



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 10:00 am

Friday 10:00 am

Mon 1st Jan 10:00 am

- New Years Day

Readings for Next Weekend:

Feast of the Holy Family

1st Reading: Sirach 3: 2-6, 12-14

Psalm 104:1-6, 8-9. R.vv. 7,8

2nd Reading: Colossians 3: 12– 21

Gospel: Lk 2: 22-40

4th Sunday of Advent (B) - 24th December 2023

Focus on the Scripture

St Luke's account of the Annunciation draws on the Jewish tradition describing creation: 'There was darkness over the deep and God's Spirit hovered over the water. God said: "Let there be light", and there was light.' (Genesis 1:2-3) St Luke depicts Mary hearing in the depths of her soul: 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow.'

The Holy Spirit hovers over this young Jewish woman so that the most stupendously creative act in human history can take place. With her consent, God assumes human nature to be gradually enfleshed, embodied, in Mary's womb.

A naturally bewildered young woman was able to respond to God's will because she understood the imagery and the symbolism of the Genesis Story. We, in turn, need to read the Gospels in all their Jewishness so that we can understand when God's Holy Spirit hovers over our lives, asking us to fulfil some particular role in the Divine Plan.

We could pause for a moment to ask whether now is the time for a Marian response: 'Be it done unto me according to your word.'

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Responsorial Psalm: Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. You I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: **We commend to God** Laurie Jones and all those who have died recently

Anniversaries: **We remember** Allan Spratling, Basil Torpy, Helen Flynn, Julia Duffy, Margaret Maher

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

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Open Direct to the Public
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday



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.



*Fr Marcello,
along with Lia
and Maree, wish
all the members
of our community*

*a blessed and peaceful
Christmas season and a safe
and happy New Year!*

Collections at St Columba's We thank you for your generous support

Presbytery: \$551.85 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$1,527.00

Collections at OLHC We thank you for your generous support

Presbytery: \$370.45 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 610.00

OLHC 31st December (next week) Saturday (Vigil) 6pm

LEADER OF SONG	Paul Hogan
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL	Margaret White
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD	Colin & Helen Feely
COMMUNION MINISTERS	Jennifer Adams & Bev Hayward
SACRISTAN & REGISTRATION	Lyn Gray & Michael Rienets

Waubra Church cleaning ~ January Phyllis & Pat Bourke

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