle, we give thanks that Jesus is risen and is with us as we gather in his name. When we celebrate the Easter Vigil this year, we might well remember that the risen Jesus has been with us as a diocesan community for the past 150 years. He has been with us through the joys and struggles of these years and he promises to remain with us always.

Bishop Paul
Paul Bird CSsR
 Bishop of the Diocese of Ballarat



Happy Easter and Thank You!



Thank you for your continued support through Project Compassion. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow, for all future generations. Thank you for supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion 2024 Lenten appeal. Please remember to return your Project Compassion Boxes and envelopes to your Parish Office or donate online by visiting www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413 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.

Made for Mission: Raising Leaders How do you raise up an army of leaders that can unleash change in your parish? It might be one of the most daunting questions to ask in parish renewal. Divine Renovation, Alpha Australia and Holy Trinity Catholic Parish invite you to a transformative experience designed to inspire, connect and equip parish leaders with the insights and tools needed to ignite parish renewal, by diving into the crucial area of raising up leaders in your parish. This session will be held on Thursday, April 11, 2024 from 6.00pm - 9.00pm at Holy Trinity Catholic Parish, 62A Everingham Road, Altona Meadows. Register to attend at <https://brushfire.com/divinerenovationministry-au/drausmadeformissionraisingleaders/572284/details>

OLHC April 6th	(next week) Saturday 6.00 pm
LEADER OF SONG	Corrie Harbour
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL	Margaret White
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Pauline Newman & Val Bourke
COMMUNION MINISTERS	Harry Kennedy & Trish Lawson
SACRISTAN	John & Sue Calistro

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 Presbytery: \$ 418.00 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 357.30