

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

Mary Magdalene

Mary Magdalene, or Mary of Magdala, plays an important role in the gospel accounts of the resurrection. She was obviously a significant follower of Jesus, being named as a witness to the crucifixion, discovering the empty tomb and the first to encounter the risen Christ. One would think that she would hold a prestigious place in the Church, but for many years she was confused with another character identified in the gospels and was portrayed as a prostitute and sinner. Mary is named in each of the four gospels and not once is it indicated that she was a sinner or prostitute. She has been a victim of mistaken identity for 2000 years.

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*Interest rates subject to change. View current rates on the [CDF website](http://www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au).



Parishes of St Columba 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 021
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 Easter (B)

Acts of the Apostles 10: 25-26, 34-35, 44-48

Psalm: 97: 1-4.R. see v.2

2nd Reading: 1 John 4: 7-10

Gospel: John 15: 9-17



Easter Sunday (B) - 31st March 2024

Focus on the Scripture

Women go to the tomb as dawn is breaking. The Power of Darkness which had Jesus unjustly sentenced, cruelly tortured and buried in the pitch blackness of the tomb, is conquered by the Son-Rise of all sun rises flooding our world and the whole of human history with Divine Light and Energy.

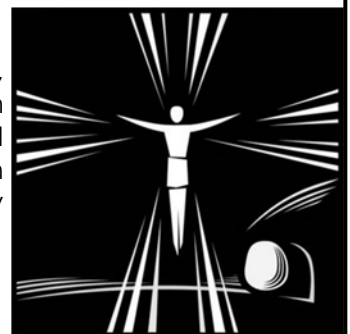
This is the heart of our faith as Catholic Christians, which we celebrate with bon-fire (good fire) in darkness at the Easter Vigil. From that earthly element we light the Easter candle and the Exsultet is sung: 'Be glad, let earth be glad as glory floods her, ablaze with light from her eternal King.'

The resurrection itself is nowhere described in the gospels, but we do have appearances of the Risen Lord Jesus. The first appearance was to a woman, Mary of Magdala. A title given to her by the early church was 'Apostle to the Apostles' because she was the bearer of the message which the male disciples initially did not believe. But eventually they too believed that Death had been done to death because the Son had risen.

Christ's body was transfigured by the energy of Divine Love and we can, by grace, participate in that resurrection life of Our Lord. A glorious destiny awaits us, as indeed it awaits the whole cosmos as it is to be transformed by that resurrection life recreating the whole of creation.

We could take a moment to pray that we, along with all that matters, are graced with the life-giving energy of the Risen Son and that we may join Mary of Magdala in spreading the Good News of Christ's victory over death. Alleluia!

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com



Responsorial Psalm: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Christ has become our pascal sacrifice; let us feast with joy in the Lord. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God all those who have recently passed into eternal life.

Anniversaries: We remember Tony McDonald, Sr Patricia Vagg rsm, Kevin Simpson,

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

Our Diocesan Community" (Autumn edition) is now available. Copies can be located in the church foyer. Please take and read.

Catholic Diocese of Ballarat

Community Remember Revitalise Hope

150 years

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer
Romans 12:12

Planning by 150th Anniversary Committee

Ash Wednesday 'Repent and believe the good news' February 14, 2024

Anniversary Liturgy in Cathedral Mass of the Oils March 25, 2024

Anniversary Liturgies in Parishes Fifth Sunday of Easter April 28, 2024

Pentecost Sunday Commissioning for ministry in parishes May 19, 2024

Diocesan Assembly November 15 - 16, 2024

2023

2023

Feb 2024

Feb - Mar 2024

Mar 2024

Mar 2024

April 2024

Apr - May 2024

May 2024

Mid 2024

Nov 2024

Parishes develop Parish Leadership Teams

Lent 'Repent and believe the good news' February 14 - March 24, 2024

150th Anniversary Holy Saturday March 30, 2024

Anniversary Week Catholic Education Week April 29 - May 3, 2024

Formation in Parishes from Mid 2024

Praying with Pope Francis: intention for April- For the Role of Women



This months prayer intention is "that the dignity and richness of women be recognised in all cultures and for the end to the discrimination they suffer in various parts of the world"



OLHC Sacramental Program for the Sacrament of **Confirmation** commences in Term 2, on Tuesday May 7th at 6:00 pm in the school Library. Further information is available in a brochure in the church foyer, or by contacting the parish co-ordinator (5339 2302 or email: wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

Save the Date: "Walsh Clans of Horsham" reunion — for the descendants of William & Bridget (nee Shea) Walsh, and Edward & Julia (nee Ryan) Walsh. 10th—12th October 2025 in Horsham. Enquiries: walshreunion2025@gmail.com



Mass of the Oils 2024 & 150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat



