

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

Before the cock crows

Peter is an interesting character in the gospels. He is one of the first of the disciples to be called; Jesus changes his name and places great trust in him; he is witness to the most significant moments of Jesus' life; he is able to profess his faith in Jesus as the Christ and yet it is he who denies even knowing Jesus. We might have thought that Peter was Jesus' most loyal and faithful follower, yet it is he who can't stand up and claim that he was a follower of Jesus. Is it any wonder that it is difficult for us today sometimes?

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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 (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
Wednesday 10:00 am
Thursday 7:00 pm

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

Tuesday 3:30 pm Funeral
Thursday No Mass
Friday 3:00 pm—Good Friday
Saturday: 7:00 pm—Easter Vigil

Readings for Next Weekend:

Easter Sunday (B)

Acts of the Apostles 10: 34. 37-43

Psalm: 117: 1-2. 16-17. 22-23 R.v 24

2nd Reading: Colossians 3: 1-4

Gospel: John 20: 1-9

Palm Sunday (B) - 24th March 2024

Focus on the Scripture

By the time the gospel accounts came to be written, it was more than 35 years after the death of Jesus. The Gospel of Mark is now very widely held to have been the first of the four gospels, written in about the year 70 CE. One of the reasons for the writing of the gospels was the fact that those who had walked and talked with Jesus were becoming old and dying. There was a sense of capturing the story before the last eye witnesses were gone. This is very evident in the Passion narrative from the gospel of Mark. One can almost hear an elderly voice dictating the events: 'then this happened ...; then he said ...; then we all thought ...' Like so much of this particular gospel, there is very little embellishment. It's like an old time detective show, 'Just give us the facts!' The gospel of Mark presents the story of the Passion as a sequence of events with little commentary or theological reflection. (That is partly why it lends itself so well to being read by several voices.)

One of the best examples that the gospel is a straightforward recollection of events is the inclusion of the scene in Gethsemane when the young man ran away naked. No storyteller would create such a bizarre, unexplained event. There is no explanation of who the young man is, why he was wearing only a loincloth, nor why the armed men tried to seize hold of him. It is reported in exactly the same style as the rest of the story – very matter-of-fact. The presence of the young man – both in Gethsemane and in the gospel – has puzzled scholars for many years, yet if nothing else, it provides evidence of the way in which this Passion narrative was transmitted from lived experience, to memory, to oral account, to written gospel. © Greg Sunter



Responsorial Psalm: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

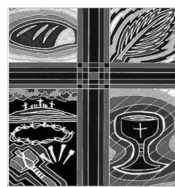
Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ! Christ became obedient for us even to death – dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God Nola Jones

Anniversaries: We remember Peter Reidy, Alice Westbrook, Dianne Duffy, Adele Byrne, Des Ryan, Brendan O'Brien, Sister Sheila Belleville

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

Easter Liturgies:
Reconciliation Tuesday 26th March
 Wendouree 7.00 pm




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

Mass of the Oils—Monday 25th at St Patrick's Cathedral commencing at 11:30 am. Lunch and displays in the hall will follow the conclusion of this Mass. This year the Mass of the Oils will be livestreamed at <https://youtube.com/live/SdivlIKiHSs?feature=share>

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/>

Volunteers for the Easter Liturgies. If you would like assist with one of the ministries for Good Friday and/or Easter Vigil please place your name on the form in the foyer. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Easter Musical: "This we Believe" - Sunday 24th at 9:00 am and Tuesday 26th March at 7:00 pm at York Street Church of Christ. This is the Easter story told in narration, song and music. Admission is Free. Donation would be appreciated. Light refreshment to follow.

 **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.

Mary Ward for Saint Mary Ward supporters are seeking support for their cause for canonisation of the foundress of the Loreto Sisters (IBVM). To sign the petition go to their website: [Petition · Help our cause to have Mary Ward declared a Saint! · Change.org](https://www.maryward.org.au/petition)

St Columba's 31st Mar '24	(next week)	Sunday 10:00 am
LEADER of SONG		
COMMENTATOR	Maree Phelan	
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Fiona Newton	
COMMUNION MINISTER	Gina Hinchey	
DIGITAL PORJECTOR	Bruce Chapman	
SACRISTAN	Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe	
Collections Last Weekend St Columba's Thank you for your contributions		
Presbytery: \$ 395.05	Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,215.00	

**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 Assembly
 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

Ballarat Rural Australians for Refugees – Palm Sunday Rally and Walk for Justice and Peace. March 24th 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/>

OLHC Sacramental Program for the Sacrament of Confirmation commences in Term 2, on Tuesday May 7th at 6:00 pm in the school Library. Further information is available in a brochure in the church foyer, or by contacting the parish co-ordinator (5339 2302 or email wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

Good Friday Holy Land Collection The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land will take place again this year on Good Friday.



Sixth Sunday of Lent (Palm Sunday)
22nd & 23rd March



Fifth Sunday of Lent: Partnerships in Action The work of Caritas Australia is only possible with generous supporters and 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.

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 <https://www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion> or by calling 1800 024 413.

Photo: Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia. Download the weekly reflection by Michael McGirr from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/mission-and-outreach/project-compassion-2024/>



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

Fair Trade Easter Campaign The Fair Trade Easter Campaign aims to contribute to the broader global Fair Trade movement by advocating for the purchasing, sales and consumption of ethically produced chocolate at Easter time. By buying cocoa beans that are certified Fair Trade, Rainforest Alliance or UTZ Certified, these chocolate producers ensure there is no forced labour or trafficked labour on cocoa plantations (check for logos like these on the packaging). Join millions of people around the world in an effort to make all chocolate slavery-free <https://acrath.org.au/fair-trade-chocolate-for-easter/>



OLHC 30th March 2024	(next week)	Saturday 700 pm Easter Vigil
LEADER OF SONG	Sue Searls & Corrie Harbour	
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL	Volunteer	
MINISTER OF THE WORD	Volunteer	
COMMUNION MINISTERS	Volunteer	
SACRISTAN	Volunteer	
Waubra Church cleaning	April	Trish & Steve Coleman
Collections Last Weekend Thank you for your contributions		
Presbytery: \$ 503.35	Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 660.00	