

### 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](mailto:wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or [ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto: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

### A Baptism of Forgiveness

*The understanding that we generally have of baptism today has not always been the case. At the time of John and Jesus, the Jewish tradition used baptism as a ritual bath to cleanse a person who had become ritually unclean and make them able to participate in religious rituals. What John was preaching was a baptism for the forgiveness of sins – a new interpretation at the time. He emphasised that repentance was essential for forgiveness and that there needed to be a conscious returning to God. John's baptism was a symbolic act to signify the willingness of the person to renounce their sins and make a more conscious return to God.*

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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](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) (select Parish)



**Office:** 306 Gregory St, Ballarat Nth **Phone:** 5331 1012

**Email:** [ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto: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](mailto: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  
Friday 9:30 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  
Tuesday 2:00 pm Funeral  
Thursday 10:00 am  
Friday 2:00 pm Funeral

### Readings for Next Weekend:

#### 3rd Sunday of Advent (B)

**1st Reading:** Isaiah 61: 1-2, 10-11

**Psalm:** Lk: 46-50, 53-54, R. Is 61:10

**2nd Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

**Gospel:** Jn 1: 6-8, 19-28

### 2nd Sunday of Advent (B) - 10th December 2023

### Focus on the Scripture

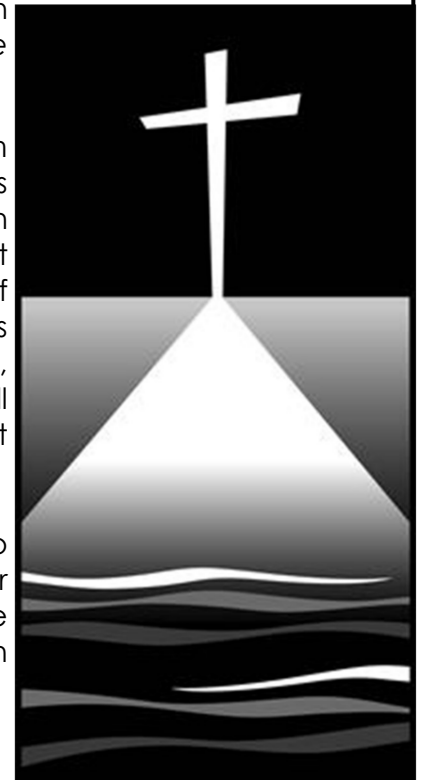
John immersed, baptised, his followers in water, symbolising the washing away of the sins of the past. But he could not empower people by drenching them in the dynamic life of God. John anticipates 'Someone' (not named!) who does have the power to inundate, baptise, people with the Holy Spirit.

From the heading of St Mark's Gospel, we know that that 'Someone' is 'Jesus Christ, Son of God' who came to flood our lives with that Divine Power which can effect a completely new future for humanity.

That is why St Mark took the term 'gospel' (good news) which was used on inscriptions announcing an Emperor's birth or victory, and used it to describe his inspired rendering of the mission of Jesus Christ, which was to inaugurate the 'Kingdom of God', overcoming the pretensions of all Emperors of any kind throughout history.

We could pause for a moment to thank God for the Good News of our being baptised with water in the 'Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.'

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**Responsorial Psalm:** Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia. Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

**Recently Deceased: We commend to God** Carmel Waight, Pam Dunn, Patricia Hay, Gary Pekin

**Anniversaries: We remember** Thelma McDonald, Val Roberts, Bob Davis, Kevin Hanrahan, Kathy Perkins, Maureen Casey, Greg Roberts.

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



### 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: February, 1st 2024 at either 10:00 am or 5:30 pm.**



**“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](mailto:Fiona.tonkin@ballarat.catholic.org.au). Every one welcome. Entry is a gold coin donation.

**Reconciliation:** Tuesday 19th December at 7:00 pm. All welcome.



### 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 17th Dec 2023	(next week)	Sunday 10:00 am
LEADER of SONG		Terry Ranger
COMMENTATOR		Vicki Moroney
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Min Myers
COMMUNION MINISTER		Gina Hinchey
DIGITAL PORJECTOR		Fiona Newton
SACRISTAN		Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe
<b>Collections Last Weekend St Columba's</b> <i>Thank you for your contributions</i>		
Presbytery: \$ 413.15		Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,181.50



*Laudato Si'*



"Keeping" means caring, protecting, overseeing and preserving. This implies a relationship of mutual responsibility between human beings and nature. Each community can take from the bounty of the earth whatever it needs for subsistence, but it also has the duty to protect the earth and to ensure its fruitfulness for coming generations. #67

*reduce reuse recycle rethink repurpose*

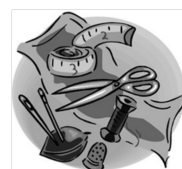
**Ordination to the Diaconate ~ Prayer Vigil for Cay Trinh** All are invited to join in prayer for seminarian Cay Trinh in the lead up to his Ordination as Deacon next Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December. A special way you might do this will be to join in a special Prayer Vigil on Friday 15<sup>th</sup>, 6pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat.



**OLHC Parish**

**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 .

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.



**SEW and SO.....**Thursday 14th December 2023 at 1.30 in St Columba's Church Foyer. Our last gathering till February. Come and say hello and have a cup of tea. All Welcome. *Wishing you all a Happy and Holy Christmas as well as a Safe and Peaceful 2024.*



On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December the Liturgy team invite you to a cuppa & natter after the 6pm Mass at OLHC. This is a chance to catch up before we disperse to have Christmas with our extended families. Hope to see you there.

The OLHC Liturgy team on behalf of our Parishioners would like to thank and acknowledge Mr Harrap and the children of the school who set up our Nativity scene for us all to enjoy. Many thanks.



### 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.

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 and Beaufort Parish**
- Ballarat East Parish, Bungaree Parish and Gordon Parish**
- Redan Parish, Sebastopol Parish and Linton Parish**
- Wendouree Parish, Creswick Parish and 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](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)

OLHC 16th Dec 2023	(next week)	Saturday 6:00 pm
LEADER OF SONG		Corrie Harbour
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Volunteer, please
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Vin Dillon & Zeena Lazarus
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Frank Hogan & Helen Feely
SACRISTAN		John & Sue Calistro
<b>Waubra Church cleaning</b>	<b>December</b>	Clare Mullane & Suzanne McDonald
<b>Collections Last Weekend</b> <i>Thank you for your contributions</i>		
Presbytery: \$ 564.90		Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,580.00