

## 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.**

# SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

## The Final Days

Today's reading reminds us that we are closing in on the events of the Passion that we will remember more closely over the next couple of weeks. Although the Gospel of John appears to have Jesus in and around Jerusalem quite often, the events described in this week's reading take place in the preparation for Passover, immediately before the final days leading up to Jesus' death and resurrection. It is a fitting culmination to the Sunday gospels of Lent. It prepares us for the account of the Passion that will be the gospel next week.

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\*Interest rates subject to change. View current rates on the [CDF website](http://www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au).



**Parishes of St Columba 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 Anointing  
**Our Lady Help of Christians 021**  
**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:**  
**Palm Sunday (B)**  
**1st Reading:** Isaiah 50: 4-7  
**Psalm:** 21: 8-9, 17-20, 23-24 R.v 2  
**2nd Reading:** Philippians 2 : 6-11  
**Gospel:** Mark 14:1—15: 47

**5th Sunday of Lent (B) - 17th March 2024**  
**Focus on the Scripture**  
This week's first reading from Jeremiah is a very powerful image and a foreshadowing of the message and ministry of Jesus. In the Jeremiah reading, the Lord announces that (yet again) a new covenant will be made between the people and their God. This time, however, the covenant will not be a collection of rules written in stone as was the case with the covenant of the Ten Commandments after the people had been led out of slavery in Egypt. The people have demonstrated that they are not able to uphold that covenant. This time, God declares that the covenant will be 'planted deep within them' and 'written on their hearts'. This is a wonderful image: I will write my covenant on your heart! It is the message that Jesus tried to convey over and over again – the Law of God is not to be found in a multitude of rules and regulations but it is a Law of the heart, calling for compassion and love.  
This message is no better demonstrated than in this week's gospel passage. Jesus declares that, 'unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest.' He is speaking of course about his own life, but he is speaking also to those around him and those of us who read the words today. Unless we are prepared to let go of our ego, our status, our 'reputation', for the sake of others and respond to them from the heart then we can never experience the breadth and depth of what it means to belong to a community. When we are prepared to let go of our hang-ups and reservations to make a difference in the lives of others then the 'harvest' that will be gathered from those actions will be great indeed!  
© Greg Sunter

**Responsorial Psalm:** Create a clean heart in me, O God.  
**Gospel Acclamation:** Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ! If you serve me, fellow me, says the Lord; and where I am, my servant will also be. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ!

**Recently Deceased: We commend to God** Graeme Beaston, Brian Dooley, Sr Joan Dalgleish rsm.  
**Anniversaries: We remember** Muriel Langer, Nancy Trower, Dianne Duffy, Neville Broatch,  
**We pray:** for all in areas of conflict, war and natural disasters, for the sick and all in need of our prayers.

**Easter Liturgies:**  
**Anointing Mass Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March**  
 Ballarat North 10.00 am  
**Reconciliation Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March**  
 Wendouree 7.00 pm



**Holy Week Liturgies**  
**Holy Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March** Ballarat North 7.00 pm  
**Good Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March**  
 "Way of the Cross" Waubra 10:00 am  
**Good Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March** Wendouree 3.00 pm  
**Easter Vigil 30<sup>th</sup> March** Wendouree 7.00 pm  
**Easter Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March**  
 Lexton 8.30 am  
 Ballarat North 10.00 am



The OLHC Parish community welcomes Imogen Park daughter of Tayla and Jack, and Lachlan Moncrieff, son of Ashleigh. May Imogen and Lachlan continue to flourish in the love and care of their families and our parish community.

**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/>

**St Patrick's Day—17th March. Irish Blessing**

*May the road rise to meet you,  
 May the wind be always at your back,  
 May the sun shine warm upon your face,  
 the rain fall soft upon your fields  
 and until we meet again,  
 May God hold you in the palm of His hand.*



**Praying with Pope Francis:  
 intention for March-  
 For the New Martyrs**



Pope Francis invites prayer "for those around the world who risk their lives for the Gospel, to inspire the Church with their courage and missionary zeal."

*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

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

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

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

Pentecost Sunday Commissioning for ministry in parishes May 19, 2024

Diocesan Anniversary November 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

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

150th Anniversary Holy Saturday March 30, 2024

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

Formation in Parishes from Mid 2024

**Funeral** for Sr Joan Dalgleish rsm will be on Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at St Alipius Church at 10:30 am. Funeral will also be live-streamed. Pat Cashin Funerals

**Ballarat Rural Australians for Refugees** – Palm Sunday Rally and Walk for Justice and Peace. March 24<sup>th</sup> from 2 pm – 3.30 pm at the McDonald's Band-Stand Lake Wendouree foreshore – opposite the floral clock. Guest Speaker: St Brigid Arthur OA csb. Further information is available on the RAR facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/BallaratRAR/>



**16 & 17 March Partnership in action**

The work of Caritas Australia is only possible with the dedication, passion and tenacity of our local partners who implement the programs. They are the heroes on the ground, working tirelessly behind-the-scenes every day to create a better future for their communities. Caritas Australia partners with the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ) to support communities living in urban slums in the Philippines. FCJ runs a number of programs that include house renovating, food processing, basic literacy skills, urban gardening, upcycling and income generating activities. They also have a clinic visited weekly by a doctor and community nurse. Caritas Australia partners with Caritas Samoa to assist communities to have increased access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene to ensure human health and well-being by providing water tanks and sanitation facilities. Caritas Australia partners with the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi through the A+ program. Since 2016, the A+ program has helped 7,397 families across Malawi improve their food security, access to basic water and sanitation, boost women's income generation and strengthen child protection. 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](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by calling 1800 024 413. Photo: Richard Wainwright / Caritas Australia



**Invitation** to all interested parishioners who wish to join in Singing practice for our Easter Ceremonies. When: Saturday at 5:00 pm – prior to Mass. All welcome.



**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: April 4th 2024 at either 10:00 am or 5:30 pm.**

St Columba's 24th Mar '24	(next week)	Sunday 10:00 am
LEADER of SONG		Terry Ranger
COMMENTATOR		Tom Keogh
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Tim O'Farrell
COMMUNION MINISTER		Colleen Wakefield
DIGITAL PORJECTOR		Vicki Moroney
SACRISTAN		Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe
<b>Collections Last Weekend St Columba's</b> Thank you for your contributions		
Presbytery: \$ 396.50	Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc)	\$ 625.00

OLHC 23rd March 2024	(next week)	Saturday 6:00 pm
LEADER OF SONG		Paul Hogan
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Elly Green
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Jennifer Adams & Lauren Rhodes
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Bev Hayward & Val Bourke
SACRISTAN		Geoff & Marg McLean
<b>Waubra Church cleaning</b>	<b>March</b>	Sharon & Marty Moran
<b>Collections Last Weekend</b> Thank you for your contributions		
Presbytery: \$ 279.75	Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc)	\$ 250.00