

**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)

**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.
- ◆ Ensure that you maintain appropriate physical distancing at all times (1.5 metres).
- ◆ Whilst a face mask is not compulsory they are recommended.
- ◆ Please use the hand sanitiser available upon entering the Church.

**We appreciate your assistance in helping stop the spread of the virus.**

**HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

**But I now say to you...**

There is a distinct pattern to the teaching examples Jesus provides: 'You have heard it said ...'; 'but I now say to you...'. This was a common method of teaching in Jesus' day and is often used as an example to suggest that Jesus was regarded as a Rabbi in his day. It is a typical rabbinical method of interpreting scripture. The rabbi quotes the teaching (you have heard it said...) and then offers an interpretation or reinterpretation of that teaching (but I now say to you). While it is an unfamiliar teaching style for us today, it would have been common in Jesus' time.

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The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference  
**Prayer for Peace and Justice in Ukraine**

God of peace and justice,  
 who change the hardened heart and break the  
 power of violence,  
 we entrust the people of Ukraine to you.

Protect them in this time of peril;  
 let them know not death but life, not slavery but  
 freedom.

You are Father of all;  
 we are brothers and sisters.  
 Give us the strength to live that truth in love,  
 choosing peace not war.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**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)  
**School Co-Principals:** Bambi Afford & Shaun Mohr  
**School Phone:** 5332 4894

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

*The Parishes acknowledge that the Aboriginal people of Australia are our first nation people and the traditional owners and custodians of the land.*

**Parish Priest:**  
 Fr Marcello Colasante

**Staffing**

**St Columba's**  
 Office Hours: Wed—Friday  
 10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
 Parish Co-ord: Lia Andanar Yu  
 Safeguarding Officer:  
 Peter Marquand

**Our Lady Help of Christians**  
 Parish Co-ordinator and  
 Safeguarding Officer:  
 Maree Roache  
 Office Hours: Wed-Fri 9–1 pm

**MASS TIMES (This week)**  
**St Columba's**

Sunday	10:00 am
Wednesday	10:00 am

**Our Lady Help of Christians**

<b>Waubra</b>	1st & 3rd Sunday	8.30 am
<b>Beaufort</b>	2nd & 4th Sunday	8.30 am
<b>Lexton</b>	5th Sunday	8.30 am

**Wendouree**

Saturday	6:00 pm
Tuesday	2.30 pm (Funeral)
Thursday	1100 am (Kelaston)
Friday	10:00 am

**Readings for Next Weekend:**  
**7th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

- Liv. 19:1-2, 17-18
- Ps 102:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13, R. v.8
- 1 Cor 3:16-23
- Mt 5: 38-48

© Fr Michael Tate; [mtate@bigpond.com](mailto:mtate@bigpond.com)

**12th February, 2023 - 6th Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

We have just heard the least observed command of Our Lord in the Sermon on the Mount. Referring to oaths he taught, 'Do not swear at all ... instead let your "yes" mean yes and your "no" mean no. Whatever goes beyond these simple words is from the Evil One.'

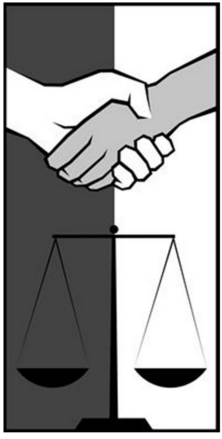
This is strong language. Why does Our Lord say this?

In the same Sermon on the Mount, he teaches us the proper use of God's name: 'Our Father'. It is our privilege as adopted children of God to use God's name in that way. The use of God's name for oath-swearing is an *abuse*.

Our Lord was trying to establish a new sort of society (The Kingdom) within which truth-telling was of paramount importance, where there is no two-tiered way of speaking the truth. Truth telling should issue simply from the character of the person – the truthful person truths.

We know this at the very private level of intimate relationships. As a Church, we need to heed this passage and listen to the epistle of St James recalling this passage almost verbatim. (James 5:12-13)

We could pause for a moment to pray that the Church herself heeds the Great Commission: 'Teach them to keep *all* that I have commanded you.' (Matthew 28:20)



**Responsorial Psalm:** Happy are those who follow the law of the Lord!  
**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to the little ones the mysteries of the Kingdom. Alleluia!

**Recently Deceased: We commend to God:** Joy Lange  
**Anniversaries: We remember** those who have anniversaries occur about this time: Sr. Ann Forbes rsm,  
**We pray: Those in need of our prayers:** for the people of Turkey and Syria devastated by the devastating earthquake.



**Prayer Requests:**

At different times in our lives, circumstances happen for which there is added need for prayer, and there is comfort in knowing that we need not be alone in praying. Our parish is connecting with a Ballarat wide Prayer-Line where requests for prayer can be made. All prayer requests are confidential. Please ring the Parish Office 5339 2303. The parish phone is monitored for messages at all times and your request will be forwarded to the Prayer-Line.

