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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

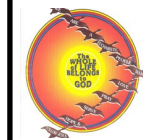
Aboriginal Stations of the Cross available for purchase

Within the chapel of Aboriginal Catholic Ministry in Thornbury, in Melbourne's inner north, a set of Indigenous Stations of the Cross are on display, which were created by artist 'John Dunn', a member of the Stolen Generations. These Stations are an exploration of his own journey and they illustrate beautifully how Aboriginal people resonate with the sufferings of Jesus. 10cm x 16cm resource sets are available for parishes, churches and school communities at \$15.00 each. For more information go to <https://art.catholic.org.au/2021/07/13/aboriginal-stations-of-the-cross/>

COVID Safe Plan

Checking-in is no longer a requirement. Face Masks are no longer required to be worn in most indoor settings but are recommended, particularly if you have any COVID-19 symptoms. They are also recommended for people who may be vulnerable to COVID-19 and are in settings where keeping a safe physical distance from other people is not possible

- **If you are feeling unwell or have any symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough or sore throat) please do not attend Mass.**
- **If you are waiting results of a COVID test stay home**
- **Please use the hand sanitiser available upon entering the Church.**
- **Please do not touch any surfaces unnecessarily.**



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

Office: 480a Gillies Street, Wendouree **Phone:** 5339 2302

Email: wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au

P O Box 192, Wendouree

School Principal: Leigh Bradshaw

School Co-Principals: Bambi Afford & Shaun Mohr

School Phone: 5332 4894

School Phone: 5339 4726

Parish Priest:

Fr Marcello Colasante

Staffing

St Columba's

Tues—Wed 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

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 11.00 am (Kelaston)

Friday 10.00 am

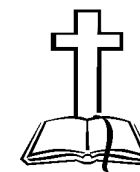
Readings for Next Weekend:

Acts 5:12-16

Ps 117:2-4, 22-27. R. v.1

Rev 1:9-13

Jn 20:19-31



17th April 2022 ~ Easter Sunday Yr C

Focus on the Scriptures

It is not always wise to discount someone's story just because it sounds like fantasy. In Luke's resurrection account, that is what the "eleven and all the rest" do with the women's stories of a rolled-back stone, no body and heavenly interpreters. The notion of resurrection was not in itself extraordinary in a first century Jewish context. The Pharisees believed in a general resurrection, but the idea that God would raise one person from the dead before the time of the general resurrection was quite unthinkable. From the men's perspective, therefore, the women are talking nonsense. Peter decides to go and confirm their testimony, indicating that he suspects there is some truth in what they have to say. Their account checks out and he goes away in amazement, no apology, just amazement.

This gospel and the whole Easter celebration is about "the one who lives". Luke's account leaves no doubt about the death of Jesus: there are witnesses, there is evidence. The same goes for the burial. Now, in the story of the empty tomb, Luke wants to assert that Jesus is alive. The women (Mary of Magdala, Joanna the wife of Chuza, Mary the mother of James and unidentified others) are confronted with the question: "Why are you seeking among the dead the one who lives?" They are then entrusted with the message of resurrection: "He is not here, but has been raised." They are invited to remember the prophetic words of Jesus. They do indeed remember and they return to proclaim the good news. In line with countless prophetic figures before and since, their testimony is rejected, but is nonetheless effective through the telling and retelling of the story.

In the reading from John's gospel for Easter Sunday morning, mention of the first day of the week "while it was still dark" evokes the first day of creation and God's word bringing light. The two angels guarding the tomb call to mind the heavenly creatures who barred the way to the tree of life in the Genesis garden story. The biblical story has come full circle, from creation to resurrection and new creation.

We take time at Easter to re-member, re-enact and re-tell these originating stories of our tradition, to dramatise and celebrate in solemn ritual what we celebrate in lower key every Sunday of the year. In our liturgical re-telling, all the power of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus is present to us and to our world. Resurrection faith is a commitment to life. In these times of planetary uncertainty, a commitment to life includes taking seriously the findings of reputable climate change scientists who no doubt can feel a bit like the women of the gospel whose message was discounted. In a world where vested interests distort truth and where constant repetition of lies leads to confusion, distrust and the unspeakable violence of war, resurrection stories remind us that Christ remains present in the community and that the seemingly impossible is not beyond reach.

Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm:(R.) This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Christ has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with joy in the Lord. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Eric Streckfuss, Ika Perovic

Anniversaries: We remember: Brenden Love, Eleanor Eddy, Bill Eddy, Monica Eddy, Sr Monica Butler RSM,, Polly Borg, Margaret Meerbach, Therese Head, Stephen Head, Helen McMahan-Martino

We pray: for the people Ukraine, those inundated by flooding along the eastern seaboard and seeking to start again and all in need in of our prayer.

