

### 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.**

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*Laudato Si'*

“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*

**Have you thought? Temptation?**

When we adopt a view of Jesus as the Son of God, it is hard to imagine him even facing temptation, let alone the possibility of him giving in to it. However, when we see Jesus as also being fully human, we realise that he was just as likely to face temptation as we are. But what might have tempted Jesus? Was he tempted to simply go back to his life in Joseph’s carpentry business and not respond to God’s call? Was he tempted to display his power in flashy demonstrations for all to see? Was he tempted to despair at what lay ahead of him?

**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  
 Wednesday 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  
**Readings for Next Weekend:**  
**2nd Sunday of Lent (B)**  
**1st Reading:** Genesis 22: 1-2, 9-13 15-18  
**Psalm:** 115: 10, 15-19 R. 114:9  
**2nd Reading:** Romans 8: 31-34  
**Gospel:** Mark 9: 2-10

**1st Sunday of Lent (B) - 18th February 2024**

**Focus on the Scripture**

‘Today’s readings show us that Lent is a time for us to receive God’s grace. We are not the ones who, through our penance, are meant to accomplish great things. Rather, it is God who acts; it is God who makes the sacrifice; it is God who accomplishes great things for us.

Each reading describes a different kind of conflict within which we might find ourselves: a world-wrenching upheaval, such as happens during social discord, war or natural disaster; the struggle between right and wrong, between fidelity and disobedience; the struggle with temptation. In the midst of the conflicts of life, God initiates a covenant with us. God saves the world from the chaos into which it was thrown, makes a covenant with all living things and with the earth, and sets a bow in the heavens as a perpetual reminder of the covenant.

Christ dies for sinners, and offers them baptism that will save them from the chaos of their lives. The Spirit drives Jesus into the desert, there to be tested, but to emerge triumphant. His victory is not for him alone, but for all who will heed his words and follow his example.

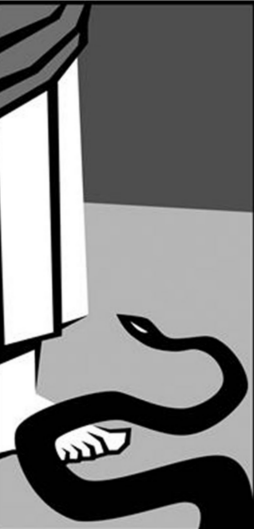
The bow in the sky is a sign of the good news of the covenant; baptism is both the good news of salvation for us and our pledge of fidelity to God; Jesus’ proclamation is that the reign of God is at hand. With the psalmist we praise God for inviting us into this covenant relationship.

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**Responsorial Psalm:** Your ways, O Lord, and love and truth to those who keep your covenant

**Gospel Acclamation:** Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

**Recently Deceased: We commend to God** Sr. Angela (Joseph) Caine RSM, Kevin Hynes  
**Anniversaries: We remember** Eileen Hamilton, Mary Maher, Steven Fitzpatrick, Maureen Daly, Duffy, Patrick Duggan  
**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.

**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](mailto:fionalouisebradley@gmail.com)

**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,

**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

**Baptized with the Holy Spirit** **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.**

St Columba's 25th Feb 2024	(next week)	Sunday 10:00 am
LEADER of SONG		Terry Ranger
COMMENTATOR		Judy Brown
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Anthea Hinchey
COMMUNION MINISTER		Colleen Wakefield
DIGITAL PROJECTOR		Bruce Chapman
SACRISTAN		Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe
<b>Collections Last Weekend St Columba's</b> Thank you for your contributions		
Presbytery: \$ 608.95	Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 935.00	

**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/>

*Catholic Diocese of Ballarat*

*Community Remember Revitalise Hope*

*150 years*

*Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer*  
Romans 12:12

Planning by 150th Anniversary Committee

2023

2023

Parishes develop Parish Leadership Teams

Ash Wednesday 'Repent and believe the good news' February 14, 2024

Feb 2024

Feb - Mar 2024

Lent 'Repent and believe the good news' February 14 - March 24, 2024

Anniversary Liturgy in Cathedral Mass of the Oils March 25, 2024

Mar 2024

Mar 2024

150th Anniversary Holy Saturday March 30, 2024

Anniversary Liturgies in Parishes Fifth Sunday of Easter April 28, 2024

April 2024

Apr - May 2024

Anniversary Week Catholic Education Week April 29 - May 3, 2024

Pentecost Sunday Commissioning for ministry in parishes May 19, 2024

May 2024

Mid 2024

Formation in Parishes from Mid 2024

Diocesan Assembly November 15 - 16, 2024

Nov 2024

**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.



**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



**Project Compassion**  
Sunday 17 & 18 February



This year, Project Compassion brings you the stories of three resilient women from three different corners of the world. They are facing vastly different challenges, but are all united by one dream: to create a better tomorrow for all future generations.



Meet Ronita from the Philippines. Ronita is a mother of two young boys living in a slum in Quezon City. She went back to school to finish her education so that she could earn income to support her children.

Meet Leia from Samoa. Not having access to a reliable source of clean water was very difficult for Leia and her family. But, with the support of Caritas Australia, a water tank was installed at their home, improving their health and living conditions.

Meet Memory from Malawi. Memory, the eldest daughter from a rural Malawian family, trained to become a carpenter and is now a trailblazer for future generations of women in her village.

Throughout Project Compassion, you will get to know the stories of Ronita, Leia and Memory. Journey with them as they forge a path to a brighter future for all generations.

Please donate to Project Compassion You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by calling 1800 024 413.



Photo: Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia

OLHC 24th Feb 2024	(next week)	Saturday 6:00 pm
LEADER OF SONG		Paul Hogan
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Margaret White
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Colin & Helen Feely
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Trish Lawson & Pat Dillon
SACRISTAN		Tony & Pauline Newman
Waubra Church cleaning	March	Sharon & Marty Moran
<b>Collections Last Weekend</b> Thank you for your contributions		
Presbytery: \$ 324.65	Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 660.00	