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**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) or [ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto: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.

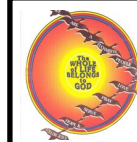
**Aboriginal Stations of the Cross available for purchase**

Within the chapel of Aboriginal Catholic Ministry in Thornbury, in Melbourne's inner north, a set of Indigenous Stations of the Cross are on display, which were created by artist 'John Dunn', a member of the Stolen Generations. These Stations are an exploration of his own journey and they illustrate beautifully how Aboriginal people resonate with the sufferings of Jesus. 10cm x 16cm resource sets are available for parishes, churches and school communities at \$15.00 each. For more information go to <https://art.catholic.org.au/2021/07/13/aboriginal-stations-of-the-cross/>

**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](http://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 11.00 am (Kelaston)  
Friday 10.00 am

**Readings for Next Weekend**

Wisdom: 12:13, 16-19  
Ps: 85: 5-6, 9-10, 15-16  
R.v.5  
Rom 8: 26- 27  
Mt 13: 24-43



**16th July 2023 ~ 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

During the recent pandemic, we necessarily distanced ourselves from others. Some of us focussed on the natural world so that our sensitivities sharpened and our planetary awareness heightened. We became more attuned to the complexity of nature and its rhythms. We observed the diverse feeding habits of the birds in the back yard, for instance, and their communication patterns. There was new and renewed interest in gardening, in the growing of vegetables and fruit in pots or in built-up garden beds. Such changes in lifestyle conditioned us to use our eyes to see and our ears to listen, as today's gospel invites us to do. Jesus' directive, "let anyone with ears listen", is a reminder that we do have ears and that we do not always hear, that we do have eyes and do not always see. Ann Lewin's words come to mind: "Seeing or not seeing cease to matter. You have been prepared. But when you've almost stopped Expecting it, a flash of brightness Gives encouragement" (Prayer is Like Watching for the Kingfisher, 2011).

To what sort of being, of looking and listening does today's gospel call us? The parable of the soil, of the seed, of the birds and the thorns, of the sun and the sower alerts us to Jesus' deep sense of connection with life in its multiple forms. It calls us to examine our connection with the natural world. For a long time, we have focussed on the human character in the parable, a character who evokes an agricultural world that is far removed from our post-industrial world, but not so far removed from the world of millions of people in our planetary home who live close to the soil and to earth's elements and who struggle to produce the food they need to stay alive. Is the Matthean Jesus presenting in the sower an image of an estate owner, or a tenant farmer or even a slave? Or is the reader being asked to imagine the sower, whether estate owner, tenant farmer or slave, as an image of an extraordinarily generous God whose life-sustaining gifts are there for all, no matter their readiness to receive? It may not be one or the other but both

What of the silty clay loam or red sandy soil, of the wheat or barley seed, of the birds and the thorns and the sun? We know that barley was domesticated some ten thousand years ago in what became bible lands and that these lands are also the original home of the finest bread-making wheat. The birds and the thorns and the sun are for another reflection. We bring our experience of looking and listening and being into dialogue with the parable and search out its meaning for us. We trust that God will ensure an abundant harvest if we but learn to look and to listen to the needs of a planet in peril.

- Veronica Lawson RSM

**Responsorial Psalm:(R.)** The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live for ever. Alleluia!

**Recently Deceased: We commend to God:** Mary Moran

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Ron Rix, Linda Gregory, Maurie Murphy, Veronica Flynn, Marj Murtagh

**We pray:** for those in need, all who are sick, and for the people of Ukraine, Turkey and Syria.

**St Vincent Pallotti Scholarship Trust** The St Vincent Pallotti Scholarship Trust offers scholarships to enable lay people to further their understanding and skills in leadership/ministry or a specialised activity, such as promoting faith enhancement, social justice and pastoral care. For more information and application forms, please visit : [pallottine.org.au/svpscholarship](http://pallottine.org.au/svpscholarship) Closing Date: 4 August 2023.

**The Good Oil 2023 Writers' Award** Entries are invited for The Good Oil 2023 Writers' Award, an initiative of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan. The theme for this year's award is "Finding My Voice". Entry is free and open to both emerging and published writers. For more information go to <https://www.goodsams.org.au/article/the-good-oil-2023-writers-award-finding-my-voice>

**In the footsteps of Mary MacKillop Pilgrimage: October 17-28, 2023** This unique Australian Pilgrimage will take you on a journey to places associated with Mary MacKillop's life and ministry in Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales. The pilgrimage is operated by the Sisters of Saint Joseph and Mary MacKillop Place. It will be led by Sr Anne Bond rsj, a Sister from the Sisters of Saint Joseph, and Mr Garry McLean, the inaugural Director of the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre. The pilgrimage will begin in East Melbourne on October 17 and conclude at Mary MacKillop Place in North Sydney on October 28. Along the way pilgrims will visit historic sites and towns including Portland, Penola, Robe and the Mary MacKillop Chapel in North Sydney. To register, please visit: <https://www.marymackillopplace.org.au/retreats-spirituality/australian-national-pilgrimage/>