Thank you to all who attended and participated in the Mass of the Oils last Monday at St

Patrick's Cathedral, either in person or online via the livestream. The representation from parishes, schools and agencies of the diocese in the choir, procession of parish symbols, procession of the oils, collection of the parish oils and various other ministries, made this a truly diocesan celebration. Special thanks to those who travelled considerable distance to attend the Mass. Thanks you to Geoff and Trish Doery who represented the OLHC Paris in this ceremony. A report, photos and the livestream link from the Mass are available from the diocesan website. <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/mass-of-the-oils-2024/>



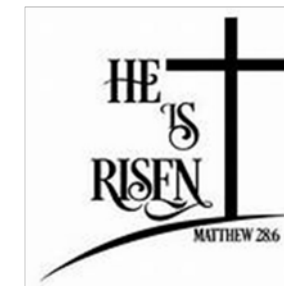
Easter Sunday 30th & 31st March



Happy Easter from all at Caritas Australia! Thank you for your continued support through Project Compassion. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow, for all future generations. Thank you for supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion 2024 Lenten appeal. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or by calling 1800 024 413.



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, **Next session: April 4th 2024 at either 10:00 am or 5:30 pm.**



Fr Marcello, along with Maree and Lia wish parishioners of Our Lady Help of Christian and St Columba's parishes blessings for this Easter Season.

Thanks to the musicians and members of the Liturgy teams for the preparation of the Easter liturgies.

St Columba's 7th April '24 (next week) Sunday 10:00 am	
LEADER of SONG	Terry Ranger
COMMENTATOR	Bruce Chapman
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Geraldine Mugavin
COMMUNION MINISTER	Bruce Chapman
DIGITAL PORJECTOR	Fiona Newton
SACRISTAN	Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe
Collections Last Weekend St Columba's Thank you for your contributions	
Presbytery: \$ 456.55	Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,035.00

"Walk, cycle or use public transport"



Did you know? Choosing active transport like walking and cycling can not only dramatically reduce your carbon footprint, but you could end up saving money and staying fit at the same time! When walking or cycling is not an option, swapping the car for a bus or train can also make a significant dent in emissions.

OLHC 6th April 2024 (next week) Saturday 6:00 pm	
LEADER OF SONG	Corrie Harbour
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL	Margaret White
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Pauline Newman & Val Bourke
COMMUNION MINISTERS	Harry Kennedy & Trish Lawson
SACRISTAN	John & Sue Calistro
Waubra Church cleaning	April Trish & Steve Coleman
Collections Last Weekend Thank you for your contributions	
Presbytery: \$ 418.00	Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 357.30



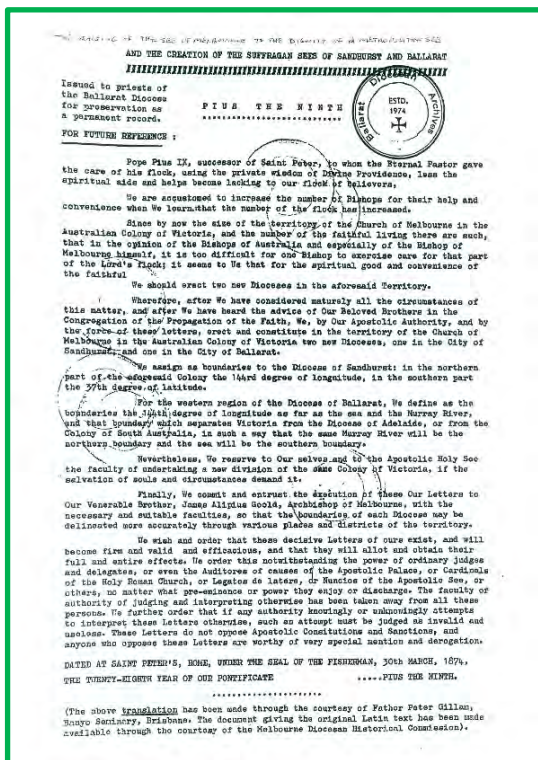
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Phone: (03) 5337 7121

E-mail: bishopsoffice@ballarat.catholic.org.au

An Easter with a Special Anniversary

This Easter, our diocese will be marking a special anniversary. It was on March 30, 1874, that Pope Pius the Ninth issued a decree establishing the Diocese of Ballarat. So, when we gather for the Easter Vigil on March 30 this year, it will be 150 years to the day since our diocese began.

The official description of a diocese focuses on the people who make up the diocesan community. The Code of Canon Law describes a diocese as “a portion of the people of God, which is entrusted to the care of a bishop” (Canon 369). So, when the number of people increases, there comes a time when a new bishop is appointed to care for that community. This is what happened in 1874 with the start of the Diocese of Ballarat. The population in the Colony of Victoria had grown so much that there were too many people for the Bishop of Melbourne to care for, so the Pope appointed two new bishops, one in Ballarat and one in Sandhurst (Bendigo), with responsibility to care for the communities of those regions.



