

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.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The GOOD Shepherd?

The John gospel writer's use of the image of Jesus as the good shepherd would have been a confronting image for the initial audience. Shepherds in first century Palestine were far from the idyllic pastoral image that we generally associate with the image. They occupied one of the lowest steps on the social ladder – men of such poor reputation that they could only be trusted to herd sheep; they certainly couldn't be trusted around other people! Jesus' use of the image cut two ways: it was a confronting image for the audience; but it was also a challenge to those leaders who had been charged to 'shepherd' their people and behaved no better than thieves – Jesus was giving them an image of what it means to be a good shepherd.

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



Our Lady Help of Christians Parish ~ Wendouree

Communities of Lexton, Miners Rest, Waubra, Learmonth, Wendouree

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au (select Parish)

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

Office Hours: Wed-Fri 9–1pm

Parish Co-ord & Safeguarding Officer:
Maree Roache

MASS TIMES (This week) Wendouree

Saturday: 6:00 pm Vigil Wendouree

Sunday 9.00am Creswick
10.30am Daylesford

Waubra

1st Sun of the month 8:30 am

Weekday Mass

Wednesday Daylesford 10:30 am
Thursday Wendouree 10:00 am
Friday Creswick 10:30 am

Readings for Next Weekend:

5th Sunday of Easter (B)

Acts of the Apostles 9: 26-31

Psalm: 21: 26-28. 30-32. R.v. 26

2nd Reading: 1 John 3: 18-24

Gospel: John 15: 1-8



4th Sunday of Easter (B) - 21st April 2024

Focus on the Scripture

Reflecting on Jesus' discourse on the good shepherd, Pope Francis suggests we focus on three verbs: hear, know, and follow.

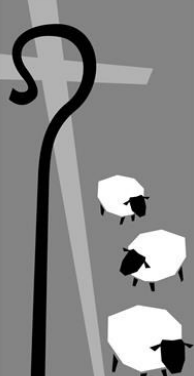
Firstly, we are called to 'hear the voice of the shepherd'. This, as the Pope points out, means being open to listening. Too often, the Pope says, 'we are overwhelmed by words and by the urgency to always have something to say or do.' We need to make time and space and effort for the good shepherd's voice to cut through our frenetic business and our own noisemaking.

Secondly, we are called to contemplate what it means to be known by the good shepherd. This knowing, the Pope points out, means more than knowing superficial facts about us like what we did yesterday. The sort of knowing Jesus speaks of is much more profound: God understands; He loves.

Thirdly, having heard the good shepherd's voice and accepting that we are known and loved, each one of us is called to follow the good shepherd. 'What do those who follow Christ do?', the Pope asks. 'They go where he goes, along the same path, in the same direction.' This means seeking the lost, giving practical aid to those in need, and being compassionate to all.

Ultimately, we are called to allow ourselves to be shepherded. Sometimes this means being called out of our wayward tracks, at other times it might mean moving on from familiar pastures. Either way, we are called individually, but not to travel alone.

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Responsorial Psalm: The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep and mine know me. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God Sr Mary Madden

Anniversaries: We remember Andanar Wencelito, Betty Kirkpatrick, Fr Peter Jones, Fr Bob Maguire, Marin Milicic, Sheila Anderson, Christopher Waight, Eric Myers, Kath Myers, Ika Perovic

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



**Praying with Pope Francis:
intention for April-
For the Role of Women**


This month's prayer intention is "that the dignity and richness of women be recognised in all cultures and for the end to the discrimination they suffer in various parts of the world"

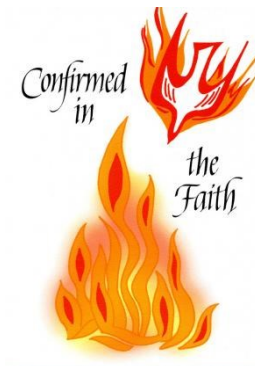
Parish Administration ~ New arrangements:

From April 10th, Bishop Paul has appointed Fr Marcello Colasante to the parishes of Creswick, Daylesford and Wendouree forming a Ministry District across our three parishes and the five local Church and School communities of Creswick, Daylesford, Lexton, Waubra, Wendouree. I will work with Leonie Keynes in the Daylesford Parish Office and Maree Roache and Bernadette Prestwood in the Wendouree Parish Office as well as the Principals of our Catholic Schools - Michael Heenan (St Augustine's Creswick), Tim Hogan (St Peter's Daylesford), Leigh Bradshaw (Our Lady Help of Christian's Wendouree).

