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127 Gillies Street Sth BALLARAT
PH: 5334 2700
55 Albert Street SEBASTOPOL
PH: 5335 9023

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 or ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au

COVID Safe Plan

- If you are feeling unwell or have any symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough or sore throat) please do not attend Mass.
- You no longer need to preregister for Masses. Please ensure you arrive 10 minutes before Mass to register your attendance.
- Contact tracing is required for all Masses. Please use the QR code on the door or sign the register in the foyer (please add your phone number if you are a visitor).
- Ensure that you maintain appropriate physical distancing at all times (1.5 metres).
- A face mask is optional whilst visiting the Church (you should carry it with you as per State Government guidelines)
- Please use the hand sanitiser available upon entering the Church.
- Please do not touch any surfaces unnecessarily.
- Once Mass has concluded, please leave the Church immediately afterwards to allow for cleaning of all surfaces.

We appreciate your assistance. In helping stop the spread of the virus.



St Columba's
Parish QR Code



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 or
ballaratnorthpastoral@ballarat.catholic.org.au
School Co-Principals: Bambi Afford & Shaun Mohr
School Phone: 5332 4894

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

Parish Priest:

Fr Marcello Colasante

Staffing

St Columba's

Pastoral Associate:
Judith O'Sullivan

Wed-Friday 9:00am –1:00pm

Our 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

Saturday 5.00 pm
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

Sunday 10:00 am
Thursday 10:00 am
Friday 10:00 am

Readings for Next Weekend:

Ex 16:2-4. 12-15
Ps 77:3-4. 23-25. 54. R. v.24
Eph 4:17, 20-24
Jn 6:24-35



Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Fr. Robert Stickland

Anniversaries: We remember: Marie McKenna, Frank O'Connor, Alan Rix, Nix, Nick Morcom, Bill & Mena Heagney, Marj & Jim Murtagh

We pray: Those in need of our prayers; all the sick in our Parishes especially Fr Alex Lim, Dan Coutts, Jan Mullaly and Pat Hogan. Children preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and our RCIA candidates

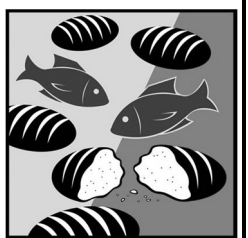
25th July 2021 ~ 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

Focus on the Scriptures

In the readings for Ordinary Time, we take a break from the sequence of readings from the Gospel of Mark for a few weeks and this week's reading begins a diversion into chapter 6 of the Gospel of John. The whole of John 6 is an extended discourse that explores the image of Jesus as the Bread of Life. The chapter and the discourse begin with this week's miraculous feeding of the multitude. As this event occurs in each of the four gospels there is a compelling argument that there is some basis in fact or, at the very least, that the metaphoric image of Jesus feeding a crowd was an enduring one in Christian communities.

Jesus is described as testing the disciples, asking them where they might be able to purchase bread for the crowd. Phillip is overwhelmed at the thought of spending a fortune on enough bread for more than 5,000 people. A small boy nearby had a few loaves of bread and a couple of fish. Jesus took the bread and fish, gave thanks and then had the disciples begin to distribute the food. When everyone had eaten their fill, the disciples collected twelve hampers of leftovers. Some commentators suggest that the twelve baskets represent the twelve tribes of Israel – indicating that the message of Jesus will be enough to feed and sustain the whole of Israel. Having witnessed this miracle the people have a sudden insight into who they think Jesus might be – the promised Messiah come to free them from their Roman oppressors. Wary of the crowd's mistaken understanding of what the Messiah is to be, Jesus literally heads for the hills to avoid being made a political figurehead for the people.

© Greg Sunter



Responsorial Psalm: (R.) The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people. Alleluia!

Confirmation at OLHC. Due to the new LOCKDOWN in Victoria, Confirmation has been **postponed** until further notice. Please keep these candidates in your thoughts and prayers.

Vinnies launches 2021 Winter Appeal to support homelessness As

Vinnies responds to a growing demand for services following the end of Job Keeper and cuts to Job Seeker, the National Council of St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia is calling for donations to help support the rising number of people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, including children, which have all been exacerbated by the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Society provides vital services and support for individuals and families facing financial hardship. With generous support from the public, Vinnies aims to maintain the dignity of those on the edge and restore hope to people who have fallen on hard times. To donate go to <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/winter-appeal> Donations can be left at the Parish Offices during office hours.



Bishop's Visit to St Columba's on 6th & 7th August Bishop Paul will visit the Parish. He will meet with various groups within the Parish, visit a few home bound parishioners and celebrate Mass on Saturday evening. If you would like a visit or to meet with Bishop Paul please contact the office. More details to follow.

PRAYER FOR THE FIRST WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY 25th July 2021

I thank You, Lord, for the comfort of Your presence:
 even in times of loneliness, You are my hope and my confidence,
 You have been my rock and my fortress since my youth!
 I thank You for having given me a family and for having blessed me with a long life. I thank You for moments of joy and difficulty,
 for the dreams that have already come true in my life and for those that are still ahead of me.
 I thank You for this time of renewed fruitfulness to which You call me.
 Increase, O Lord, my faith, make me a channel of your peace,
 teach me to embrace those who suffer more than me, to never stop dreaming and to tell of your wonders to new generations.
 Protect and guide Pope Francis and the Church, that the light of the Gospel might reach the ends of the earth. Send Your Spirit, O Lord, to renew the world, that the storm of the pandemic might be calmed, the poor consoled and wars ended. Sustain me in weakness and help me to live life to the full in each moment that You give me, in the certainty that you are with me every day, even until the end of the age.
 Amen.

