

Please support our loyal advertisers



**ACDF Funeral Fund**  
Catholic Development Fund  
Prepaid Funerals  
Eliminate family stress  
Details: 5337 7111



**Ed Browne**  
Busy Bookkeeping  
Phone 5364 2922  
ballarat@busybookkeeping.com.au



**PPT**  
PROWSE PERRIN & TWOMEY  
20 Lydiard Street Sth,  
Ballarat  
Ph: (03) 5331 3711  
www.ppt.com.au



**Pat Cashin Funerals**  
Ballarat  
A.B.N. 28 007 228 757  
Address: 1114 Doveton  
Street North, Ballarat, 3350  
Phone: (03) 5333 3911  
All hours. Moderate cost



**BALLARAT MEAT COMPANY**  
11 Neerim Crescent,  
Wendouree Industrial Park  
Ph: 5339 3122  
Open Direct to the Public  
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

**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, March 7, 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](mailto: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](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) (select Parish)



**Office:** 306 Gregory St, Ballarat Nth **Phone:** 5331 1012  
**Email:** [ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

**Office:** 480a Gillies Street, Wendouree **Phone:** 5339 2302

**Email:** [wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto: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 No Mass

**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 No Mass

Friday No Mass

**Readings for Next Weekend**

2 Chronicles 36: 14-16, 19-23

Psalm 136. R. v.6

Ephesians 2:4-10

John 3:14-21



**3rd March 2024 ~ Third Sunday of Lent Year B**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

Today's gospel passage foreshadows the death of Jesus. As a devout Jew, Jesus goes up to Jerusalem at Passover. His final going-up will be the occasion of his death and resurrection. The Jerusalem Temple, Judaism's most holy place, is the site of a dramatic incident, an event that is recounted in all four gospels. The Synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) locate it towards the end of the gospel. They present it as a catalyst for the intensification of hostility between the temple authorities and Jesus. John's gospel, in contrast, places it at the beginning of Jesus' ministry. The tension between Jesus and the temple authorities that is to culminate in his death in all four gospels is thus present from the outset in John.

Jesus acts decisively, even violently, to draw attention to the primary function of God's "house". He creates an effective weapon, a whip of cords, and comprehensively clears the temple precinct of merchants, sheep, and cattle. He overturns the tables of the money-changers, orders the dove-sellers out and tells them all, in words that evoke the prophecy of Zechariah (14:21), to stop making God's house "a market-place". Zechariah had declared that, in the end times, there would no longer be traders in God's house. There was legitimate commercial activity associated with temple worship, such as the purchase of animals and doves for sacrifice, a practice we might now critique, and the changing of money to pay the Temple tax. The traders seem to have forgotten that this activity was a means to an end and not an end in itself.

In John's account, the disciples understand" partially: they interpret Jesus' actions in the light of Psalm 69:9: "It is zeal for your house that has consumed me". The Jews" request a "sign ... for doing this". In other words, they ask Jesus to demonstrate the source of his authority for his actions. His response is a challenge: "Destroy this temple, and in three days, I will raise it up". "The Jews" misunderstand. This provides Jesus with the opportunity to play on the word "temple": the temple is not only a material edifice that took forty-six years to build. It is also, metaphorically, his body that will be destroyed and raised up "in three days". The narrator provides the explanation and indicates that the disciples will eventually understand and come to belief. It is important to note that John writes with the wisdom of hindsight. It is also important to note that the designation "the Jews" is neither a reference to the people of Judaea nor to the dispersed Jewish people. In John's gospel, it refers to those who reject Jesus as the Anointed One of God, the Christ. As we travel the journey to Jerusalem this Lent, we are invited to keep everything in balance, and to remember that God, and not the opponents of Jesus, will have the final word in this drama.

