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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



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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.
- You no longer need to preregister for Masses. Please ensure you arrive 10 minutes before Mass to register your attendance.
- 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 optional 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.

We appreciate your assistance in helping stop the spread of the virus.



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 ballaratnorthpastoral@ballarat.catholic.org.au
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

Parish Priest:

Fr Marcello Colasante

Staffing

St Columba's
Pastoral Associate:
Judith O'Sullivan
Wed-Friday 9:00am –1:00pm

Our 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

No Masses

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

No Masses

Readings for Next Weekend:

Is 50:5-9
Ps 114:1-6, 8-9. R. v.9
Jas 2:14-18
Mk 8:27-35



5th September 2021 ~ 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Focus on the Scriptures

From September 1 to October 4, we join with Christians across the globe in celebrating the Season of Creation. The 2021 theme, "A Home for All, Renewing the Oikos [household] of God" invites us to attend to those rendered homeless, birds and beasts and humankind alike so that there might be a home for all the species of the earth. Today's gospel draws attention to the profoundly deaf who find themselves on the edge of the earth community. Without access to birdsong, to spoken discourse, to music and to the vast range of media communication, they often struggle to understand and to be understood. Their capacity to communicate their deepest wisdom, their hopes and dreams, their anxieties and fears, is limited not only by personal disability but also by the incomprehension and impatience of others.

Whatever degree of deafness is experienced, relief from such an affliction offers far more than physical healing. It brings insertion into the life of family, community, workplace and the wonderful world of God's other than human creation. It opens up new horizons and unimagined possibilities. Sophisticated hearing aids and cochlear implants can transform the lives of those who suffer from serious hearing loss. We give thanks for the earth elements in cochlear implants, the silicone, platinum, titanium and ceramics and the rare earth elements in hearing aids.

In first century Palestine, chances of relief from hearing deficiency and associated speech impairment were minimal. Desperate people put their faith in folk healers who used their healing hands and drew upon their knowledge of the medicinal properties in certain herbs and other plants. Many turned to Asclepius, the Greek god of healing, or his daughter Hygieia. Jesus was an effective healer who used some of the same methods as other healers of his time. He turns to the God of Israel ("looking up to heaven...") as the source of healing power.

There is layer upon layer of meaning in today's healing story. Habitat features significantly. Jesus travels from Tyre on the northern Mediterranean coast to the Sea of Galilee via the non-Jewish territory on the eastern side of the lake. The gospel writer is stressing the all-embracing nature of Jesus' healing ministry. Land belongs to God and territorial claims on land are no barrier to Jesus' healing ministry, a lesson Jesus himself has just learned from the Syro-Phoenician woman of Mark 7:26-30.

In Mark's gospel, the healing power of God is available to Jews and Gentiles, male and female, young and old alike. It is available to those with bodily afflictions and to those who are paralysed by anxiety and fear. There is irony in the telling of the story: a Gentile deaf man can be brought from no hearing to hearing, from "speaking with difficulty" to clarity of speech, but Jesus' own disciples will shortly fail to hear and understand, "Do you have ears and not hear?" (Mark 8:18). Let us open our ears to hear in the hope that we might understand what we have done to our planetary home and how we might renew the oikos of God.

Veronica Lawson



Responsorial Psalm: (R.) Praise the Lord, my soul!
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: all who have died recently

Anniversaries: We remember: Anne Nuthall, Newell Barrett, Michael Franc, Maryanne Rawlings, Genoveva Jurisic, Fr Gavin O'Sullivan SJ, May O'Donnell, Paul Mahar, Noreen Earl, Cathe McArdle, Gwen Dobell

We pray: Those in need of our prayers; all the sick in our Parishes, especially Dan Coutts, Jan Mullaly, Pat Hogan and Frank McNulty. Those preparing to receive the Sacraments of Initiation. For our RCIA candidates.

Season of Creation – September 1 – October 4, 2021 The Season of Creation is the time of year when the world's 2.2 billion Christians are invited to pray and care for creation. This prayerful season runs annually from September 1 through to October 4 – the Feast of St Francis of Assisi. The Season of Creation is dedicated to prayer, reflection and celebration of God as Creator. It also celebrates and reflects prayerfully on the gifts of creation and the mission given to us by God to care for creation and respond to its needs and crises today. This year our theme is 'A Home for All? Renewing the oikos of God' (one of the meanings for the ancient Greek word oikos is home.) Oikos is a home for all but our common home, the Earth, is now in danger because of people's greed, exploitation, disrespect, disconnection and systematic degradation. Resources to assist celebrate the Season of Creation are available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/catholic-earthcare-ballarat-diocese/season-of-creation-2021/>

Prayer for Afghanistan

(From Poor Clare Sisters, Galway)

For those who are fleeing: sanctuary

For those who are staying: safety

For those who are fighting: peace

For those whose hearts are breaking: comfort

For those who see no future: hope.

