

### 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

*In Jewish tradition, the Temple marked the point of physical connection between God and humankind and between the past and the present. It was where God's story and humanity's story met. However, in the year 70 C.E. – some 40 years after Jesus – the Temple was destroyed by the Romans. The gospel of John is written another 20+ years later and so the reality of the Temple's destruction is still trying to be absorbed by the people. It was a very powerful image for the gospel writer to suggest that Jesus was the new Temple – the new point of connection.*

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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](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  
Monday: 10.30 am (Funeral)  
Thursday 10:00 am  
Friday 10:00 am

### Readings for Next Weekend:

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

**1st Reading:** Exodus 20: 1-7

**Psalm:** 18: 8-11. R. Jn 6:68

**2nd Reading:** 1 Corinthians 1: 22-25

**Gospel:** John 2: 13-25

### 2nd Sunday of Lent (B) - 25th February 2024

### Focus on the Scripture

'We all have dreams for the future, dreams about success and well-being. We all want a better world for our children and grandchildren. Our religious tradition sets before us aspirations that call for personal transformation. However, sometimes when we follow the inspiration of our most devout aspirations, obstacles are thrown in our path preventing us from following our dreams. Still, God does not call us out of our dreams into a vacuum. If we are asked to relinquish a possible future, it is only to be offered God's future. Our aspirations may be noble, but the possibilities that God offers will outstrip them in excellence. Abraham was promised an heir; he relinquished his hold on his heir, and he was granted heirs beyond counting. Jesus came as a Rabbi; he allowed himself to be handed over to death, and he was revealed as the beloved Son of God.

Those preparing for Baptism might be asked to relinquish the dreams that they previously held in order to embrace the future God has in store for them. We who are already joined to Christ will be asked to recommit ourselves to this transformative experience. Do we have faith, or do we need a glimpse of Christ's transfiguration in order to believe in his resurrection? Do we have to see and touch Jesus, or are we able to believe because we have heard his message? God's future in Christ is open to us, but we must accept it in faith, even when we do not fully understand what it means.

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**Responsorial Psalm:** I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living

**Gospel Acclamation:** Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ! From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ!

### Recently Deceased: We commend to God

**Anniversaries: We remember** Maureen Daly, Margaret Pearson, Paul Rhodes, Imelda McGrath, Betty Fitzpatrick, Sr. Irene Monagatti,

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

**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,

**St Mary's Syro Malabar Parish Community:** The community has approached the Wendouree Parish for use of its facilities for liturgical celebrations. Given that it is possible to accommodate their requirements an agreement has been signed to enable them to gather and celebrate their faith.



The **Wendouree West Exodus Community** are celebrating 20 Years since Exodus commenced with the arrival of Fr Frank Smith after consultation with OLHC Parish. There will be a BBQ on Saturday March 2<sup>nd</sup> at Wendouree Neighbourhood House from 11.30 - 1.30. All are invited. Contact Sandra 0438 448 942.



**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 3rd March '24	(next week)	Sunday 10:00 am
LEADER of SONG		Mark Lacey
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> Thank you for your contributions		
Presbytery: \$ 308.00		Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,610.00

**150<sup>th</sup> 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

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

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

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

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Pentecost Sunday  
Commissioning for ministry in parishes  
May 19, 2024

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Diocesan Assembly  
November 15 - 16, 2024

2023

2023

Feb 2024

Feb - Mar 2024

Mar 2024

Mar 2024

April 2024

Apr - May 2024

May 2024

Mid 2024

Nov 2024

Parishes develop Parish Leadership Teams

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

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150th Anniversary Holy Saturday  
March 30, 2024

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

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Formation in Parishes from Mid 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



**Second Sunday of Lent  
24 & 25 February**



Ronita is 22. She lives with her husband and two children in a barangay (local district) in Quezon City, which is situated in Metro Manila in the Philippines. Ronita left school when she became pregnant as a teenager. This could have had a life-long impact on her ability to find work and provide for her family but, thankfully, she heard about the Alternative Learning System (ALS) program run by the Faithful Companions of

Jesus (FCJ), Caritas Australia's local partners in the Philippines. Through the FCJ, Ronita was able to re-enrol in her studies and continue learning in a safe and flexible environment – even with the arrival of her second child. After completing her ALS classes, Ronita went on to earn her Grade 12 Senior High School Diploma. With her new diploma, Ronita has now secured a job at a call centre and is looking to a brighter future for her whole family. "I have now graduated senior school and I am so proud of myself," she said. "I feel hopeful for the future... Now it's not impossible for me to achieve my dream... Thank you." Please donate to Project Compassion. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow for all future generations. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by calling 1800 024 413. Photo: Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia



OLHC 2nd March 2024	(next week)	Saturday 6:00 pm
LEADER OF SONG		Sue Searls
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Lyn Gray
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Zeena Lazarus & Vin Dillon
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Pauline Newman & Helen Feely
SACRISTAN		Anne Slattery
Waubra Church cleaning	March	Sharon & Marty Moran
<b>Collections Last Weekend</b> Thank you for your contributions		
Presbytery: \$ 411.05		Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 435.00