**Sacristan Assistance at OLHC**

Are you able to help with Sacristan duties at OLHC on Saturday evening 6.00pm Mass? The tasks are to open the Church and assemble Mass requirements, and lock up at the end of the liturgy. Guidance is available and ongoing. In each four-month roster cycle, you will be rostered 3 or 4 times. Please phone OLHC office if you can help. Ph. 53392302.

**Round Table Ecological Theology Sessions**

The recent Plenary Council committed the Catholic Church in Australia to developing and committing to a culture of life-long faith formation. For some years now, Fr. Barry Ryan and Sr. Veronica Lawson have been offering regular adult theology classes. A new series begins on Wednesday, February 22 (afternoon group 1-3pm and evening group 7-9pm) at the Mercy Centre in Ballarat East (16 Gent Street). This will be the first of six sessions (March 22, April 26, May 24, June 28, July 26). If you are interested, kindly send your contact details (mobile number and email) to Sr. Veronica on [veronica.lawson@mercy.org.au](mailto:veronica.lawson@mercy.org.au) and she will provide you with further information



**Pope's Intention for February.**

**For parishes**

We pray that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

St Columba's 19th February	(next week)	Sunday 10:00 am
LEADER of SONG		Mark Lacey
COMMENTATOR		Colleen Wakefield
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Anthea Hinchey
COMMUNION MINISTER		Judy Brown
DIGITAL PROJECTOR		Bruce Chapman
SACRISTAN		Barb Brown/ Norah Moloney/ Josie Crowe
<b>Collections at St Columba's</b>		<i>Thank you for your generous support</i>
Presbytery: \$404.00	Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc)	\$ 630.00

**Project Compassion Sunday: February 19, 2023**

On Sunday, February 19, 2023 Bishop Paul will be launching Project Compassion 2023, "For All Future Generations" at St Patrick's Cathedral during the 5.00pm Mass. Parishes of the dioceses are invited to do the same. Please find attached a reflection that can be offered to your parish community and a Prayer of the Faithful. Parishes may wish to commission their Caritas Ambassadors / Representatives who manage Project Compassion for their parish or school communities. If you would like to receive a commissioning prayer to use, please contact Jillian Hogbin, Caritas Diocesan Director at [caritas@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:caritas@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

**Baptism Preparation Session**

Parents planning to have their child baptised are required to attend a Preparation Session. The next Centralised Baptism Preparation Session will be held at MacKillop and Glowrey Room within the precinct of St. Patrick's Cathedral 3 Lyons St Sth Ballarat on Thursday 9th March, 2023 at 10.00am & 5.30pm. Bookings can be made with Parish Office.



**2023 Pilgrimage to the Holy Land**


Expressions of interest are invited to join a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, June 11th - 24th 2023 - Jordan, Petra, Dead Sea, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Capernaum, Sea of Galilee, Jerusalem, Mt of Olives, Jericho, Qumran. Fully escorted, all inclusive pilgrimage accompanied by Fr Justin Driscoll and arranged through Lifestyle Travel in Ballarat. Contact Fr Justin for further information (Daylesford 0448 220 685) or [info@lifestyletravel.com.au](mailto:info@lifestyletravel.com.au)

**Advance Notices**

- World Youth Day** will be held from 1-6 August, 2023 in Lisbon, Portugal. Anyone interested in attending can register with the Archdiocese of Melbourne to join with them in pilgrimages they have on offer. More info at: <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/youth-and-young-adult-ministry/world-youth-day/>

- World Day of Prayer**

Invitation from the Ballarat Committee to attend a WDP prayer service. The focus country is Taiwan in 2023. Theme: "I Have Heard About Your Faith" based upon the letter to the Ephesians. **Friday March 3rd**  
 10.00 am The Salvation Army, Ballarat Community Church  
 102 Eureka Street. Ballarat  
 2.00 pm The Salvation Army, Delacombe Corp  
 104 Greenhalgs Road, Delacombe.  
 7.00 pm St Andrews Uniting Church  
 130 Ballarat Road, Creswick



**Mass Times**  
 9.30 am St Columba's Parish  
 11.00 am Our Lady Help of Christians

*May your Ash Wednesday be a day of reflection and promise.*

**Wisdom at the Cathedral - Fr John Corrigan**

7.00pm, Monday 20th February 2023 St. Patrick's Cathedral, 3 Lyons St. Ballarat Central.  
 The Transcendentals "I Am Who Am: Knowing God and Knowing Ourselves.  
 Truth, beauty and goodness are irreducible attributes of being. How we each relate to them speaks volumes.  
 Talk and discussion followed by light refreshments in the Hall.  
 All Welcome. Entry by donation.

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Enquiries: 02 9560 533 or 0422 472 567.



OLHC 18th February	(next week)	Saturday 6:00 pm
LEADER OF SONG		Paul Hogan
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		<i>Volunteer please</i>
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Vin Dillon & Zeena Lazarus
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Pauline Newman & Pat Dillon
SACRISTAN		Geoff & Marg White
<b>Waubra Church cleaning</b>	<b>February :</b>	Anne Dalton & Brian Gallagher
<b>Collections at OLHC</b>		<i>We thank you for your generous support</i>
Presbytery: \$ 441.00	Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc)	\$ 635.00