

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.

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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 (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

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:

4th Sunday of Advent (B)

1st Reading: 2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

Psalm: 88: 2-5, 27, 29, R. see.v.2

2nd Reading: Romans 16: 25-27

Gospel: Lk 1: 26-38

3rd Sunday of Advent (B) - 17th December 2023

Focus on the Scripture

St John's Gospel never calls John, 'the Baptist'. No, he is John the Witness: 'a witness to speak for the Light'. We discover in this Gospel that this light is embodied in Jesus Christ, most graphically portrayed in the Transfiguration when Christ's body is radiant, translucent, with Divine Light.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the One who came to liberate human beings from the many dark captivities which imprison them, the One who vanquished the inky blackness of the tomb.

We can become partakers in the life of this Divine Light. At baptism, this is symbolised by the lighting of a small candle from the great Easter candle which is sung into the church on the Easter Vigil as 'Christ our Light', the Conqueror of Death.

As a baptised people our allegiance to 'The Light' is not to be a private matter between 'me and God'. No, like John, we must bear witness to 'The Light' by being instruments of His power to dispel the darkness which can enshroud people's lives.

We could pause for a moment to commit ourselves to fulfil the promise of our baptismal candle so that we might more authentically celebrate the birth of the Divine Light come into human history.

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Responsorial Psalm: My soul rejoices in my God.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God those who have recently died.

Anniversaries: We remember Kathleen Thorne, Kathleen McDaid, Sarah Tonkin, David Fithall, Ronald Mark Edgar, Ronald Leslie Edgar, Stephen Head, Patrick Curran

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



Have you thought?
A time to Rejoice!
 This Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent is traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word for Rejoice! Advent was originally celebrated as a five week season and with the same fasting and penitential nature as the season of Lent. The third Sunday, Gaudete, was like a break for rejoicing in the midst of the fasting. When Advent was reduced to four weeks and the nature of the season altered, Gaudete Sunday was retained. The colour of this Sunday is rose – a celebratory colour – and it is reflected in the vestments worn by the priest and in the colour of the third candle used in Advent wreaths.

Plenary Council update: Church in Australia carrying forward its pursuit of synodality

One "particular grace" of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia has been its encouragement of many initiatives in the Church across the country, according to a letter to the People of God prepared for the Solemnity of Christ the King. As the Church marked the end of the liturgical year, the letter provides an update on work carrying forward the Plenary Council's outcomes while awaiting the Holy See's formal recognition of the Council's decrees. Read the letter at the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/our-diocese/plenary-council-2020/>

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.

OLHC Mon January 1st at 10:00 am. New Year's Day

St Columba's 24th Dec 2023	(next week)	Sunday 10:00 am
LEADER of SONG	Mark Lacey	
COMMENTATOR	(Please see sign-up sheet at foyer)	
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Min Myers	
COMMUNION MINISTER	(Please see sign-up sheet at foyer)	
DIGITAL PROJECTOR	Vicki Moroney	
SACRISTAN	Josie Crowe	
Collections Last Weekend	Thank you for your contributions	
Presbytery: \$ 375.50	Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 750.00	



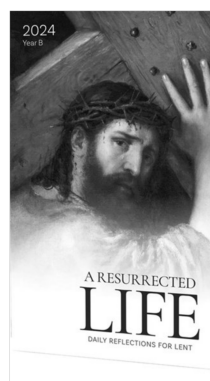
OLHC Parish

OLHC Parish Wendouree volunteers are hosting lunch on Christmas Day in the Parish Hall, 480a 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.



Mass at **Calvary Kelston** is celebrated each month on the third Thursday at 11 am. This Mass is for the residents. Any other visitors wishing to attend that Mass will be required to comply with the COVID-Safe measures implemented by Kelston. The next Mass at Kelston will be on Thursday 21st December.



Lenten Program 2024 A new 6 - week reflection program, "A Resurrected Life - Daily Reflections for Lent" is available for Lent and Holy week. This program includes daily reflections, scripture verses and prayers, to be used individually or in a group. Order forms for the \$7.00 program are available in the OLHC church foyer.

Caritas Christmas Appeal

Donate this Christmas and give the gift of a child's smile. Your do-



nation helps families receive a brighter

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.



OLHC Car Park line-marking will commence on Monday 18th, It will be completed before the end of the week. Please park in Gilles Street until Thursday 21st December. Parking as usual for the Christmas period,

Parish Office hours over the Christmas period Lia and Maree will both be taking leave during the month of January. Whilst the parish offices will not be staffed during this time, please make contact via email or phone parish offices (St Columba's 5331 1012. OLHC—5339 2302). Parish phones will be checked regularly. In an emergency please contact St Patrick's Cathedral 5331 2933

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.

OLHC 23rd Dec 2023	(next week)	Saturday 6:00 pm
LEADER OF SONG	Sue Searls	
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL	Volunteer, please	
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Kevin Murphy & Trish Lawson	
COMMUNION MINISTERS	Christine Richardson & tony Bruty	
SACRISTAN	Anne Slattery	
Waubra Church cleaning	December Clare Mullane & Suzanne McDonald	
Collections Last Weekend	Thank you for your contributions	
Presbytery: \$ 321.20	Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 340.00	