Caritas Australia Ukraine Crisis Appeal In a matter of weeks, millions of people have fled the conflict in Ukraine. Our long-standing partner, Caritas Ukraine, is on the ground, supporting people in need during this unfolding humanitarian crisis. Help provide urgent humanitarian assistance including shelter, food, clean water, medicine and psychological support to people affected by this crisis. Donate today at www.caritas.org.au/ukraine or call 1800 024 413 toll free. Keep up to date on the latest activities by Caritas agencies on the ground www.caritas.org.au/ukraine-news

Pope Francis' Prayer for Peace in Ukraine I ask you to pray the Our Father for peace in Ukraine, now and throughout this Day. Let us ask the Lord to grant that the country may grow in the spirit of brotherhood, and that all hurts, fears and divisions will be overcome. We have spoken about the Holocaust. But let us think too that [in Ukraine] millions of people were killed [1932-1933]. They are a people who have suffered; they have suffered from hunger, suffered from much brutality and they deserve peace. May the prayers and supplications that today rise up to heaven touch the minds and hearts of world leaders, so that dialogue may prevail and the common good be placed ahead of partisan interests Please, no more war.

Divine Mercy Sunday – Next Sunday April 24, 2022

The Divine Mercy Picture travels to parishes to bring healing, hope and courage and will be at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat on April 24, 2022 from 1.00pm. Jesus says: "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." Mt 11:28. Eight first class relics: Pope St John Paul II; St Jadwiga Queen; St Faustina Kowalska, St Maximilian Kolbe; St Stanisław Papczyński; St Maria of Jesus Crucified from Bethlehem; Blessed Michał Sopoćko; and Blessed Jerzy Popiełuszko. Prayers for peace, merciful love for Ukraine, Russia, all nations, the Church and the world. All are welcome:

- 1.00pm – Viewing of Relics, talk
- 1.00pm – 4.00 pm Confession (Sacrament of Reconciliation), three Priests
- 1.30pm - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary
- 2.00pm - Hour of Mercy prayers, Benediction
- 3.00pm - Holy Mass, Blessing with Relics

St Columba's 24th April	(next week)	Sun 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG		Volunteer
COMMENTATOR		Volunteer
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Volunteer
COMMUNION MINISTER		Volunteer
DIGITAL PROJECTOR		Volunteer
SACRISTAN		Volunteer

Collections Last week at St Columba's Thank you for your contributions
 Presbytery: \$ 332.85 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 772.00

Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program – Online Study

Our partner, Dayton University, offers low-cost (\$50usd) online study and formation for employed or volunteer lay workers in parishes. Study cycles are over 3 or 5 weeks. The next Cycle of 2022 begins March 7. There are 39 subjects to choose from – find one that interests you! Registrations are open now. More information is available on the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/pastoral-ministry/lay-pastoral-ministry-program/> or email djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7121

"Engaging Your Faith" online sessions

Catholic Theological College presents, "Engaging Your Faith", a series of online short sessions offering an opportunity to explore your faith through a variety of topics including: Theology, Spirituality, Biblical Studies, Vatican II, Pastoral Studies, *Laudato Si*, Christian Meditation, *Lectio Divina*, Interfaith Relations, and Science and Religion. All topics are presented by lecturers of Catholic Theological College. For more information go to <https://ctc.edu.au/news-and-events/engaging-your-faith/>

St Joseph's Church Derrinallum Final Mass An invitation is extended to parishioners and former parishioners, their families and friends and any interested members of the community, to attend the Final Mass following the closing of St Joseph's Church in Derrinallum. The Mass will be celebrated at **11.00 am on Sunday April 24** to be followed by Light refreshments. To assist with catering kindly reply to Gerard Fitzgerald 0409863079 or Kathy Bell 0499555607

Walking in the Spirit

The People of God are invited to make a prayerful journey towards the Second Assembly of the Plenary Council through the "Walking in the Spirit" prayer campaign. Walking in the Spirit begins on Easter Sunday, April 17, and runs until the Second Assembly, which opens on Sunday, July 3. Resources have been created for use by individuals, families, schools, parishes and other Catholic communities. Find out more at www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/walkinginthespirit/

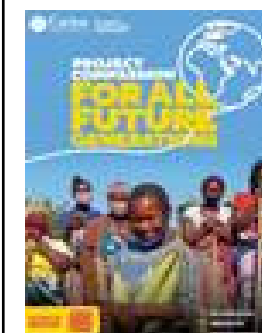
Reflection Day - Tuesday 17th May from 9.30am - 2.00pm

Invitation to attend a day of reflection **"Where is the will of God for us in loss"** OLHC Parish Wendouree. Numbers are limited. For bookings contact Kath 5331 2677.



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 April: **For Health Care Workers:** We pray for health care workers who serve the sick and the elderly, especially those in the poorest countries. May they be adequately supported by governments and local communities.

**Project Compassion – Easter Sunday
Happy Easter from all at Caritas Australia!**



Thank you for your continued support for Project Compassion – past, present and future. 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 and envelopes available from your Parish, by visiting www.caritas.org.au, or by calling 1800 024 413.

*Happy Easter
Wishing you the peace,
joy and hope of the
Easter Season*



OLHC 23rd April April	(next week)	Saturday 6.00pm
LEADER OF SONG		Vin Dillon
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Ely Green
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Sue Calistro, Bill Jones
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Marie McMillan, Bev Hayward
SACRISTAN		Lyn Gray, Kylie Gray

Collections Last Week at OLHC Thank you for your contributions
 Presbytery: \$ 381.70 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 290.00