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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 or 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.

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...**

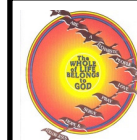
Let us ask the Lord to grant that the country may grow in the spirit of brotherhood, and that all hurts, fears and divisions will be overcome. We have spoken about the Holocaust. But let us think too that [in Ukraine] millions of people were killed [1932-1933]. They are a people who have suffered; they 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.

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 (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)

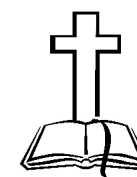
St Columba's
Sunday 10.00 am
Wednesday 10.00 am

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 10.00 am
Friday 10.00 am

Readings for Next Weekend

Ezekiel 18 25-28
Ps 24: 4-9 R.v.6
Philippians 2: 1-11
Matthew 21: 28-32



24th September 2023 ~ 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Focus on the Scriptures

From 1973 to 1975, I was a student at the Ecole Biblique et Archéologique Française in East Jerusalem. Until women were admitted as resident students there in 1974, I lived at the Chaldean Patriarchate. Early each morning, I would cross the road from the Patriarchate and greet the Palestinian day labourers lined up beside their vehicles, waiting for employment in the vacant lot that divided Israeli from occupied Palestinian territory. In the wake of the Yom Kippur War, these workers were living through hard times. In the morning, they were chatty and cheerful. Those who found work no doubt remained cheerful: they had the means to support their families and could find some meaning in their lives. Those still waiting for work at midday or later were dejected and shamed, not least by the prospect of returning home without their daily bread. Those who were hired found honour in the society and the means to sustain themselves and their families. Those who missed out on work suffered hunger, indignity and a sense of powerlessness. Confronted by this spectacle day after day, I began to understand the parable of the labourers in the vineyard.

In Matthew's parable, those who have worked all day grumble because the underemployed are made "equal" to them. Jesus makes it clear that people's worth is not to be measured in terms of their capacity for economic production. Pope Leo XIII, writing in 1891 about the condition of the working class, echoes this aspect of the parable. Those who cannot find work and those who cannot work on account of disability or visa restrictions understand something of the experience of the Palestinian workers. Their needs are no less urgent than the needs of those who have productive and well-paid employment. Minimal social security benefits might address their basic material needs but are less than effective in addressing the underlying issues of human dignity.

Parables yield meaning differently in different contexts. We may want to consider the corrosive effects of "envy". Faced with the growing disparity between rich and poor in our world, we may wish to raise questions about the concentration of wealth and power in the hands of the landowner. Those who are conscious of the plight of asylum seekers and refugees, as well as those ineligible for benefits, may come with questions about "generosity" offered from a base of power over against equal access to Earth's resources. In the face of climate crisis and the effects of war and pandemic, many of those who used to be safe in economic terms now find themselves with huge debts and diminishing security. Many in our world are every bit as desperate as the Palestinian day labourers, waiting in line as never before. As we celebrate this third Sunday of the Season of Creation, we might accept the invitation of today's gospel story to live in ways that promote quality of life for every one of Earth's inhabitants.

~ Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm:(R.) The Lord is near to all who call him.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Open our hearts O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Denis Farney, Jack Engwerda, Sue Briody

Anniversaries: We remember: Margaret Walsh, Beni Duka, Sr Agnes Connellan, Kath Sullivan

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

Prayer for Migrant & Refugee Sunday 2023

God, Father Almighty, grant us the grace to work tirelessly for justice, solidarity and peace, so that all your children may enjoy the freedom to choose whether to migrate or to stay.

Grant us the courage to denounce all the horrors of our world, and to combat every injustice that mars the beauty of your children and the harmony of our common home.

Sustain us by the power of your Spirit, so that we can reflect your tender love to every migrant whom you place in our path, and to spread in hearts and in every situation the culture of encounter and care. Amen

Synod on Synodality Ecumenical Prayer Vigil Catholic communities around the world are invited to host an ecumenical prayer vigil on the weekend of Sep 30 – Oct 1 in solidarity with a major international gathering in Rome ahead of the first session of the Synod on Synodality. 15 people from Australia will be participating in the Synod and they have asked for the Catholic community's prayers as they prepare for their important task. A prayer vigil would be a great way to respond to their request and to gather with Christian sisters and brothers in our shared faith. Find out more and register your vigil at <https://together2023.net/>

Tea and Coffee after Mass every first Sunday of the month at St Columba's You are all warmly invited to tea and coffee after mass every First Sunday of the Month. Looking forward to having a cuppa and catch up with you on the 1st of October 2023.