Pope Pius the Ninth wrote as “the successor of Saint Peter to whom the Eternal Pastor gave the care of his flock”. This is how he explained the setting up of the new dioceses.

“Lest spiritual helps become lacking to the flock of believers, we are accustomed to increase the number of bishops for their assistance and convenience when we learn that the number of the flock has increased. Since by now the size of the territory of the Church of Melbourne in the Australian Colony of Victoria and the number of the faithful living there are such that, in the opinion of the bishops of Australia and especially of the Bishop of Melbourne himself, it is too difficult for one bishop to exercise care for that part of the Lord’s flock, it seems to us that for the spiritual good and convenience of the faithful we should erect two new dioceses in the aforesaid territory. Wherefore, after we have considered maturely all the circumstances of this matter, and after we have heard the advice of Our Beloved Brothers in the Congregation of the Propagation of the Faith, we, by Our Apostolic Authority, and by the force of these Letters, erect and constitute in the territory of the Church of Melbourne in the Australian Colony of Victoria two new Dioceses, one in the City of Sandhurst and one in the City of Ballarat.

We assign as boundaries to the Diocese of Sandhurst in the northern part of the aforesaid Colony the 14th degree of longitude, in the southern part the 27th degree of latitude.

For the western region of the Diocese of Ballarat, We define as the boundaries the 13th degree of longitude as far as the sea and the Murray River, and that boundary which separates Victoria from the Diocese of Adelaide, or from the Colony of South Australia, in such a way that the same Murray River will be the northern boundary and the sea will be the southern boundary.

Nevertheless, We reserve to Our selves and to the Apostolic Holy See the faculty of undertaking a new division of the same Colony of Victoria, if the salvation of souls and circumstances demand it.

Finally, We want and entrust the execution of these Our Letters to Our Venerable Brother, James Allipue Noels, Archbishop of Melbourne, with the necessary and suitable faculties, so that the boundaries of each Diocese may be delineated more accurately through various places and districts of the territory.

We wish and order that these decisive Letters of ours exist, and will become firm and valid and efficacious, and that they will obtain their full and entire effects. We order this notwithstanding the power of ordinary Judges and delegates, or even the auditors of cause of the Apostolic Palace, or Cardinals of the Holy Roman Church, or Legates de latere, or Nuncios of the Apostolic See, or others, no matter what pre-eminence or power they enjoy or discharge. The faculty of authority of judging and interpreting otherwise has been taken away from all these persons. We further order that if any authority knowingly or unwisely attempts to interpret these Letters otherwise, such an attempt must be judged as invalid and useless. These Letters do not oppose Apostolic Constitutions and Statutes, and anyone who opposes these Letters are worthy of very special mention and degradation.

DATED AT SAINT PETERS, ROME, UNDER THE SEAL OF THE FISHERMAN, JOSEPH MARCHE, 1874, THE TWENTY-SECOND YEAR OF OUR POPEPIUS NINTH.PIUS THE NINTH.

(The above translation has been made through the courtesy of Father Peter Gillian, Sango Rectory, Brisbane. The document giving the original Latin text has been made available through the courtesy of the Melbourne Diocesan Historical Commission).

have heard the advice of our beloved brothers in the Congregation of the Propagation of the Faith, we, by our apostolic authority and by the force of these letters, erect and constitute in the territory of the Church of Melbourne in the Australian Colony of Victoria two new dioceses, one in the city of Sandhurst and one in the city of Ballarat."

The Pope's decree described the boundaries of the new dioceses. The Diocese of Ballarat would include the western region of Victoria. "For the Diocese of Ballarat, we define as the boundaries the 144th degree of longitude as far as the sea and the Murray River, and that boundary which separates Victoria from the Diocese of Adelaide, or from the Colony of South Australia, in such a way that the same Murray River will be the northern boundary and the sea will be the southern boundary." One hundred and fifty years later, we continue to echo the Pope's words in describing our diocese today. Our diocesan vision statement begins with the words, "We are a community of communities from the Murray to the sea."

The 150th anniversary will occur on March 30, which in 2024 happens to be Holy Saturday. This means that we will be able to mark the anniversary as we celebrate the Easter Vigil. Each time we light our tapers from the Easter candle, we give thanks that Jesus is risen and is with us as we gather in his name. When we celebrate the Easter Vigil this year, we might well remember that the risen Jesus has been with us as a diocesan community for the past 150 years. He has been with us through the joys and struggles of these years and he promises to remain with us always.

Bishop Paul Bird CSsR

