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Diocesan Social Justice Statement launch The Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission have released presentations for the diocesan launch of the Social Justice Statement 2023: **Listen Learn Love: A New Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.** This event is pre-recorded and in digital format so that individuals can access these resources at their convenience. For more info go to: <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/social-justice/social-justice-statement/>

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)

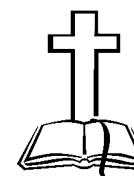
St Columba's
Sunday 10.00 am
Wednesday No Mass

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 No Mass
Friday No Mass

Readings for Next Weekend

Exodus 22:20-26
Ps 17:2-4, 47, 51 R.v.2
1 Thessalonians 1:5-10
Matthew 22: 34-40



22nd October 2023 ~ 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Focus on the Scriptures

The emergence of a common enemy is often the catalyst for sworn enemies to unite. In first century Palestine, Pharisees were the respected religious teachers of the law and Herodians represented secular Jewish power and wealth. They despised each other on both religious and political grounds. When faced with a perceived threat to their authority, however, they united in opposition. Jesus of Nazareth becomes the threat that unites them. His teaching and healing draw the crowds and threaten their authority. They come together and try to set a trap for him. In attempting to set him up, they ironically pay him the greatest of tributes: addressing him as "teacher", they acknowledge his sincerity and admit that he teaches the way of God in accordance with the truth. They witness to his lack of concern with status and hierarchical division.

The question of these traditional enemies is intended to put Jesus in a "no win" position: "Is it lawful to pay tribute to the emperor or not?" Jesus turns the question back upon them. He lets them know that he is aware of their malicious intent and asks them to produce the coin used for the tax. He thus makes the issue one of images, a sensitive issue for all Jews, rather than of tribute. The Roman denarius that they produce bears the bust of the Roman emperor and the Latin inscription, "Tiberius Caesar, son of the divine Augustus, High Priest".

Jesus' response, "Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God", can be interpreted in several ways. Is Jesus simply exposing their hypocrisy as bearers of images? From a Jewish perspective, everything belongs to God, the earth and all its riches. The disciples of the Pharisees and the Herodians are Jews, even if the sympathies of the latter lean towards the Roman occupiers. Is he telling them to pay the tax while still recognising God's prior claim? Is he telling them not to pay the tax precisely because the emperor has no claim on what belongs to God? Is he critiquing the Roman occupation or legitimizing it? Or is he saying something else? They are left to interpret his response as they wish.

One thing is clear: Jesus' words have nothing to do with the modern distinction between Church and secular state. There are good reasons for paying taxes in a secular state and for contributing financially to the life of the Church, something we may need to revisit in the light of decreased post-pandemic participation. It is quite anachronistic, however, to invoke this text in support of paying state taxes or of supporting the Church financially. The story is more about sincerity and truth in our relationships with each other and with the God of all truth. That is the key criterion for any personal or global alliance.

- Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm: (R.) Give the Lord glory and honour.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Shine on the world like bright stars; you are offering it the word of life. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Chris Haintz

Anniversaries: We remember: Fr. Bill Melican, Eileen Gercovich, Carmel Hanrahan, June Auchetti, Fr. Denis Dennehy, Joe Van der Linden, Pam Orchard, Kevin Bawden, Harold Keys, Eileen Ferguson, Sr. Therese Lynch RSM, Francis Curran, Peter Crowe, Graham Staley, Leo McGoldrick, Valma Shanahan

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

October is World Mission Month Today, 22nd October, is World Mission Sunday. In his World Mission Day message for 2023, Pope Francis reminds us through Luke 24:13-35, "hearts on fire, feet on the move", that the missionary journey of all disciples is that upon encountering Jesus, our hearts burn within, our eyes are opened and ultimately, our feet are set out on the way. Dedicating their lives to others, in partnership with communities, missionaries aim to create a positive change through spiritual care and the implementation of grassroots projects, such as healthcare and education, reaching far beyond Catholic communities. Catholic Mission has launched the World Mission Month 2023 Appeal, highlighting the Work of Salesian Sisters in Timor-Leste. Sr Carolina, who is the face of the awareness and fundraising campaign, is a great example of the devotion of missionaries, dedicating herself to providing critical healthcare services to the rural community of Venilale in Timor-Leste. Be a part of this mission. Envelopes available on the pew nearest you. Thank you!

Mowing of Church Lawns The Church lawns have been maintained by a team of volunteers over many years and we are now calling for more volunteers to come and join the roster. If you are interested in joining our team or need more information please call Helen on 0409501926.

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, 2nd November 2023**. You may attend either the 10.00 am or the 5.30 pm session.