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, 5th October 2023**. You may attend either the 10.00 am or the 5.30 pm session.

Sacred Heart College Ballarat Reunion A reunion of SHC Ballarat East class of 1965 plus anyone who attended SHC, will be held on Sunday, October 15, 2023 at GC's Ballarat from 11.00am – 3.00pm. To attend email loisknights345@hotmail.com or ph. 0419 902538

St Columba's 1st Oct	(next week)	Sun 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG		Tony Beggs
COMMENTATOR		Judy Brown
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Terry Ranger
COMMUNION MINISTER		Colleen Wakefield
DIGITAL PROJECTOR		Bruce Chapman
SACRISTAN		Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe

Collections Last Weekend St Columba's Thank you for your contributions
 Presbytery: \$ 285.25 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1.473.55

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.

Laudato Si': Everything is connected In his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis reminds us that everything is connected. Our relationship with nature is not separate from our relationship with God and others. This concept of integral ecology encourages us to care for the Earth and each other. It calls us to action.

The Diocesan Social Justice Commission, in collaboration with Caritas (Diocese of Ballarat), Earthcare Ballarat and the Pastoral Ministry Office, is providing monthly *Laudato Si* banners for use in parish bulletins. The banners include a quote taken directly from the encyclical with the reference number provided for parishioners to look up and read more deeply about that area. The banners (as below) are designed to help reflect and respond to the encyclical and foster faith and action:



The Season of Creation celebration began **September 1**, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and ends **October 4**, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations. Every year Catholic Earthcare Australia (Caritas and the Australian Bishops Conference) joins with Christian communities globally to celebrate the Season of Creation, to celebrate the gift of our common home. The theme for 2023 is "Let Justice and Peace Flow" drawing on the river imagery in Amos 5:24. It challenges us to act for ecological justice, creating change and speaking out with communities most impacted by rising sea levels, biodiversity loss and other consequences of climate change. More resources for the Season of Creation are available at <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/catholic-earthcare-ballarat-diocese/season-of-creation-2023/>

We encourage you to help our community to change the world!

Close the Fridge Door Leaving the Fridge Door open releases all the cool air and turns the food warm. Keeping the door closed will reduce your electricity bill and limit food waste.

Mass in Memory of Eileen McManus Her funeral Mass will be celebrated at St Michael & John's Church, **Horsham** on Monday, **September 25, 2023 at 11.00am**. In memory of Eileen, Mass will be celebrated in the Main Chapel at Nazareth House on Monday, **October 2, 2023 at 10.00am**.

Please join us for a Kitchen Table Conversation! A Kitchen Table Conversation is a wonderful opportunity to join with others and listen, learn and reflect on the Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum that will be held in the coming months. The final session will be held on September 28 from 3.30-4.45pm online via Zoom. More information available at: <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/aboriginal-catholic-ministry/>

A day of Reflection The Legion of Mary will host a 'Day of Reflection' on Wednesday, 27 September 2023 to commemorate their 1001st Legion of Mary Meeting. Father John Corrigan of Mildura, will be the Keynote Speaker for the day. All members of the Legion of Mary Family, active, auxiliary and past members, including parishioners from all Parishes of Ballarat, are cordially invited to join us in celebrating this milestone that the Legion of Mary, Our Lady of Nazareth Praesidium, Ballarat, has achieved. The day will start at 9.00 am and conclude at 3.15 pm.

Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea Chapter ISMAPNG would be grateful for your prayer, seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit, during the coming weeks as they gather for their Chapter – a time of evaluating the past and planning for the future. Venerable Catherine McAuley, pray for us.

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 September – For people living on the margins:** We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions. May they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance. Lord, hear us.

OLHC 30th September	(next week)	Saturday 6.00pm
LEADER OF SONG		Corrie Harbour
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Laureen Rhodes
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Harry Kennedy & Pauline Newman
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Helen Rieniets & Trish Lawson
SACRISTAN		Geoff & Marg McLean

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 Presbytery: \$ 297.35 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 755.00