

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

BB 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
 Domestic & Commercial cleaning
 0402862188/0434746818
admin@mmlclean.com.au

Pat Cashin Funerals Ballarat
 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

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

Prayer for Peace and Justice in Ukraine

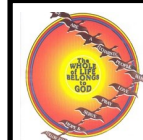
God of peace and justice, who change the hardened heart and break the power of violence, we entrust the people of Ukraine to you.

Protect them in this time of peril; let them know not death but life, not slavery but freedom.

You are Father of all; we are brothers and sisters. Give us the strength to live that truth in love, choosing peace not war.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



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
 Wed 10:00 am (Anointing)

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:

2nd Sunday of Advent (B)

1st Reading: Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11

Psalm 84: 9-14 R. v.8

2nd Reading: 2 Peter 3: 8-14

Gospel: Mark 1: 1-8



© Dianne Bergant CSA

1st Sunday of Advent (B) - 3rd December 2023

Focus on the Scripture

Today's readings contain several images: the faithfulness of those who suffer, even as they lament their predicament; the admonition to watch and wait; the expectation of the coming of the Day of the Lord. As trustees of the one who is coming, we live in the 'in between' time of ambiguity and hope. The placement of these readings at the beginning of Advent shapes the context for understanding the entire season. They fix our gaze on the world of human pain and then moves beyond it to the hope of a brighter future. Lamentation and expectation find fulfilment in the Day of the Lord.

Waiting is a prominent image this Sunday. Some people wait to be released from suffering, others await the second coming of Christ. Waiting saps our energies and stifles our enthusiasm. Yet wait we must, and as we wait, we wonder: 'What should I be doing?' The readings suggest that we should wait with patient expectation for the day of reconciliation and peace; we should wait in joyful hope that what is to come will come soon. While we wait, we should faithfully fulfil our responsibilities. We believe that we have a future worth waiting for, that there are promises that God will keep. And so we look expectantly to the Day of the Lord, that future day of ultimate fulfilment.



Responsorial Psalm: Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. Lord show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God Donna Flynn, Fr Gerard Dowling,

Anniversaries: We remember Dorothy Vaughn, Michael Rix, Terry Carman, Mary McCauley, Carmel Caligari, Fr John Martin, Trevor Jeffreys,

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

LIVING THE GOSPEL

Stay Awake!

By the time the Church begins to celebrate Advent as a period of preparation towards Christmas, the stores have been filling with Christmas paraphernalia for weeks. It starts out small with a few decorations and wrapping paper and eventually takes over every retail outlet. In the midst of this excess of Christmas consumerism, it is often difficult to draw attention to the season of Advent and the need to prepare spiritually for the celebration of Christmas. It is important to stay awake, as we are cautioned in this week's gospel. Awake to what is happening around us in the world and awake to what is happening within us.



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, December 7th 2023 at 10.00 am & 5:30 pm.

An Urgent Prayer for Peace

God of compassion, we turn to you with heavy hearts as we consider the needs of your family.

Israelis and Palestinians, we are all your people, each of us loved by You and called to live in peace and justice.

We lament the dreadful loss of life, destruction of property and loss of human dignity.

We are pained by so much suffering. We beg you to bring healing to this ancient place. Help your people find a way forward.

Enable everyone to look each other in the eye, and embrace each other as sisters and brothers, as they find your image in every face.

We ask that courage and grace will help create a wiser and more gentle future, where everyone has a home.

God of wisdom, come to our aid. Amen.

By Michael McGirr / Caritas Australia

Christmas Mass Times

St Columba's Sun 24th at 5:00 pm *Christmas Eve*

OLHC Sun 24th December at 7:00 pm. Christmas Eve

Beaufort Sun 24th at 9:00 pm *Christmas Eve*

Waubra Mon 25th December at 8:30 am *Christmas Day*

St Columba's Mon 25th at 10:00 am *Christmas Day*

Please note: there **will** be Mass at OLHC at 6:00 pm on Saturday 23rd. No Masses on the morning of 24th December at either Waubra or Ballarat North.