~ Veronica Lawson RSM

**Responsorial Psalm: (R.)** Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

**Recently Deceased: We commend to God:** Teresa Fitzgerald

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Mary Kelly, Paul Rhodes, Simon Scarff, James Petrie, Stephanie Carswell, Michael Mahar, Carmel Molloy

**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.

**Mercy Connect- A call for volunteers in the Ballarat Diocese** The Mercy Connect Program (part of Mercy Works) recruits, trains and supports volunteer mentors/tutors to assist students of refugee and asylum seeking backgrounds. Volunteers work under the supervision of teachers during school terms with ongoing training and support. For details please contact Clare Bennett or Kath Cooney 0415 246640 or email [katherine.cooney@mercyworks.org.au](mailto:katherine.cooney@mercyworks.org.au)

**Mass of the Oils 2024 & 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat**

The Mass of the Oils this year will incorporate acknowledgement of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat and will be held on Monday, March 25, 2024 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 11.30am (please note change of time). Lunch and displays will follow in the Hall. At the Mass we are inviting 1 – 2 volunteers from each parish to present a symbol or photo that best represents their parish. Many parishes have multiple communities, so the symbol or photo can represent the whole parish or it can be something from the different communities. The symbol/photo framed should be 5in x 7in (12cm x 17.5cm) or for the larger parishes who may need more room, up to 8in x 10in (20cm x 25cm) size framed.

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

**East Timor Knitting** After a successful effort last year, it would be nice to have some additional people to knit the little sets or crochet the rugs. Donations of time, 8ply acrylic yarn or money to buy the yarn (if you don't knit or crochet) 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 at OLHC or St Columba's Church.

**Sew and So** Thursday, 14th March 2024, at 1.30pm, St Columba's Church Foyer. All welcome. Enquiries Margaret 53314032

St Columba's March 10th		Sunday 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG		Terry Ranger
COMMENTATOR		Anthea Hinchey
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Tom Keogh
COMMUNION MINISTER		Bruce Chapman
DIGITAL PROJECTOR		Kathleen Keogh
SACRISTAN		Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe

**Collections Last Weekend Columba's** Thank you for your contributions.  
 Presbytery: \$ 411.95 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,050.00

**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.*

**Appointments to Parishes**

Hello Everyone,

On December 6, following discussions with priests and parishioners, I announced that we would have four ministry districts in the Ballarat region. After further consultations, I am now able to make appointments of priests to serve in these groups of parishes. The following appointments will take effect on April 10, 2024.

Ballarat Cathedral Parish, **Ballarat North Parish** and Beaufort Parish  
 Administrator: **Fr Edward Moloney**  
 Assistant Priests: **Fr James McKay, Fr Francis Kureeckal MST**

Ballarat East Parish, Bungaree Parish and Gordon Parish  
 Parish Priest: Fr Justin Driscoll  
 Assistant Priest: Fr Matthew Restall

Redan Parish, Sebastopol Parish and Linton Parish  
 Parish Priest: Fr Concord Bagaoisan OSJ  
 Assistant Priest: Fr Eladio Lizada OSJ

Wendouree Parish, Creswick Parish and Daylesford Parish  
 Parish Priest: **Fr Marcello Colasante**

In view of Fr Matthew Restall's appointment to the Ballarat East, Bungaree and Gordon Parishes, I have appointed Fr Sajan Mathew as Assistant Priest in the Paul VI Parish in the Wimmera-Mallee. The priests who are currently serving in these parishes will continue in their current appointments until April 10, when the new appointments will take effect. I hope this advance planning will be helpful in allowing time to prepare for the transition to the new arrangements. I thank everyone who has been involved in the consultations over the past few months. I thank the priests for their readiness to serve in the various parish communities.

God bless you all.

Bishop Paul



**Paul Bird CSsR**  
 Bishop of the Diocese of Ballarat

**Caritas AUSTRALIA** Project Compassion Sunday 2 & 3 March



**Third Sunday of Lent: Meet Leaila** Not having access to a reliable source of clean water was very difficult for Leaila and her family. But with the support of Caritas Australia, a water tank was installed at their home, improving their health and living conditions.



**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/>

**International Women's Day – March 8, 2024** The theme for International Women's Day 2024 is "Count Her In: Invest in Women. Accelerate Progress." Based on the priority theme for the United Nations 68th Commission on the Status of Women, "Count Her In" will examine the pathways to greater economic inclusion for women and girls everywhere.

**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.change.org/p/petition-help-our-cause-to-have-mary-ward-declared-a-saint)

OLHC March 9th	(next week)	Saturday 6.00pm
LEADER OF SONG		Corrie Harbour
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Kath Leonard
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Trish Lawson & Harry Kennedy
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Helen Rieniets & Christine Richardson
SACRISTAN		Lyn Gray & Michael Rieniets

**Collections Last weekend OLHC** Thank you for your contributions.  
 Presbytery: \$ 317.85 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 370.00