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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.
- Contact tracing is required for all Masses. Please use the QR code on the door or sign the register in the foyer (please add your phone number if you are a visitor).
- Ensure that you maintain appropriate physical distancing at all times (1.5 metres).
- A face mask is required whilst visiting the Church (you should carry it with you as per State Government guidelines)
- Please use the hand sanitiser available upon entering the Church.
- Please do not touch any surfaces unnecessarily.
- Once Mass has concluded, please leave the Church immediately afterwards to allow for cleaning of all surfaces.



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

Office: 480a Gillies Street, Wendouree Phone: 5339 2302
Email: wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au
P O Box 192, Wendouree
School Principal: Leigh Bradshaw
School Phone: 5339 4726

30th January, 2022 ~ 4th Sunday of Ordinary time

Focus on the Scriptures

This week's gospel reading continues the story of Jesus in the synagogue at Nazareth. Luke introduces here the theme of fulfillment of Scripture, a theme that pervades this gospel: Jesus' ministry continues the work that God has done in Israel. At first, he is universally accepted: the people of Nazareth marvel at the gracious words he utters. They identify him as Joseph's son. By the end of the story, however, these same people actually try to kill him. So, what happens in between to cause such a dramatic change of heart? These are religious people, not an unruly street mob. They are friends of the family. They are familiar with the sacred texts and traditions of Israel and presumably want to understand them more fully. In fact, they are like many of us who take time out on a weekly basis to come together for worship and prayer.

The people of Nazareth seem to be carrying a sense of exclusive entitlement to God's favour, as well as some deeply entrenched prejudices against the neighbouring Syrians and Phoenicians. Their history is largely one of conflict with neighbours, of struggle for survival, and some are unwilling to relinquish their unhealed local and ethnic grievances. This story is about power and control. When Jesus suggests that God's prophetic and healing power is accessible to and may even be more readily received among foreigners than within Israel, the anger of those who consider themselves "the chosen" knows no bounds: it spills over into violence. They have little patience with the implicit criticism of their attitudes to outsiders and the challenge of Jesus' prophetic words.

One of the problems with the narrative is that Jesus seems to be deliberately provoking a negative reaction. There are other problems as well: there is no cliff in Nazareth from which the enraged crowd could cast him to his death, and it is highly unlikely that people of this tiny town of two to four hundred Galilean Jews would resort to murdering one of their own for what they see as a verbal assault. What is going on then? It would seem that the gospel writer is putting elements of later stories about the violent treatment of Jesus and his followers into this episode in order to foreshadow what is to come.

The story thus becomes a microcosm of the gospel as a whole. When the message is comforting, the messenger is well received. When it is less palatable, the messenger is in danger of being attacked or manipulated, more often than not at the hands of people who are basically good people like us. Unchecked assumptions, deep-seated biases, and uncontrolled emotions will function to bring the anointed prophet of the God of Israel to a violent death. This story invites us to check our assumptions and our biases lest we turn to physical, verbal, or emotional violence in the face of a prophetic challenge.

Veronica Lawson RSM

Parish Priest:

Fr Marcello Colasante

Staffing

St Columba's

Office Hours: Tues—Wed
9:00am—1:00pm

Our Safeguarding Officer:
Peter Marquand

Our Lady Help of Christians

Parish Co-ordinator and
Safeguarding Officer:
Maree Roache

MASS TIMES (This week)

St Columba's

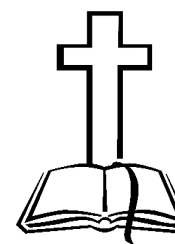
Sunday 10:00 am
Wednesday 10:00 am

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: No Mass
Friday: 10:00 am

Readings for Next Weekend:

Is 6: 1-8
Ps 137: 1-5, 7-8.
R. v.1
1 Cor 15 1-11
Lk 5: 1-11



Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Sr. Janet Meade

Anniversaries: We remember Sue Parkes (nee Thomas) + Peter Baker, Stuart Robertson, Wayne Blake, Katherine Moss, Elizabeth Carey,

Rite of Election 2022 The Rite of Election will be held on Saturday, February 26, 2022 at 12.30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat Lunch will follow in the Hall. To assist with planning for the Rite, can you please advise if your parish will have any candidates and/or catechumens participating in the event, email: julie.boyd@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Mass of the Oils 2022 The Mass of the Oils will be held on Monday, April 11, 2022 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 6.30pm. Supper to follow

Synod of Bishops Catholics across Australia are invited to participate in a period of local consultation for the next international Synod of Bishops, which has the theme, "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission". The People of God are invited to use a guided, prayerful reflection method to consider a series of questions and make submissions via an online portal. Those submissions will help the Bishops develop a national report to support the global process leading to an international gathering in 2023. Find out more at <http://www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch>

