

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.

SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

Gospel Parallels

The account of the Transfiguration appears in all three synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke). The word, synoptic, means 'seen together' and these three gospels can be seen together because they have so much material in common. It is now accepted that the gospel of Mark was the first written as so much of it appears in the other two, while the gospels of Matthew and Luke both seem to have also drawn on another source of Jesus material (known as the 'Q' source). Despite the parallels, each writer uses the same story to convey the particular message of that gospel.

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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.

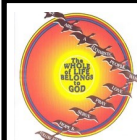
The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Prayer for Peace and Justice in Ukraine

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.

4th March, 2023 - 2nd Sunday of Lent 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 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 6:00 pm
Thursday 10.00 am
Friday 10.00 am

Readings for Next Weekend:

3rd Sunday of Lent
Ex. 17:3-7
Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R. v.8
Rom 5:1-2. 5-8



Focus on the Scriptures

The blessings upon which we meditate today are undeserved gifts from God. They were not earned. The graciousness of God transforms us in such a way as to effect new beginnings. It can be seen in the promises made to Abram. He leaves the past behind and moves into a new future. It can be seen in the psalm response. The Lord delivers us from death and inspires us to look to the future. It can be seen in the reading from 2 Timothy. Through Christ Jesus we are called to a new life of holiness; we escape the fetters of death and are brought into the freedom of the resurrection. We see it in the gospel, a glimpse into the future glory of Jesus which, through grace, we will be able to share. Lent is a time of new beginnings which find their origin in the abundant blessings of God.

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Responsorial Psalm: Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: . Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Mary Kelly, Helen Ross, Lorna Quinlan

Anniversaries: We remember Carmel Molloy, Paul Rhodes, Simon Scarff, James Petrie, Stephanie Carswell, Michael Mahar, Brian Perkins, Kevin Tradrew

We pray: Those in need of our prayers: for the people of Turkey, Syria and Ukraine.



Caritas Australia—Project Compassion

Thu lives in Vietnam. When Thu was 12 years old, he stepped on an unexploded land mine and lost his leg. Living with a disability in rural Vietnam presented many challenges for Thu, who worked mainly as a rice farmer. Thu also took on the role of caring for his wife, Linh, after she suffered a stroke.

Determined to turn their lives around, Thu and Linh joined the Empowerment of People with Disabilities program, run by Caritas Australia's local partner in Vietnam, the Centre for Sustainable Rural Development (SRD). For Thu, the greatest impact the program has had is enabling the change in Linh's physical and mental wellbeing. With the support of a physiotherapist, Linh can now walk short distances with the aid of a walking stick.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes/envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or calling 1800 024 413.



Choir for Mass of the Oils 2023

Singers and musicians in the diocese are invited to join the music group which is being formed for the Mass of the Oils on Monday, April 3, 2023. Practice times are Sunday, March 19, Sunday, March 26 and Sunday, April 2 at 6.15pm (following 5.00pm Mass). Please contact Julie Boyd in the Pastoral Ministry Office to register your interest julie.boyd@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7159.

Vinnies (Victoria) Back to School Appeal

More than 1 million Victorian students headed back to – or started – school this year. For a rising number of their families, it's getting harder to find the funds to ensure that their children have everything they need in order to learn and grow. The Vinnies Education (Back-to-School) Appeal – which launched on February 1 – is needed now more than ever. To donate go to <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-vic/back-to-school-appeal-vic-2023>

Palm Sunday Walk for Justice

This year's walk will call for Justice for Refugees: Permanent visas for all, fair processes and income support for people who are seeking recognition as refugees. While the change of government at the federal election last year has brought hope for more compassionate policies, thousands of refugees and people seeking asylum are still in limbo waiting for certainty about their future. Walk with us this Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023 at 1.00pm for a group reflection and prayer led by Fr Andy Hamilton SJ, with the official Walk for Justice music and speeches starting around 1.30pm. Meet at the far right side of the State Library of Victoria (near the Joan of Arc statue and next to Little Lonsdale Street – you'll see a large 'CAPSA', 'Jesuit Social Services' or 'Xavier Social Justice Network' or 'CSSV' banner). If you have any questions, please get in touch with Maeve at CAPSA, email info@capsa.org.au.

World Youth Day

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 information at <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/youth-and-young-adult-ministry/world-youth-day/>



Baptism

Welcome to Max and Mauve baptised into our parish community this weekend. May this day fill your life with joy and peace forever.



Sew and So.

Thursday 9th March 2023 at 1.30pm in the foyer of St Columba's Church. Last month we had a really good roll up and everyone enjoyed themselves. I have great expectations for this month. Enquiries Margaret 53314032

Centralised Baptism Preparation Session

Parents planning to have their child baptised are required to attend a Baptism Preparation Session. These sessions are held in the Mary Glowrey Room in the precincts of St Patrick's Cathedral, 3 Lyons St. Sth Ballarat. The next session is **Thursday, March 9, 2023**. You may attend either the **10.00am** or **5.30pm** session.

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 of six sessions began on Wednesday, February 22 (1-3pm or 7-9pm) at Mercy Centre, 16 Gent St. Ballarat East. Then (March 22, April 26, May 24, June 28, July 26). For further information please send your mobile number and email to Sr. Veronica on veronica.lawson@mercy.org.au

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 March - For victims of abuse:

We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church. May they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

**Caritas Australia Prayer for International Women's Day
Wednesday, March 8, 2023**

God, whose love and goodness gathers us in:
we pray for women all over the world,
especially those challenged by poverty and other injustice.
Stir us to know women's dignity.
Quieten us to listen to women's voices.
Awaken us to see women's realities.
Strengthen us to stand for women's rights.
Fill us with hope to make a better future together. Amen.



World Day of Prayer Services 2023

5th March 2023 Sunday 2.30pm

Saints Peter & Paul's Catholic Church,
701 Fiskens Street,
Buninyong 3357

| St Columba's 26th February | (next week) | Sunday 10:00 am |
|----------------------------|-------------|--|
| LEADER of SONG | | Terry Ranger |
| COMMENTATOR | | Vicki Moroney |
| MINISTER OF THE WORD | | Min Myers |
| COMMUNION MINISTER | | Kaye Merbach |
| DIGITAL PROJECTOR | | Bruce Chapman |
| SACRISTAN | | Barb Brown/ Norah Moloney/ Josie Crowe |

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| OLHC 11th March, 2023 | (next week) | Saturday 6:00 pm |
|-------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| LEADER OF SONG | | Sue Searls |
| PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL | | Kath Leonard |
| MINISTER OF THE WORD | | Ena Bruty, Laureen Rhodes |
| COMMUNION MINISTERS | | Jennifer Adams, Helen Rienets |
| SACRISTAN | | Tony and Pauline Newman |
| Waubra Church cleaning | March: | Kerryn and Lawrence Gallagher |

Collections at OLHC *We thank you for your generous support*
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