OLHC Memorial Liturgy Our Lady Help of Christians Wendouree Memorial Liturgy will be on Thursday, 2nd of November at 7:00 pm. All are welcome to attend.



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 **5th of November 2023**.

St Columba's 29th Oct	(next week)	Sun 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG		Tony Beggs
COMMENTATOR		Min Myers
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Anthea Hinchey
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: Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc)

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.

October is National Mental Health Month National Mental Health Month is an initiative of the Mental Health Foundation Australia (MHFA) to advocate for and raise awareness of Australian mental health. It is an important time where the Australian community comes together to raise awareness and promote better mental health for all. Mental Health Australia invites organisations to participate in the "Look after your mental health, Australia" campaign which will run throughout October.

Prayer for Mental Health month: Lord God, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve those challenged by serious and chronic mental and emotional illnesses. Give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that they may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Diocesan Business Manager Position The Catholic Diocese of Ballarat invites applications from appropriately qualified and experienced persons for the position of Diocesan Business Manager, who is responsible to the Bishop for the accounting and financial management of the various diocesan departments and commissions, investment and property management and advice to parishes, clergy and the Bishop on finance and administration matters. This is a full-time five year contract position (six month probationary period) with ongoing contract after review. Information about the position and how to apply can be accessed on the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/our-diocese/employment/>, by contacting the bishop's office bishop-soffice@ballarat.catholic.org.au or by phoning (03) 5337 7121. Queries can be directed to the Bishop's Office on 5337 7121. The closing date for applications is Friday, November 3, 2023 at 5.00pm.

Vigil Prayers and Funeral service Chris Haintz was a much-loved parishioner and supporter of St Columba's. We offer our prayers that he may rest in peace.

- Vigil Prayers for Chris Haintz will be held at Pat Cashin Funerals (114 Doveton St) on Sunday evening, 22nd October at 7pm

- The Funeral will be at St Columba's on Monday 23rd October at 3pm

Catholic Theological College Online Information Session for 2024 will be held on Monday, October 30, 2023 at 7.30pm (AEDT). Register via the website [\[ctc.edu.au/information-session\]](http://ctc.edu.au/information-session) ctc.edu.au/information-session. For more information contact Dr Maureen Saclot ctc.edu.au/contact/contact-the-registrar/

Fr Robert McCulloch at Nazareth House Fr McCulloch will celebrate Mass and give a presentation on the Columban's work in Pakistan, titled "Dungeon, fire and sword – keeping the faith in Pakistan for 1200 years" on Wednesday, October 25, 2023. Mass will be at St Anne's Chapel at 6.30pm and presentation at Nazareth Hall at 7.00pm. Entry by donation and envelopes will be available on the night. Please bring a plate of supper. For enquiries please contact Carmel via phone 0401175045 or annekav1234@gmail.com

National Children's Week: October 21-29, 2023 Children's Week is an annual event celebrated in Australia. Children's Week celebrates the right of children to enjoy childhood. The Children's Week National Theme for 2023 is based on UNCRC Article 31: *Children have the right to relax, play and take part in activities they enjoy*. The Children's Week Council of Australia have developed a range of activities and tip sheets to celebrate the week and promote children's rights awareness. For more: [Children's Week Council of Australia \(childrens-week.org.au\)](http://childrens-week.org.au)

Fr Marcello's holidays Fr Marcello is on annual leave and returning on Saturday 4th November. In his absence Fr Kevin Maloney will be celebrating the St Columba's and OLHC weekend Masses. Please note: there will be no weekday masses while Fr Marcello is on leave. If you require assistance, please contact St Columba's Parish Office. Should you require a priest, please contact St Patrick's Cathedral (ph: 5331 2933). We wish Fr Marcello a restful break and a warm welcome to Fr Kevin!

Pope's intention for October- For the Synod: We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit toward the peripheries of the world. Lord, hear us.

Special Social Media Channels for the XVI Assembly

Facebook: [@16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops](https://www.facebook.com/16thOrdinaryGeneralAssemblyoftheSynodofBishops)

Twitter: [@16SynodAssembly](https://twitter.com/16SynodAssembly)

Instagram: [@16ordinarygs](https://www.instagram.com/16ordinarygs)

OLHC 28th October	(next week)	Saturday 6.00pm
LEADER OF SONG		Sue Searls
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Volunteer, please
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Colin & Helen Feely
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Helen Rieniets & Pauline Newman
SACRISTAN		Geoff & Marg McLean

Collections Last Weekend OLHC Thank you for your contributions.
Presbytery: Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc)