

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.

LIVING THE GOSPEL

Who is your leper?

There is a story of Francis of Assisi in which he encountered a horribly disfigured leper. Initially, Francis was repulsed by the man but remembered that this man too was a child of God and made in the image and likeness of God. Overcoming his fears, Francis ran forward and embraced the man. Rather than seeing the disease, Francis saw the person. We can ask the question, Who is your leper? Who is the person in your life that you need to embrace rather than reject? Who would benefit from you viewing them with different eyes? Soft eyes! Eyes of compassion!

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"Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience" (Laudato Si', 217).

reduce reuse recycle
rethink repurpose



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
 Monday 10.00 am (Funeral)
Wednesday 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
Wednesday 11:00 am
 Thursday 11:00 am (Kelaston)
 Friday 10:00 am

Readings for Next Weekend:
1st Sunday of Lent (B)
1st Reading: Genesis 9: 8-15
Psalm: 24: 4-9. R.v. 10
2nd Reading: 1 Peter 3: 18-22
Gospel: Mark 1: 12-15

6th Sunday of Advent (B) - 11th February 2024

Focus on the Scripture

'He was like a deadman walking', quipped Pope Francis. Not only did the leper in today's Gospel have a terrible disease, but he was excluded from wider society and 'marginalised by the civil and religious community'. The physical disease brought with it painful social consequences.

There was a sense at the time that such leprosy was punishment for sin; that somehow the lepers deserved what they were getting. But Jesus saw past these misunderstandings. He saw the person in front of him, responded to their cry, and felt compassion for them. 'Of course I want to!', Jesus says.

Tellingly, Pope Francis points out, Jesus 'does not stand at a safe distance and does not act by delegating, but places Himself in direct contact.' Like Jesus, therefore, we should be close to those in need. We should make contact with them. We should respond to them.

Jesus' response, the Pope points out, is thus essentially about compassion and contact. Firstly, it is important to feel the situations faced by other people. To empathise, sympathise, and understand what they might be feeling. Secondly, it is necessary to reach out and remove the stigma; to respond in some physical, practical way to the situation before us. Even Jesus did not cure social diseases by good intentions alone.

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Responsorial Psalm: I will turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you will fill me with the joy of salvation

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God Miguel Fernandes

Anniversaries: We remember Bill Martin, Mary Martin,

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

Lenten Program: Any one wishing to join the Lenten program in a group gathering, at OLHC, commencing Tuesday 20th Feb, at 2 pm. All most welcome. Any queries contact Laureen Rhodes 0405277778.

East Timor Knitting After such a successful effort last year, it would be nice to have some additional people to knit the little sets or crochet the rugs. Donations of Time, 8ply acrylic yarn or money to buy the yarn (if you don't knit or crochet) would be acceptable. Contact Laureen 0405277778 with donations or money or alternatively money can be put in an envelope marked East Timor Project and left on the collection plates at OLHC or St Columbas Church.

PROJECT COMPASSION FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS **Mass to Launch Project Compassion 2024** Mass to launch Project Compassion 2024 will be held on Sunday, February 11, 2024 at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat at 5.00pm. Bishop Paul Bird CSsR will be the Main Celebrant and will be accompanied by Student Leaders as Ambassadors for Caritas 2024. All welcome to attend.

Mass Times—Ash Wednesday, 16th February

9.30 am St Columba's Parish

11.00 am OLHC

May your Ash Wednesday be a day of reflection and promise.



Wisdom at the Cathedral All are welcome to the first talk for the year in the Cathedral parish's series Wisdom at the Cathedral. Fr Bill Lowry from the Warrnambool parish, will speak on *Discerning God's Will in Your Life*. Learn about the processes employed by the saints and the Lord himself in discerning the Father's will for their lives. The talk and discussion time will go for an hour and will be followed by a cup of tea. 7pm, Thursday 29 February in the MacKillop/Glowrey rooms. Entry by donation. For all enquiries please contact Fiona Bradley on fionalouisebradley@gmail.com

Rite of Election 2024 The Rite of Election will be held on Saturday, February 17, 2024 at 12.30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat. Lunch will follow in the Hall. The Rite is an opportunity for adult catechumens and candidates to meet the Bishop prior to being baptised/received into the Church at Easter

St Columba's 18th Feb 2024	(next week)	Sunday 10:00 am
LEADER of SONG		Tony Beggs
COMMENTATOR		Fiona Newton
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Anthea Hinchey
COMMUNION MINISTER		Judy Brown
DIGITAL PROJECTOR		Bruce Chapman
SACRISTAN		Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe
Collections Last Weekend St Columba's Thank you for your contributions		



OLHC Parish

Our parish Christmas Day lunch again provided a joyful time of gathering and community for guests sharing part of their Christmas Day. It was lovely to see new guests among those who join us regularly.

A dedicated and artistic team of volunteers prepared a beautifully decorated room and tables, and the kitchen teams produced a delicious meal.

A highlight this year was the singing group who took up the challenge to assist our musicians with the singing of carols and songs – at just a few minutes notice - before Grace was said. Thank you to our enthusiastic choristers!

We know that Christmas is a time of sharing. Guests join us for many reasons, but we often hear the feedback that people prefer to be included in a family on Christmas Day, and for the time we are together at lunch, we are part of one (big) family.

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers, donors and providers – many from our parish - who helped make the day successful in whatever way you contributed. Thank you to our guests for sharing our day – we hope you had a happy time and returned to your home well fed and with memories of being with friends.



LENT 2024 with THE CATHOLIC GUY, Bruce Downes

Lent is a time when we can grow closer to God and prepare our hearts for the true meaning of Easter. Be inspired. Be refreshed. Be renewed!

For 40 days you will receive a short, practical, and inspiring video in your inbox every morning to help you make this Lenten journey more powerful and prayerful. This program is FREE and you can sign up here: <https://BruceDownes.org/Lent> Go to BruceDownes.org for more information.

Laudato Si message for February: "Think before you buy"

Did you know? A great way to reduce waste is to think about whether you need something before you buy it. See if you can buy it second hand rather than new. Buying from small local business is also a good way to reduce your environmental impact.

Praying with Pope Francis: intention for February-

For the terminally ill: Let us pray that the sick who are in the final stages of life, and their families, receive the necessary medical and human care and accompaniment.



A young man, a member of our Mass community is seeking permanent accommodation of a one or two bedroom unit. If anyone is aware of such a place, available could you please contact Sandra on 0438 448 942

World Day of the Sick: Sunday, February 11, 2024

In his message to mark the 32nd World Day of the Sick on February 11, Pope Francis reflected on the way serious illness could cause vulnerability, uncertainty and insecurity. For resources and to read Pope Francis' message, go to the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au



World Day of Prayer 2024 – Friday, March 1, 2024

WDP is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome all to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. An ecumenical group of Palestinian Christian women have prayed and reflected together over the past several years to respond to the invitation from the WDP International Committee in 2017 to write the 2024 program. The theme is "I Beg You... Bear With One Another in Love," based on Ephesians 4:1-6. Our Christian sisters invite the global church to pray for peace, justice and freedom for every individual irrespective of nationality, religion or origins. World Day of Prayer services in Ballarat and Creswick this year on Friday, March 1:

- 10.00am at St Peter's Anglican Church, 1307 Sturt Street West, Ballarat
- 6.00pm at St Paul's Anglican Church, 3 Humffray Street, Bakery Hill
- 7.00pm at St John's Anglican Church, 103 Napier Street, Creswick



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: March 7th 2024 at either 10:00 am or 5:30 pm.**

150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat The Diocese of Ballarat will turn 150 on March 30, 2024. During this year there will be many events to acknowledge this significant anniversary. Keep up-to-date at the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/our-diocese/150th-anniversary-of-the-diocese-of-ballarat/>

OLHC 17th Feb 2024	(next week)	Saturday 6:00 pm
LEADER OF SONG		Sue Searls
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Elly Green
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Trish Pora & Laureen Rhodes
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Val Bourke & Harry Kennedy
SACRISTAN		John & Sue Calsitro
Waubra Church cleaning	February	Kerryn & Lawrence Gallagher
Collections Last Weekend Thank you for your contributions		
Presbytery: \$ 435.40		Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1565.00