**Catherine O'Connor Memorial Mass** A Memorial Mass for Catherine O'Connor (Kelly), who died at Willangie on July 27, 1923, will be offered at the Woomelang Cemetery on Saturday, July 22, 2023 followed by lunch at the Woomelang Memorial Hall. Descendants, other O'Connor and Kelly relatives, friends of the families and anyone who wishes to commemorate her life are welcome to attend. For further information please contact [aldous.julie.a@gmail.com](mailto:aldous.julie.a@gmail.com)

St Columba's 23rd July	(next week)	Sun 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG		Terry Ranger
COMMENTATOR		Judy Brown
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Tom Keogh
COMMUNION MINISTER		Colleen Wakefield
DIGITAL PROJECTOR		Kathleen Keogh
SACRISTAN		Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe

**Collections Last Weekend St Columba's** Thank you for your contributions  
 Presbytery: \$ 364.10 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 790.00

*In the spirit of reconciliation, the Parishes of St. Columba's and Our Lady Help of Christians acknowledge that the Aboriginal people of Australia are our first nation people and the traditional owners and custodians of the land.*

**Catholic Social Services Webinar Series - Indigenous Voice to Parliament: Moments for healing this country** Catholic Social Services Victoria(CSSV) and Catholic Social Services Australia(CSSA) are pleased to invite you to a series of webinars to discuss the upcoming referendum on Constitutional Recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and the Voice to Parliament on Thursday, July 27 from 4.00pm - 5.00pm (AEST) via zoom. Cost is \$12.00. CSSV and CSSA members free of charge. Register <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1052799?eid=1052799&> Enquiries to Kate Stilwell. Email [office@css.org.au](mailto:office@css.org.au)

**Indigenous Voice to Parliament** NATSICC, with the help of Jesuit Social Services, have developed a kitchen table conversation (KTC) guide to assist people - in parishes, families, groups of friends, teams/workplaces or volunteer groups - to reflectively consider the question the referendum will put to us. The 'KTC' Guide can be found at <https://indigenusvoice.church/>, which CSSV and Caritas Australia supported NATSICC to put together. The website also features a range of other resources, prayers and videos for consideration as part of our "One Journey, Together" project.

**Praying with Pope Francis** The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) is an international movement that is more than 170 years old. **Pope's intention for July – For a Eucharistic Life:** We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters. Lord, hear us.

**Catholic Mission Timor-Leste Adult Immersion** Catholic Mission invites you to learn more about the grassroots projects supported by Catholic Mission in Timor-Leste from November 4-12, 2023. This immersion will give you the opportunity to see the world through a different lens, you will witness the life-changing work taking place at the St Maria Mazzarello vocational School and the Maria Auxiliadora Medical Clinic in Venilale. Be prepared to come home changed and challenged. Cost is \$3990.00 per person (ex. Darwin to Dili, Timor-Leste). Register your interest at <https://www.catholicmission.org.au/get-involved/immersions>

**Parish of Saints Anne and Joachim, Sunraysia** Bishop Paul Bird CSsR decreed the establishment of a new parish in the diocese on July 1, 2023 – the Parish of Saints Anne and Joachim, Sunraysia. The newly established parish will comprise the territory that belonged to the parishes of Merbein(est.1965), Mildura(est.1906) and Red Cliffs(est.1953). More information available from the diocesan website.

**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, 3rd August 2023.** You may attend either the 10.00 am or the 5.30 pm session.

**World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly: Sunday, July 23, 2023** "His mercy is from age to age" (Lk1:50) is the theme chosen by the Holy Father for the third World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. The Day is marked near the Feast of Sts Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus. Parishes, schools, agencies, aged care facilities and other ministries are encouraged to find creative ways to celebrate the contribution of older people to their families and communities. Resources to celebrate this day are available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/world-day-for-grandparents-and-the-elderly-sunday-july-23-2023/>

**St Patrick's Cathedral Choral and Organ Scholarships** St Patrick's Cathedral is establishing Choral and Organ Scholarships. The program will provide an opportunity for children with an aptitude and interest in music to sing regularly at Cathedral Masses. The children will receive annual scholarship payments towards their general education in return for their participation in the Cathedral Choir. They will benefit from vocal and musical tuition, and develop skills in teamwork, time-management, professionalism and discipline. Children in Grades 3-6 are welcome to audition for the choir, which will have a gender balance. The safety of the children will be of the highest priority, following the *Safeguarding Children, Young People and at Risk Adults* policies - <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/professional-standards-2-professional-standards/professional-standards/>.

**St Patrick's Cathedral Choral Scholarships Information Session** An information session will be held at 7pm on Thursday, 3rd of August in the MacKillop/Glowrey room at Saint Patrick's Cathedral Hall, 3 Lyons St South, Ballarat. Copies of the Choir Handbook, Audition Form or further information can be obtained by contacting the Choir Director, Mr Vincent Sully, on 0407 310 115 or [vincenzo101923@gmail.com](mailto:vincenzo101923@gmail.com).

OLHC 22nd July	(next week)	Saturday 6.00pm
LEADER OF SONG		Vin Dillon
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Lyn Gray
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Pauline Newman & Darryl Clark
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Helen Rieniets & Frank Hogan
SACRISTAN		John & Sue Calistro

**Collections Last Weekend** Thank you for your contributions  
 Presbytery: \$ 236.60 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 2,016.90