Pathways Response Victoria Catholic Bishops launched Pathways Response Victoria last year, which will provide a further way of responding to those who have suffered abuse in the Catholic community. Pathways Response Victoria will be the successor to Towards Healing and The Melbourne Response from the start of 2022. More information is available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/pathways-response-victoria/>

Ballarat Interfaith Network Forum – Sunday, February 6, 2022
The Ballarat Interfaith Network are hosting a forum, "Death, Sanctity of the Human Body, and Organ Donation" to be held on Sunday, February 6, 2022 from 2.00pm - 4.00pm at St Patrick Cathedral Hall, Ballarat. Speaker topics are organ donation, blood donation and interfaith perspectives - Aboriginal, Baha'i, Christian, Hindu, Muslim, Sikh. Registration is essential, ph. 0400 650 234. This is a COVID compliant event – masks, QR check in, social distancing. Organ donor registration is available - bring Medicare card to facilitate.

St Columba's Feb 2nd	(next week)	Sunday 10:00 am
COMMENTATOR		
MINISTER OF THE WORD		
COMMUNION MINISTER		
OVERHEADS		
SACRISTAN		

Collections at St Columba's We thank you for your generous support
Presbytery: \$ 234.90 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 750.00

World Interfaith Harmony Week Flag Raising Event All are invited to the Ballarat Interfaith Network's celebration of World Interfaith Harmony Week on Tuesday, February 1, 2022 at St Peter's Anglican Church, Sturt Street, Ballarat from 11.00am - 12.30pm. The program includes: Acknowledgement of Country; welcome on behalf of Ballarat Interfaith Network; welcome on behalf of City of Ballarat; raising of the Interfaith Flag; address by Sikh Keynote Speaker (Rajinder Singh Gill); prayers from various faith representatives; virtual choir presentations; and refreshments.

Caritas Appeal for Tonga Tonga is reeling after the violent underwater volcano eruption triggered tsunamis, destroyed telecommunications and blanketed the country in ash and rock. Roads, bridges and homes are damaged. Water supplies have been contaminated by volcanic ash and saltwater. Tonga needs your support urgently. Give now to help with emergency response. Donate at <https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/pacific/>

Caritas Prayer for Tonga and the Pacific

Loving God,
We hold before you in our hearts
the people of Tonga in this time of need.
We know that the communities of the Pacific often experience fragility.
Now, with a volcanic explosion leading to both a Tsunami
and degradation of land and water through ash,
we ask that your people find strength and feel closer to you than ever.
They are communities of great faith.
May they turn to you for peace and reassurance.
May they turn to each other for comfort and community.
And may they turn to us for support and solidarity.
We all share this mysterious world
which you have entrusted to our care, as one family.
May your Holy Spirit give us wisdom and courage
and fill us with the gift of Hope. Amen.

Caritas Diocesan Director We welcome Jillian Hogbin to the position of Ballarat Diocesan Caritas Director, following the retirement of Sue Searls from this role. Jillian is available to contact via email at caritas@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7171.

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St John of God Healthcare Ballarat - Pastoral Associate Role The hospital has exciting opportunities available for dedicated and committed Pastoral Associates to join the Pastoral Services team in promoting the Mission and Values of St John of God Health Care. To view the job description and/or to apply, go to the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/our-diocese/employment/>

Highways and Byways Small Grants Program 2022 The 2022 Highways and Byways Small Grants Program is now open for applications. The theme is Healing the Land – Healing Ourselves – Together. Grants of up to \$3,000 are available to community organisations, especially in rural and regional areas, for projects that focus on healing the land in holistic ways and increasing opportunities to build community through practical projects, leadership and skills acquisition, and knowledge transfer. For more information go to <https://highwaysandbyways.org.au/grants/>

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 January: **For true human fraternity:** We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognised, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

Baptism Preparation Sessions: Parents seeking baptism for their child are invited to attend a formation Session on the first Thursday of each month, conducted in the Glowrey MacKillop Centre attached to St. Patrick's Cathedral Hall. Sessions commence at either 10:00 am or 5:30 pm. The first session for 2022 will be held this coming Thursday, February 3rd.

OLHC Feb 1st	(next week)	Saturday 6:00 pm
LEADER OF SONG		Corrie Harbour
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Volunteer please
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD		Pauline Newman
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Helen Feely & Tony Bruty
SACRISTAN & REGISTRATION		John & Sue Calistro
Waubra Church cleaning	February:	Anne Dalton & Brian Gallagher

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Presbytery: \$ 314.70 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 530.00