

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.
- ◆ 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

Let him have your cloak as well

This one is a little stranger to our modern cultural norms. In Jesus' time, it was not shameful or embarrassing for a person to be naked but it was shameful for the person who caused them to be naked. By law, if you were unable to repay a debt, the person to whom you owed money could literally take your clothes as payment of the debt. What Jesus says is, if someone demands your tunic as payment of a debt, give them everything you're wearing to shame them for making you naked to collect their debt.

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Pope's intention for February - We pray that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

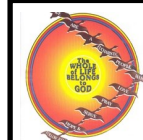
The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Prayer for Peace and Justice in Ukraine

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 (select Parish)

Office: 306 Gregory St, Ballarat Nth **Phone:** 5331 1012

Email: 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

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.

19h February, 2023 - 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

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 9–1pm

MASS TIMES (This week) St Columba's

Sunday 10:00 am
Wednesday 9.30 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 6:00 pm
Wednesday 11.00 am
Thursday 1000 am
Friday 10:00 am

Readings for Next Weekend:

1st Sunday of Lent

Gen 2:7-9; 3:1-7
Ps 50:3-6. 12-14. 17. R. see v.3
Rom 5:12-19

Focus on the Scriptures

At times it seems we have rewritten the 'Golden Rule' to say: Do unto others before they can do unto you! In saying this we are not encouraging each other to do good, but to be defensive. Jesus tells us to go the extra mile, turn the other cheek, outdo ourselves in generosity and rise above the fray. He is not suggesting that we allow ourselves to be abused, but that we not perpetuate the antagonism out of which the mistreatment arose. He is not advocating passivity, but he is saying that we should not retaliate. Jesus is describing what we today would call active non-resistance, the attitude taught by Gandhi and Martin Luther King.

We are familiar with the answer to the question: Who is my neighbour? We usually interpret it to mean those we do not particularly like. It is important to love them, to be kind to them, to help them when they are in need. But these are not the people whom Jesus is talking about in today's reading. He tells us that the neighbours whom we are to love are those people who do not like us. We are to love those who deliberately exclude us from their social circles, who talk about us behind our backs. We are to love those who make us feel that we are not good enough for them, those who resent us for our accomplishments. We are to love those who exploit us or do us harm. This is indeed a radical teaching.



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Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is kind and merciful.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Whoever keeps the word of Christ, Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Alwyn "Jock" Hayes

Anniversaries: We remember those who have anniversaries occur about this time: Mary and Bill Martin, Elaine Drake, Paul Rhodes, Jacinta Wilson, Marion Voss, Kathleen Squire, Patrick Duffy, Margaret Pearson, Imelda McGrath, Patrick Duggan.

Caritas Australia

Project Compassion Launch - Sunday, 19th February

St Patrick's Cathedral, Bishop Paul Bird will be launching Project Compassion 2023, "For All Future Generations" at the 5.00 pm Mass. All welcome.



Project Compassion Sunday - 18/19 February

Please take home a Project Compassion box or set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and **For All Future Generations**.

With your support, Caritas Australia, through this annual appeal, has been able to support communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction to build a better future for all.

As St Pope John Paul II said, **"The future starts today, not tomorrow."**

Caritas Australia Turkey-Syria Earthquake Disaster Appeal

The devastating 7.8 magnitude earthquake in Turkey and Syria has left thousands of people dead with this number expected to rise dramatically. After 12 years of war, Syria is at breaking point and desperately needs assistance. We need to act now to help those affected by this catastrophe. Your generous donation means our partners in Turkey and Syria can respond swiftly to support the survivors of this unimaginable tragedy. Call 1800 024 413 toll free to donate or visit www.caritas.org.au/syria-turkey

A special prayer initiative for the 10th anniversary of Pope Francis' pontificate

Pope Francis will celebrate the 10th year of his pontificate on March 13, 2023. To highlight this milestone anniversary in a "viral" manner, the Digital Synod has launched a special online map featuring virtual lighted candles representing the prayers of the faithful worldwide for him. Anyone who wishes to join the initiative will find an invitation on the website to pray one or more Hail Marys <https://www.decimus-annus.org/site/index>. The map with the 'little candles' which represent the Hail Marys that are prayed for him will be sent to Pope Francis.

St Columba's 26th February	(next week)	Sunday 10:00 am
LEADER of SONG		Tony Beggs
COMMENTATOR		Fiona Newton
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Terry Ranger
COMMUNION MINISTER		Peter Marquand
DIGITAL PORJECTOR		Vicki Moroney
SACRISTAN		Barb Brown/ Norah Moloney/ Josie Crowe
Collections at St Columba's		<i>Thank you for your generous support</i>
Presbytery: \$ 479.85	Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc)	\$ 2,243.75

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

World Day of Prayer

Invitation from the Ballarat Committee to attend a WDP prayer service. The focus country is Taiwan in 2003. 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

Mission: One Heart Many Voices Conference 2023

The Mission: One Heart Many Voices conference, "Lead, Act, Now" will be held from May 3-5, 2023 in Sydney – face-to-face and online. Registration details, the program and more information is available at <https://2023.mohmv.com.au/>. Early bird full registration before February 28 is \$550.00. Full registration from March 1 is \$649.00. Concession rate \$539.00. Single day rate \$209.00.

Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program – Online Study

The Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation is an initiative to offer adult religious education and faith formation anytime and anywhere. This low-cost (\$50usd) online study and formation for employed or volunteer lay workers in parishes is available through our partner, Dayton University. The next Cycle for 2023 begins February 27. There are 38 subjects to choose from – find one that interests you! Registrations are open now. More information is available on the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/pastoral-ministry/lay-pastoral-ministry-program/> or email djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7121.

Evangelise +

The Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry (BCELM) has launched a new online resource designed to enable more people to easily access formational Australian Catholic video content. Evangelise Plus is a video resource library that will host a range of audiovisual content from various Catholic events and initiatives, bringing the material to a wider audience in an effort to inspire, form and encourage viewers in their faith life <https://www.evangeliseplus.com.au/>

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.*

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 and she will provide you with further information

Competition for Jubilee 2025 Hymn

The Dicastery for Evangelization invites entries for the Hymn for the Holy Year 2025, encouraging interested persons to set to music a provided text which expresses the essence of the Jubilee event. Interested participants in the competition are invited to set to music a text proposed by the Dicastery's Section for Fundamental Questions regarding Evangelization in the World, which expresses the essence of the jubilee event. The hymn is intended to have a liturgical purpose and should be capable of being sung by a Church congregation and by a schola cantorum. Entries close on March 25, 2023. More information available from <http://www.evangelizatio.va/content/pcpne/en/news/giubileo-2022-09-19.html>

Liturgy Team

The next meeting is on Tuesday 21st February at 4.00 pm in the Parish Centre. Agenda includes Easter and liturgy planning roster.

OLHC 25th February	(next week)	Saturday 6:00 pm
LEADER OF SONG		Vin Dillon
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		<i>Volunteer please</i>
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Helen & Colin Feely
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Harry Kennedy, Trish Lawson
SACRISTAN		Kath Leonard, Anne Slattery
Waubra Church cleaning	February :	Anne Dalton & Brian Gallagher
Collections at OLHC		<i>We thank you for your generous support</i>
Presbytery: \$ 439.45	Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc)	\$ 1,050.00