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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

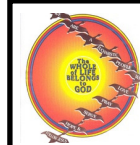
Aboriginal Stations of the Cross available for purchase

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 awaiting results of a COVID test, please 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 Phone: 5339 4726

School Co-Principals: Bambi Afford & Shaun Mohr

School Phone: 5332 4894

Parish Priest:

Fr Marcello Colasante

Staffing

St Columba's

Parish Co-Ordinator: Lia Andanar Yu
Wed-Friday 10:00am –2:00pm

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

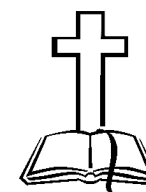
Sunday 10.00 am
Wed 10.00 am (Anointing Mass)

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
Tuesday 10.00 am (Funeral)
Thursday 10.00 am
Friday 10.00 am

Readings for Next Weekend

Is 50:4-7
Ps 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24 R. v.2
Phil 2:6-11
Mt 27:11-54



26th March 2023 ~ 5th Sunday of Lent Yr A

Focus on the Scriptures

Sunday's readings touch into the most profound of mysteries, the mysteries of life and death. To hold a new born child or to see the sick restored to health is to experience the wonder of life. On the other hand, sudden death can bring unimagined grief and pain. The recent earthquake in Türkiye and Syria brought sudden death to tens of thousands of people and an extraordinary outpouring of grief. This unexpected tragedy has come at a time when thousands are dying every day in the world's major conflict zones and when extreme weather events continue to bring death and destruction and species loss. Death brings tears, even anger. Little wonder that "life" becomes a metaphor for transformation and new beginnings or that "death" so often signifies deprivation and loss.

The gospel reading is about the death and restoration to life of Lazarus, "the one whom Jesus loved". It is the last of the seven "signs" in John's "book of signs" that reveal the "glory" of God. It is also the greatest of Jesus' signs. It functions as a catalyst for the events that lead to his death: "...from that day on they planned to put him to death" (11:53). It provides the occasion for Jesus to assert "I am the resurrection and the life" and to invite assent to that revelation of his identity. It reveals the compassion and tender heart of Jesus who weeps at the grief of Mary his friend and at the death of her brother. It also reveals the goodness in the hearts of those "Jews" who share her grief and who come to faith in Jesus who raises the dead to life.

Though the story revolves around the plight of Lazarus, Martha and Mary are the characters who, with Jesus, occupy centre stage and into whose faith journey we are invited to enter. Martha and Mary are identified as "sisters" who live in Bethany. Are they blood "sisters" or sisters in their love of Jesus and the community around him, or both? Lazarus is Mary's sick "brother". Martha will later claim him as her "brother". Might they all be part of a little faith community in Bethany rather than biological siblings? A brief notice alerts the reader to the imminent death of Jesus: "Mary is the one who anointed Jesus with perfumed oil and wiped his feet with her tears". The reader will later discover that Mary's anointing of Jesus is "for the day of [his] burial".

As so often in John's gospel, misunderstanding and irony function to bring the actors in the drama, and to bring us as actors in the theatre of life, to new levels of understanding and faith. Right now, in the aftermath of earthquake and in the face of ongoing conflict, we are called, as sisters and brothers across the globe, to open our hearts and share our resources so that some measure of "life" might be restored.

- Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm:(R.) With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption
Gospel Acclamation: Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die for ever. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Brendan O'Brien, Alice Westbrook

Anniversaries: We remember: Basil Clark, Peter Molloy, Nell Molloy, Tina Marshall, Kaylene Jarvis, Isaac Lund, Maria Tochetti, Lawrence Norbury, Len Hyatt, Bill Walsh, Des Ryan, Peter Leonard, Julianne Spice, Adele Byrne, Fr. Joseph Tran

We pray: for the people of Ukraine, Turkey and Syria.



Baptism This weekend we welcome to our Parish through the sacrament of Baptism:

Hugo Andrew Hooper, son of Andrew and Martina;

Ted Allan Martin, son of Kerry and Kate.

“The Church gives the faith to your children through Baptism and you have the task to make it grow....” - Pope Francis

May Hugo and Ted grow in faith with the support of their families and our Catholic Community.

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, **Thursday, 6th of April 2023 at 10.00am**. There will be just the one Baptism preparation morning session in April.

ACRATH: Take the bitterness out of chocolate Easter chocolate is already on the supermarket shelves, so let’s recommit to using our chocolate dollars to buy slavery-free chocolate this year. It’s also the right time to tell our families, friends and communities about the exploitation of children in chocolate production. Encourage them to start buying slavery-free chocolate now – and to keep going after Easter. For more details, you can find the Be Slavery Free Chocolate Scorecard at <https://www.beslaveryfree.com/chocolate>. The scorecard published in 2022 and updated before Easter, features most of your favourite brands and explains how they rate in several key areas including child labour, payment of a living income and the impact on climate.