St Columba's 10th Dec 2023	(next week)	Sunday 10:00 am
LEADER of SONG		Mark Lacey
COMMENTATOR		Judy Brown
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Terry Ranger
COMMUNION MINISTER		Colleen Wakefield
DIGITAL PORJECTOR		Kathleen Keogh
SACRISTAN		Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe
Collections Last Weekend St Columba's <i>Thank you for your contributions</i>		
Presbytery: \$ 217.55		Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,025.00



Laudato Si "Love Natural Resources"

Did you know ? Bees help pollinate flowers and food crops, which helps them grow. Bees are the MPVs of our ecosystem. Taking care of the plants and flowers in your garden helps the bees do their job.

Anointing Mass at St Columba's on Wednesday 6th at 10:00 am.

Ordination to the Diaconate Seminarian Cay Trinh will be ordained Deacon for the Diocese of Ballarat on Saturday, December 16, 2023 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 10.00am. All welcome to attend.

OLHC Parish Wendouree volunteers are hosting lunch on Christmas Day in the Parish Hall, 482 Gillies Street, Wendouree from 12.00 noon – 2.00pm. Bookings are essential as seating is limited, ph. 0419 975914. If you are able to volunteer on this day, please phone the number listed to register your availability.



OLHC Parish

Volunteers are required to assist in setting up the Hall for the Christmas Lunch on 23rd December at 9:30 am. Please add your name to the sign-in sheet in the foyer.



Announcement regarding CDF Merger Bishop Paul Bird CSsR has made an announcement regarding the merger of our Ballarat Catholic Development Fund with the Melbourne-Sale-Bunbury Catholic Development Fund. Further details: <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/new-era-for-cdf/>

"A Celebration of Exodus" BBQ is being held at Wendouree Neighbourhood Centre in Violet Grove on Saturday 9th December from 11.30-2pm.

After nearly 20 years of being part of the Wendouree West community, we are celebrating all who were involved in Exodus meetings, masses, camps, after school learning, Saturday Drop-in lunches. Everyone is invited to join with us.

Praying with Pope Francis: intention for December -



For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.



"Making a Scene at Christmas" Over 500 Christmas Nativities from more than 60 countries will be displayed at the Bridge Mall Ballarat and at the Catholic Diocesan Archives from Tuesday, December 5 – Friday, December 22, 2023. You can see and smell real frankincense and myrrh; see coins minted around the time the census was called that brought Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem; see hand crafted cultural nativities from Australia, Africa, Asia, North & South America and Europe (and one that went to Antarctica); nativities that prize social justice and the environment. Schools can book for an educational experience. For more information on the Ballarat Bridge Mall display, please contact Fiona Tonkin Fiona.tonkin@ballarat.catholic.org.au. Every one welcome. Entry is a gold coin donation.

The **Neil Street Choir** extends a warm welcome to all to hear their presentation of the Christmas musical, **"One Noel"**.

The musical will take place on Sunday, December 10th, at 10am, and again on Tuesday, December 12th, at 7.30pm, at York Street Church of Christ. Light refreshments will be provided and a freewill offering received to support the work of the choir.

Fundraiser for our Seminarians - St. Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat

The Cathedral Branch of the Catholic Women's League (CWL) will hold a cake stall outside the Cathedral after each Mass on Sunday December 10th. We are having a competition for a decorated Christmas cake as well and will sell tickets after the Masses the week before this. CWL members will also be selling tickets prior to the event. Funds raised will assist our Seminarians for the Ballarat Diocese. (Simon, Channa, Lam and Peter). Donations of cakes and produce are welcome. Please support our future priests. If you can assist by baking donating or helping on the day, please contact -

Inquiries - Carmel 0401 175 045 or email: annekav1234@gmail.com

"Liturgy Meeting"—Tuesday 5th December at 4:00 pm in the OLHC parish Centre. All welcome



"Our Diocesan Community" issue 71 is now available for collection in the church foyer. Please take and read.

OLHC 9th Dec 2023	(next week)	Saturday 6:00 pm
LEADER OF SONG		Vin Dillon
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Volunteer please
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Jennifer Adams & Ena Bruty
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Helen Rieniets & Pauline Newman
SACRISTAN		Tony & Pauline Newman
Waubra Church cleaning	December	Trish & Steve Coleman
Collections Last Weekend <i>Thank you for your contributions</i>		
Presbytery: \$ 297.90		Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 385.00