In the Diocese of Ballarat, a **Ministry District** is the term used in our pastoral planning document Looking Forward, to describe the sharing of resources between parishes, with the aim of working in collaboration to further the mission of Christ that has been entrusted to the Church. Our emphasis and focus is on mission, looking forward, outward, with the joy of the Gospel.

Pope Francis, in The Joy of the Gospel, dreams "of a 'missionary option', that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today's world rather than for her self-preservation" (#27). He recognises that we need to be in a "permanent state of mission" (25), going out, being always engaged in involving others and being constantly focused on reaching out. The vision of Pope Francis is an outward one and "mission" is at the centre of it. In this next chapter, our new Ministry district provides us all with an opportunity to exercise genuine synodality, that is, walking together in faith, building a culture of encounter and accompaniment, discerning the way forward by genuine dialogue, listening to each other with prayerful openness to the Holy Spirit. I look forward to walking with you as a pilgrim in faith, together as servants of the Gospel, joyful missionary disciples.

 **St Vincent de Paul Society – "The Record" Magazine** Scan or click the qr code to read the Autumn edition of "The Record" from the St Vincent de Paul Society National Council of Australia.



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) Confirmation will be celebrated on Saturday 18th May at 6:00 pm

ANZAC Day—25th April

They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them, not the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we shall remember them. Lest we forget!



150th Diocese of Ballarat Bishop Paul is commemorating the anniversary year with a personal visit to each parish and looks forward to celebrating with as many local communities as possible throughout the year. Bishop Paul has invited parishes to acknowledge the 150th anniversary at Masses on the weekend of **April 27-28, 2024**

Prayer for Vocation Sunday (21st April)

*O Holy Spirit of wisdom and divine love, awaken in the hearts of the young, Your knowledge, understanding, and counsel.
May they discover the vocation wherein they can best serve God to be of service to their sisters and brothers.
Inflame all young hearts with courage and grant them your peace.
Mary, Mother of our Saviour, and our Mother, pray for us.*



"Learn about your food". Did you know? Discovering more about food helps you eat meals that are better for the planet. Learn if your snack grew on a tree or comes from a farm. How did it end up in that wrapper?



Centralised Baptism Preparation Session Parents planning to have their child baptised are required to attend a Baptism Preparation Session. Next session is at MacKillop and Glowrey Rooms of St. Patrick's Cathedral Hall, 3 Lyons St South, Ballarat, **Next session: Thursday May 2nd 2024 at either 10:00 am or 5:30 pm.**



An Invitation - Are you interested in becoming a Mercy Associate?

This group seeks to "Preserve, Nurture and Reimagine the Mercy charism", established by Catherine McAuley and the Sisters of Mercy" We offer members a number of social and spiritual activities throughout the year.

If you are interested, both women and men, please contact the Parish Office for further information before 30 April 2024.

Caritas Australia's Sudan Crisis Appeal Following the outbreak of conflict in Sudan a year ago, 25 million people - including 14 million children - now need humanitarian assistance and support, according to the [United Nations](https://www.un.org/). 9 million have been displaced from their homes making Sudan the largest displacement crisis in the world!

Damage to infrastructure has impacted access to food, water, healthcare services, and even banking. Sudan now teeters on the edge of a famine. Since the outbreak of violence Caritas partners in Sudan have distributed food at 17 gathering points for internally displaced people, as well as delivering multipurpose cash assistance, water and hygiene services, and gender-based violence protection. You can donate online www.caritas.org.au/sudan or phone 1800 024 413

OLHC 27th April 2024	(next week)	Saturday 6:00 pm
LEADER OF SONG		Paul Hogan
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Volunteer, please
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Zeena Lazarus & Vin Dillon
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Tony Bruty and Jennifer Adams
SACRISTAN		Tony & Pauline Newman
Waubra Church cleaning	April	Trish & Steve Coleman
Collections Last Weekend	Thank you for your contributions	
Presbytery: \$ 374.25	Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 755.00	