Collections at St Columba's We thank you for your generous support

Presbytery: \$ Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 875.00

St Columba's 31st July	(next week)	Sat 5pm
REGISTRATION		Judith
SACRISTAN		Volunteer
COMMENTATOR		Colleen Wakefield
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Ann Lacey
COMMUNION MINISTER		Peter Marquand
OVERHEADS		Bruce Chapman

Praying with Pope Francis The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) is an international movement that is more than 170 years old. Each month, the Pope puts forward a prayer intention and asks Catholics around the world to join him in prayer. These intentions cover all sorts of areas of life, encouraging faith, renewing hope and calling us to loving service. Praying each month 'The Pope Video' forms part of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network – view at www.thepopevideo.org. Pope's intention for July: July universal intention – social friendship: We pray that, in social, economic and political situations of conflict, we may be courageous and passionate architects of dialogue and friendship.

Plenary Council Prayer Campaign Fan the Flame: Towards Plenary Assembly One October 2021 "Do not be afraid; only have faith." Mark 5:21-24,35-43.

While being conscious of the work to be done, we also have much to be thankful for. There are many signs of hope in that members of the faithful persevere with the practice of the faith... and are living their commitment to love of neighbour in myriad ways. (Instrumentum Laboris #193) www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fantheblade/



CTC - Ethical Issues and Human Ageing studies Catholic Theological College is offering a course on "Ethical Issues and Human Ageing" over six Saturdays 31 July; 7 and 28 August; 11 September; 9 and 23 October from 10.00am – 12.00pm and then 2.00pm to 4.00pm. The course can be taken for personal enrichments or credit towards a post-graduate award. For more information go to <https://units.divinity.edu.au/scheduled-unit/DT9633C-3770> or email registrar@ctc.edu.au

Social Justice Sunday We celebrate Social Justice Sunday on the 29th of August. The Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement, *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*, invites us to join in responding to Pope Francis' invitation to take a seven-year journey towards total ecological sustainability guided by seven Laudato Si' Goals. The Statement provides theological foundations to ground and inspire our efforts to care for creation while responding to the needs of the disadvantaged and excluded. More information: ACBC Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace, Tel (02) 6201 9845 or www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au

CSSV Mission Inspired Leadership Program 2021 The Mission Inspired Leadership program is a professional development opportunity for senior leaders (Board members, CEOs, senior/executive managers and emerging leaders) in the Catholic social services sector and other affiliated organisations within health and education. It is designed for busy people so it is set up as four 1.5 hour workshops over four months. A mix of practical knowledge, conceptual challenge, and reflective practice, the program is a chance to spend a few hours hearing from experienced, relevant and highly skilled facilitators. It is a space to consider, share and encourage each other in the mission that all our organisations are a part of. This year each of these sessions will be run online via zoom, with an additional face-to-face 'cocktail' networking event in Melbourne for local participants in late November. Further information and sign up can be had here: <https://css.org.au/events/mil2021/>



Australian Catholic Men's Gathering 2021 As an initiative of the Australian Catholic Bishops, the National Catholic Men's Gathering aims to inspire and encourage all men with a vision for personal discipleship, service and mission in the family, parish/diocese and the world. The online program hopes to reinforce that it is important to gather as men in the faith environment of the Church and be challenged to ensure the Gospel is alive in our homes, parishes/dioceses and our communities. In this Year of St Joseph, the National Catholic Men's Gathering is again being offered as a free event for registered participants. The 2021 program will focus on St Joseph and will include a pre-recorded introductory session, three pre-recorded sessions and a final commissioning, all available from Saturday, July 31, 2021. To read about this year's speakers go to <https://www.nce.catholic.org.au/catholicmen>

"Mission: one heart many voices" Virtual Conference Inspired by Jesus, this conference will focus on themes of encounter on the margins, inclusion, governance and synodality and challenge you to consider contemporary Mission in light of Pope Francis' teaching, witness and vision of liminal leadership in mission. The Conference is from September 1-3, 2021 and is being convened by Catholic Religious Australia in conjunction with Catholic Mission. Perhaps your parish may wish to host a forum and invite members of your community to attend and share this experience together. An opportunity not to be missed. Check it out at <https://2021.mohmv.com.au/>. Discount registrations prior to 1st August

Expressions of Interest are being sort for membership of the Diocesan Finance Council, the Committee of Management of the Catholic Development Fund and the Board of the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat Foundation Ballarat's Diocesan Finance Council, the Committee of Management of the Catholic Development Fund, and the Board of the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat Foundation are seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified people (women and men) to join the advisory council, the advisory committee as well as the Foundation's Board. We are seeking persons from across the Diocese who have experience in one or more of the following areas: Corporate Governance; Finance, Banking; Legal; and Philanthropy. Successful candidates will demonstrate a genuine commitment to the ethos and values of the Catholic Church, and possess personal qualities of integrity, collaborative approach, sound judgement, and excellent communication skills. More information is available at the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/expressions-of-interest-are-being-sort-for-membership-of-the-diocesan-finance-council-the-committee-of-management-of-the-catholic-development-fund-and-the-board-of-the-catholic-diocese-of-ballarat-f/> or contact Andrew Jirik, Diocesan Business Manager, ph. 5337 7126.

Collections at OLHC We thank you for your generous support

Presbytery: \$ Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 130.00

OLHC 1st August	(next week)	Sunday 10am
LEADER OF SONG		Corrie Harbour
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Volunteer please
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD		Ena Bruty
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Robyn Clark & Frank Hogan
SACRISTAN & REGISTRATION		Geoff & Marg McLean