

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

Light of the World

The events of today's gospel passage occur within an extended passage of the gospel of John in which Jesus attends Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles (Jn 7:1 following). A feature of the feast was the illumination of the Temple. Pilgrims would cover the Temple with lights and torches so that it shone out over the entire city. It was during this feast that Jesus declared himself to be the Light of the World and, a few verses later, healed the blind man and brought light into his world.

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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.

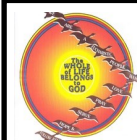
The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Prayer for Peace and Justice in Ukraine

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.

18th March, 2023 - 4th 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
Friday	2.00 pm (funeral)

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
Tuesday	10.30am (Funeral)
Thursday	10.00am
Friday	10.00 am

Readings for Next Weekend:

5th Sunday of Lent

Ez 37:12-14



Focus on the Scriptures

Humans see and judge by appearances, but God looks into the heart, and there finds the real person. God's standards are not superficial, as are so many of the standards of the world. It is not age, beauty or physical strength that is important; it is not social position or religious role that is preferred. God chooses whom God chooses. God saw in David, the insignificant shepherd, the potential for being the chief shepherd of his people. The man who was born blind became the one through whom others would see the mighty works of God. Yet, neither young David nor the man in the gospel made the initial step; each simply responded with openness to God's choice of him.

By what criteria do we judge others? Do we consider some people too insignificant for greatness? Are we overly concerned with status? Do we categorise people according to the disease or physical limitation that they must endure? Do we sometimes blame them for their disability? Do our eyes perceive life in accord with the standards of a materialistic, body-orientated, pleasure-seeking society? Or do we look into the other's heart, as God does?



As with the other scrutiny Sundays, catechumens and long-standing members alike are exhorted to make a choice. Jesus is the one who gives sight to blind eyes and religious insight to those open to receive it. However, there is a price to pay. Will it be the standards of the world, or the power of God in Jesus Christ?

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Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life. Lord Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: John Leggio, Bernie Klein

Anniversaries: We remember Peter Reidy, Frank Danaher, Sheila Prendergast, Anne Cheesman, Marie Green, Annie Sullivan, John McNamara, Connie Vincent, Brian Troy

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



Project Compassion Fourth Sunday of Lent

Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation's Young Mums and Bubs Group, supported by Caritas Australia, supports young women in the community with practical support like housing and helps mentor the next generation of young people.

The work of Baabayn involves initiatives such as a Homework Club, a Young Mums and Bubs program and a youth group. They also provide advocacy, counselling services and links to government departments. With your support, the work of Baabayn can continue to work with young mothers at Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation and help them keep their culture strong for future generations. Please donate to Project Compassion 2023. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations**. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes/envelopes available from your parish, by visiting <https://www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion> or by calling 1800 024 413.

Pope Francis Quote:

"Let us pray for peace: peace in the world and in each of our hearts." "God's love calls us to move beyond fear. We ask God for the courage to put on faith, hope and love as we go out into the world and become the word in body as well as spirit."

Interfaith Friendship Walk - Sunday March 19th 2.00 pm – 5 pm

The Ballarat Interfaith Network together with Ballarat Regional Multicultural Centre invites you to join the friendship walk and learn about Islamic, Jewish and Orthodox Christian Beliefs. Beginning at the Islamic Mosque, 116 Elsworth St, East, Canadian walking to BRC Welcome Centre Hall, 25-39 Barkley St Bakery Hill, Ballarat East ending at St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, 116 Humffray St. North, Ballarat East, Refreshments provided, All welcome.

St Columba's 25th March	(next week)	Sunday 10:00 am
LEADER of SONG		Mark Lacey
COMMENTATOR		Tom Keogh
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Peter Marquand
COMMUNION MINISTER		Judy Brown
DIGITAL PROJECTOR		Bruce Chapman
SACRISTAN		Barb Brown/ Norah Moloney/ Josie Crowe

Collections at St Columba's	Thank you for your generous support
Presbytery: \$442.05	Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$1,879.00



OLHC Wendouree Choir Practice

The next practice for learning the new Mass Setting for the Easter Vigil is next Thursday 23rd at 7.00 pm.

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.



(Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans).

Ask the question - how sweet is my chocolate?

Every Easter Australians spend millions of dollars buying hundreds of kilograms of chocolate to eat and give away. Cocoa is a key ingredient of chocolate. Much of the chocolate sold in Australia is made using cocoa beans picked by children, many of whom have been enslaved, or forced to work in exploitative conditions. The International Labor Rights Forum (ILRF) estimates that there are more than 1.5 million children working in the cocoa sector in West Africa, where about 70% of the world's cocoa is produced. To buy slavery free chocolate this Easter look for the symbols below.



EASTER LITURGIES

Monday April 3	6.30 pm	Mass of Oils	St Patrick's Cathedral (followed by supper in the hall)
March 29	10.00 am	Anointing Mass	St Columba's
April 4	7.00 pm	Reconciliation	OLHC

HOLY WEEK

April 1	Palm Sunday	6.00 pm	OLHC Wendouree
April 2		8.30 am	St John the Baptist, Waubra
		10.00 am	St Columba's, Ballarat North
April 6	Holy Thursday	7.00 pm	St. Columba's, Ballarat North
April 7	Good Friday	10.00 am	Way of the Cross, Waubra
			Gather at Recreation Reserve
		3.00 pm	OLHC Wendouree
April 8	Easter Vigil	7.00 pm	OLHC Wendouree
April 9	Easter Sunday	8.30 am	Beaufort
		10.00 am	St. Columba's Ballarat North



Centralised Baptism Preparation Session

Parents planning to have their child baptised are required to attend a Baptism Preparation Session. Next session is on Holy Thursday at MacKillop and Glowrey Rooms of St. Patrick's Cathedral Hall, 3 Lyons St South, Ballarat, **Thursday, 6th of April 2023 at 10.00am**. There will be just the **one Baptism preparation morning session in April**.

OLHC 25th March, 2023	(next week)	Saturday 6:00 pm
LEADER OF SONG		Vin Dillon
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Elly Green
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Jennifer Adams, Darryl Clark
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Pauline Newman
SACRISTAN		Lyn Gray, Michael Rieniets
Waubra Church cleaning	March:	Kerryn and Lawrence Gallagher

Collections at OLHC	We thank you for your generous support
Presbytery: \$ 373.35	Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$665.00