

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.

Please support our loyal advertisers

Ed Browne
Busy Bookkeeping
 Phone 5364 2922
ballarat@busybookkeeping.com.au

BALLARAT MEAT COMPANY
 11 Neerim Crescent,
 Wendouree Industrial Park
 Ph: 5339 3122
 Open Direct to the Public
 Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

ACDF Funeral Fund
 Catholic Development Fund
Prepaid Funerals
 Eliminate family stress
 Details: 5337 7111

M&L McLEAN
 CLEANING SERVICES
 PTY LTD • EST. 1990
 Domestic & Commercial cleaning
 0402862188/0434746818
admin@mlmclean.com.au

Pat Cashin Funerals
 Ballarat
 A.B.N. 28 007 228 757
 Address: 1114 Doveton Street
 North, Ballarat, 3350
 Phone: (03) 5333 3911
 All hours. Moderate cost

PPT
 PROWSE PERRIN & TWOMEY
 20 Lydiard Street Sth,
 Ballarat
 Ph: (03) 5331 3711
www.ppt.com.au



Have you thought? Simon's Wife?
 In this week's reading, it is Simon's mother-in-law who is healed. This obviously means that Simon is married. However, there is no mention whatsoever about his wife. Is she alive or dead? Do they have children? We have no indication. It is not until the writings of Paul (1 Cor 9:5) that we learn Simon Peter was indeed married and that his wife accompanied him on his travels. Perhaps this visit to his family home was to announce to his wife and family that he had decided to follow Jesus and give up fishing.



"Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience"
 (Laudato Si', 217).

reduce reuse recycle
rethink repurpose



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
P O Box 192, Wendouree **Prayer Line:** 5339 2302
Email: wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au
School Principal: Leigh Bradshaw **School Phone:** 5339 4726

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land on which our Parish communities meet, the Wadawurrung people. We pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging, and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation of first peoples.

Staffing

Parish Priest: Fr Marcello Colasante
Finance Officer: Bernadette Prestwood
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
Office Hours: Wed-Fri 9–1pm
Parish Co-ord & 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 10:00 am
 Friday 10:00 am

Readings for Next Weekend:

6th Sunday of Ordinary Time (b)

1st Reading: Leviticus 13: 1-2. 44-46

Psalm: 31: 1-2. 5. 11. R.v. 7

2nd Reading:

1 Corinthians 10: 31-11:15: 16-24

Gospel: Mark 1: 40—45

5th Sunday of Advent (B) - 4th February 2024

Focus on the Scripture

The mother-in-law of Simon (Peter) was sick in bed with a raging fever. When Jesus learned about her distressed state, he 'took her by the hand and helped her up'. He broke the taboo about physical contact with a woman not his relative because he wanted to holistically heal her dis-ease.

Simon's mother-in-law didn't need an aspirin and a cup of tea. She felt quarantined, isolated, and needed a hand reassuring her of sociable relationships. Jesus overcame her fever and her dis-ease with the world.

At every Mass we exchange a physical gesture at the greeting of Peace. This quite often overcomes being ill-at-ease with a family member or just with the neighbour in the pew. We need to take that symbolic action into the world. For somebody, it may be the most touching thing we ever do.

We could pause for a moment to identify that person who needs us to reach out, to take their hand and help them up.

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com



Responsorial Psalm: Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. He bore our sickness and endured our suffering. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God Anthony Dooley, Therese Ryan

Anniversaries: We remember Des Lloyd, Peter Baker, Pasquale Milazzo, Pat Rowan, Rita Moclair, Valerie Lavery, Joan Thomas, Barbara Beechey, Marsha Gallagher, Margaret Le Marshall, Alwyn Hayes

We pray: for all in areas of conflict, war and natural disasters, for the sick and all in need of our prayers.

LENTEN PROGRAM Any one wishing to join the Lenten program in a group gathering , at OLHC , commencing Tuesday 20th Feb, at 2 pm . All most welcome

Any queries contact Laureen Rhodes 0405277778.

EAST TIMOR KNITTING PROGRAM

After such a successful effort last year, it would be nice to have some additional people to knit the little sets or crochet the rugs.

Donations of Time, 8ply acrylic yarn or money to buy the yarn (if you dont knit or crochet) would be acceptable.

Contact Laureen 0405277778 with donations or money or alternatively money can be put in an envelope marked East Timor Project and left on the collection plates at OLHC or St Columbas Church.

SEW and SO..... We are back. Thursday 8th February 2024 at 1.30pm in St Columba's Church Foyer. Please mark the second Thursday of each month in your busy calendars. Looking forward to seeing you and any new people who would like to join us for a cuppa. Enquiries Margaret 53314032



Mass to Launch Project Compassion 2024

Mass to launch Project Compassion 2024 will be held on Sunday, February 11, 2024 at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat at 5.00pm. Bishop Paul Bird CSsR will be the Main Celebrant and will commission Student Leaders as Ambassadors for Caritas 2024. All welcome to attend.

Congratulations to Mavis & Jim McNulty on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding Anniversary 60 years. Best wishes, and may God continue to Bless and Keep you.