Amen

Commission Climate Change Forum – Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission

On November 6, 2021 the Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission will host a Climate Change Forum in Ballarat. Through this forum, we celebrate the launch of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Social Justice Statement 2021-2022 Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor. We are inviting you to share what you have for ecological justice. Do you market a product that is about sustainable practices and clean living? Maybe you know a thing or two about how to reduce carbon emissions. Do you have a particular skill in embracing nature and celebrating all things in the natural environment? We want to show the community what people are doing and this is an opportunity for you to share! It could be anything from how to make bees wax wraps, how to compost food scraps to how to recycle and make your own paper. Perhaps you have a wealth of gardening skills and can set up a stall to showcase them. Maybe you have information about how to save power and water. Get in touch with us and let us know what you've got! We would love to hear from you. Email social.justice@ballarat.catholic.org.au.

Collections at St Columba's We thank you for your generous support

Presbytery: \$ Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,259.00

St Columba's	(next week)	Sat 5pm
REGISTRATION		
COMMENTATOR		
MINISTER OF THE WORD		
COMMUNION MINISTER		
OVERHEADS		
SACRISTAN		

Mass times: The impact of COVID-19 has resulted in reduced numbers of worshippers attending in each parish which can be accommodated by the provision of one Mass in each Parish. On 10th March a combined gathering of parishioners from both parishes was held meeting to discuss Mass times. On 9th June representatives of each Parish Council met to share their thoughts.

Both meetings were candid, cordial and respectful recognising that whatever decision is made not everyone will be pleased as it is difficult to embrace change.

Consensus was reached that neither parish seemed particularly concerned about whether they had the vigil or the morning Mass but it to be the same each week to give people a degree of certainty and predictability. Across the 6 Ballarat Parishes, 4 Vigil Masses are celebrated, some in close proximity to each other. Hence it seems reasonable that a vigil Mass be celebrated in Wendouree to cater for people who in the North Western side of Greater Ballarat.

With effect from the weekend of **9th/10th October 2021** the following Mass Times will apply:

Wendouree Saturday Vigil **6.00 pm**

Ballarat North Sunday **10.00 am**

Ballarat Clergy Support Fund Annual Appeal Collection for Sick and Retired Priests

The Ballarat Clergy Support Fund provides for retired priests who have spent a lifetime selflessly caring for others, and who deserve a happy and peaceful retirement. The Fund is currently supporting and caring for seventeen retired priests. Over the next few years a number of priests currently in parish ministry will be moving into retirement, and will also need to be supported by the fund. This annual collection has allowed the Fund to continue to support our sick and retired clergy. Please give as generously as you can, and help us continue 'caring for those who cared for us'. Special envelopes are available for this collection, which will be taken up today. You may also return your envelope next week.

A credit card facility is available for your convenience, and contributions over \$2.00 are tax-deductible.

CARING FOR THOSE WHO CARED FOR US – THE CHURCH COMMUNITY'S RESPONSIBILITY

Interfaith Forum at Ballarat – Sunday, September 12 The Ballarat Interfaith Network are hosting a forum, "Death, Sanctity of the Human Body, and Organ Donation" to be held on Sunday, September 12, 2021 from 2.00pm - 4.00pm at St Patrick Cathedral's 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. Donor registration is available - bring Medicare card to facilitate.

From Bishop Paul From September 20, 2021, Fr Gary Jones, currently Parish Priest of Creswick and Daylesford, will become Parish Priest of Mortlake and Terang. For most of this year, Fr Mick McKinnon has been serving the communities of Mortlake and Terang while he has been waiting for an opportunity to travel to Peru for ministry there in collaboration with the Columbans. Fr Mick has recently received notification that he will be able to travel. I offer my thanks to Fr Mick for his care for the parishioners of Mortlake and Terang for these past months. He will continue as Administrator of these parishes until September 19.



Congratulations to Fr Marcello who celebrated 20 years of ordination on 31st August. We pray that the Lord will continue to guide and bless him in his priestly ministry.

'Treasuring Our Later Years' (Reflection series via ZOOM), 6 x Wednesdays, 22 September to 27 October 2021, 12.45pm-3pm.

Facilitated by Nicole Rotaru rsm, this series offers participants the opportunity to explore new possibilities that ageing offers daily. It will include input, conversation and the opportunity to depth and integrate reflections and learnings through personal reflection and creative expressions. Topics covered include: ageing; spirituality; relationships; meaning; gratitude; death. Cost \$180 for the series, or \$30 per session. Bookings and payment via Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation website at www.heartoflife.melbourne For more information, contact email: secretary@heartoflife.melbourne or tel: (03) 9890 1101.

No Masses in either Parish until restrictions lifted

Prayer for Fathers on Fathers Day

God our Father,
we give you thanks and praise for fathers young and old.
We pray for young fathers, newly embracing their vocation;
may they find courage and perseverance
to balance work, family and faith in joy and sacrifice.
We pray for fathers around the world
whose children are lost or suffering;
may they know that the God of compassion
walks with them in their sorrow.
We pray for men who are not fathers
but still mentor and guide us with fatherly love and advice.
We remember fathers, grandfather, and great grandfathers
who are no longer with us
but who live forever in our memory
and nourish us with their love.

Amen



God our Father, through the intercession of St Joseph, foster father of Jesus, we give you thanks and praise for all fathers in the world.

Collections at OLHC We thank you for your generous support

Presbytery: \$ 125.00 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$1,200.00

OLHC	(next week)	Sunday 10am
LEADER OF SONG		
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD		
COMMUNION MINISTERS		
SACRISTAN & REGISTRATION		