Australian Catholics Autumn 2023 issue “Touring the world of Jesus” is now available. For those interested, several copies are at the church foyer.

St Columba’s 2nd April	(next week)	Sun 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG		Terry Ranger
COMMENTATOR		Min Myers
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Anthea Hinchey/Bruce Chapman
COMMUNION MINISTER		Colleen Wakefield
DIGITAL PROJECTOR		Vicki Moroney
SACRISTAN		Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe

Collections Last Weekend St Columba’s Thank you for your contributions
 Presbytery: \$ 398.70 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 425.00

In the spirit of reconciliation, the Parishes of St. Columba’s and Our Lady Help of Christians acknowledge that the Aboriginal people of Australia are our first nation people and the traditional owners and custodians of the land.



Project Compassion Fifth Sunday of Lent –

March 25 & 26, 2023 Project Compassion brings

together Australian schools, parishes and supporters to raise funds for people in vulnerable communities across the world. This year, we introduced you to the story of three inspiring people and one community group who have been transformed with your generous support: Laxmi, Priscilla, Thu and the Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation’s Young Mums and Bubs Group. Today, they are creating a better world for their families, their communities and for all future generations. Please donate to Project Compassion 2023. 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/envelopes available from your parish, by visiting <https://www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion> or by calling 1800 024 413.



Please donate to Project Compassion 2023

Together we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations**

Choir for Mass of the Oils 2023 Singers and musicians in the diocese are invited to join the music group which is being formed for the Mass of the Oils on Monday, April 3, 2023 at St Patrick’s Cathedral Ballarat at 6.30pm. All are welcome to attend. Supper will follow in the Hall. Choir practice times are on Sundays, March 26 and April 2 at 6.15pm (following 5.00pm Mass). To register your interest, please contact Julie Boyd Pastoral Ministry Office julie.boyd@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7159.

Praying with Pope Francis: Pope’s intention for March - For victims of abuse: We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church. May they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

World Youth Day World Youth Day will be held from 1-6 August, 2023 in Lisbon, Portugal. Anyone interested in attending can register with the Archdiocese of Melbourne to join with them in pilgrimages they have on offer. More info at <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/youth-and-young-adult-ministry/world-youth-day/>

Palm Sunday 2023 Justice for Refugees Ballarat Event. Meet at View Point, Lake Wendouree at 2pm. Speakers Robyn Burgess, a refugee nurse at Ballarat Community Health, and refugees with lived experience. For those who wish to walk, it will finish in front of Loreto College at the viewing area for rowing. Organised by: Rural Australian for Refugees Ballarat and Amnesty Ballarat.

Volunteer Pastoral Care Workers at Grampians Health Ballarat

Grampians Health Ballarat is seeking expressions of interest for volunteers Pastoral Care Workers to provide regular pastoral care support to patients and visitors of all faiths and beliefs. If you are willing to commit to 2.5 hours per week, and provide a listening ear, then Grampians Health Ballarat would like to hear from you. Contact Paul Ryan, ph. 5320 8634 or email Paul at paul.ryan@bhs.org.au

NCLS Research will present a free webinar on “Australian Wellbeing, Resilience and Spirituality” on Thursday, March 30 After three tough years, what has changed and what helps”. Findings are based on the results from the latest Australian Community Survey by NCLS Research. <https://AustralianWellbeingResilienceandSpirituality.eventbrite.com.au>

Holy Week Liturgies

Mar 29 Wednesday	10.00 am	Anointing Mass St Columba’s Blt North
Apr 4 Holy Tuesday	7.00 pm	Reconciliation OLHC Wendouree
Apr 6 Holy Thursday	7.00 pm	St Columba’s, Ballarat North
Apr 7 Good Friday	3.00 pm	OLHC Wendouree
Apr 8 Easter Vigil	7.00 pm	OLHC Wendouree

Easter Sunday

Apr 9 Easter Sunday	8.30 am	Beaufort
	10.00 am	St Columba’s, Ballarat North

Lent resources There are a number of Lent prayer resources available at <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/liturgy-sacraments/liturgy-resources/>

OLHC 1st April	(next week)	Saturday 6.00pm
LEADER OF SONG		Paul Hogan
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Veronica Stott
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Vin Dillon, Zeena Lazarus
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Pat Dillon, Trish Lawson
SACRISTAN		Kath Leonard, Ann Slattery

Collections Last Weekend Thank you for your contributions
 Presbytery: \$ 473.80 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 355.00