Wisdom at the Cathedral All are welcome to the first talk for the year in the Cathedral parish's series Wisdom at the Cathedral. Fr Bill Lowry from the Warrnambool parish, will speak on *Discerning God's Will in Your Life*. Learn about the processes employed by the saints and the Lord himself in discerning the Father's will for their lives. The talk and discussion time will go for an hour and will be followed by a cup of tea. 7pm , Thursday 29 February in the MacKillop/Glowrey rooms. Entry by donation. For all enquiries please contact Fiona Bradley on fionalouisebradley@gmail.com

St Columba's 11th Feb 2024	(next week)	Sunday 10:00 am
LEADER of SONG		Terry Ranger
COMMENTATOR		Colleen Wakefield
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Vicki Moroney
COMMUNION MINISTER		Tim O'Farrell
DIGITAL PORJECTOR		Kathleen Keogh
SACRISTAN		Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe
Collections Last Weekend St Columba's Thank you for your contributions		
Presbytery: \$ 347.85		Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 995.00

Sacramental Statistics: 2023	Ballarat North	Wendouree
Baptisms	13	11
Confirmation	35	12
Eucharist	46	8
Funerals	19	15

Laudato Si message for February: "Think before you buy"

Did you know? A great way to reduce waste is to think about whether you need something before you buy it. See if you can buy it second hand rather than new. Buying from small local business is also a good way to reduce your environmental impact.

150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat The Diocese of Ballarat will turn 150 on March 30, 2024. During this year there will be many events to acknowledge this significant anniversary. Keep up-to-date at the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/our-diocese/150th-anniversary-of-the-diocese-of-ballarat/>

Notes about Holy Communion Bishop Paul issued the following information for people of the diocese last year and this is still relevant:

Now that the Covid pandemic is less in the news, a number of people have asked about arrangements for the reception of Holy Communion. Some have proposed reintroducing options that were permitted before the pandemic, particularly receiving the host on the tongue and sharing the chalice.

Over the past few weeks, I have consulted various people about this, including the members of our Diocesan Liturgical Commission. I have also received advice from a medical point of view. This has included advice from the Chief Executive Officer of the Southern Grampians Health Service and the Head of the Infectious Diseases Department at the Alfred Hospital. These consultations have highlighted the fact that Covid infections are still a serious concern and that we can reduce the risk of infections by continuing the present provisions regarding Holy Communion.

I have concluded that it is not yet time to reintroduce the sharing of the chalice. While reception of Holy Communion under both species of bread and wine is a fuller sign of our sharing in the banquet of Christ, we can find reassurance in the teaching of the Council of Trent that the whole Christ, body and blood, soul and divinity, is contained under each species. So, even when we simply receive the host, we are receiving the whole Christ.

In regard to the way of receiving the host, recognising the continuing risks of the pandemic, and out of consideration for the health of all parishioners, I recommend reverent reception of the host in the hand rather than reception on the tongue.

May our Communion draw us ever closer to Christ and strengthen our love and care for one another.

God bless you all.

Praying with Pope Francis: intention for February-

For the terminally ill: Let us pray that the sick who are in the final stages of life, and their families, receive the necessary medical and human care and accompaniment.



From Bishop Paul:

Hello Everyone,

Over the past few months, our Diocesan Pastoral Planning Panel has met with priests and parishioners of parishes in the Ballarat region to review the ministry districts proposed in our Looking Forward Pastoral Plan.

The timing of this review is linked with some changes in appointments that we are anticipating in the coming months. Fr Eugene McKinnon has indicated that he would like to retire from his responsibilities as Parish Priest of Redan, Sebastopol and Linton when he turns 75 in April 2024. Also, Fr Jorge de Chavez has advised that his Congregation, the Oblates of St Joseph, plans to transfer him from his current role at Ballarat East to serve in a parish in Western Australia. Another Oblate priest will come to serve in our diocese. In the context of these expected changes, it seems opportune to review the appointments to the Ballarat region parishes generally.

In the light of the recent discussions, I am pleased to announce the following ministry districts, with the new grouping of parishes to take effect after Easter 2024. The new ministry districts will be:

- **Cathedral Parish, Ballarat North Parish & Beaufort Parish**
- **Ballarat East Parish, Bungaree Parish & Gordon Parish**
- **Redan Parish, Sebastopol Parish & Linton Parish**
- **Wendouree Parish, Creswick Parish & Daylesford Parish**

The priests who are currently serving in these parishes will continue in their current appointments until April 10, 2024. They have agreed that they will then conclude their appointments to allow new appointments to be made corresponding to the new ministry districts. I will contact priests throughout our diocese inviting them to express interest in serving in any of these ministry districts.

In consultation with our Diocesan Personnel Board, I will consider the expressions of interest early in the new year, with a view to making appointments to take effect on April 10, 2024. I hope this advance planning will be helpful in allowing time to prepare for the transition to the new arrangements.

God bless you all.

Bishop Paul

Paul Bird CSsR Bishop of the Diocese of Ballarat

P.O Box 121, Ballarat, 3353 Ph: 03 5337 7121 www.ballarat.catholic.org.au



OLHC 10th Feb 2024	(next week)	Saturday 6:00 pm
LEADER OF SONG		Corrie Harbour
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Lyn Gray
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Darryl Clark & Trish Pora
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Jennifer Adams & Bev Haywood
SACRISTAN		Geoff & Marg McLean
Waubra Church cleaning	February	Kerryn & Lawrence Gallagher
Collections Last Weekend Thank you for your contributions		
Presbytery: \$ 364.65		Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 465.00