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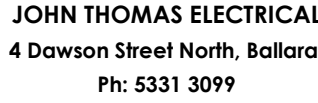
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**Child Safe Church** The Parishes of St Columba's & Our Lady Help of Christians (including Lexton, Miners Rest and Waubra) follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards as directed 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



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**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.
- You no longer need to preregister for Masses. Please ensure you arrive 10 minutes before Mass to register your attendance.
- Contact tracing is required for all Masses. Please use the QR code on the door or sign the register in the foyer (please add your phone number if you are a visitor).
- Ensure that you maintain appropriate physical distancing at all times (1.5 metres).
- A face mask is optional whilst visiting the Church (you should carry it with you as per State Government guidelines)
- Please use the hand sanitiser available upon entering the Church.
- Please do not touch any surfaces unnecessarily.
- Once Mass has concluded, please leave the Church immediately afterwards to allow for cleaning of all surfaces.

We appreciate your assistance. In helping stop the spread of the virus.

St Columba's



OLHC



Please ensure you use the appropriate QR Code when entering each church.  
  
Waubra

**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 (select Parish)

**Office:** 306 Gregory St, Ballarat Nth **Phone:** 5331 1012  
**Email:** ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ballaratnorthpastoral@ballarat.catholic.org.au  
**School Co-Principals:** Bambi Afford & Shaun Mohr  
**School Phone:** 5332 4894

**Office:** 480a Gillies Street, Wendouree **Phone:** 5339 2302  
**Email:** wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au  
**P O Box** 192, Wendouree  
**School Principal:** Leigh Bradshaw  
**School Phone:** 5339 4726

**Parish Priest:**

Fr Marcello Colasante  
**Staffing**  
**St Columba's**  
Pastoral Associate:  
Judith O'Sullivan  
Wed-Friday 9:00am - 1:00pm  
Our Safeguarding Officer:  
Peter Marquand

**Our Lady Help of Christians**  
Parish Co-ordinator and Safeguarding Officer:  
Maree Roache  
Wed-Friday 9:00am - 1:00pm

**MASS TIMES (This week)**  
**St Columba's**  
Saturday 5:00 pm  
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**  
Sunday 10:00 am  
Thursday 10:00 am  
Friday 10:00 am

**Readings for Next Weekend:**  
Acts 2:1-11  
Ps 103:1, 24, 29-31, 34, R. v.30  
1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13  
Jn 20:19-23

**16th May 2021 ~ Feast of the Ascension (B)**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

The feast of the Ascension invites us to face the universal experience of loss, the loss of a loved one or of something precious to us, and to face this experience in a transformative way. In Ordinary Time, we celebrate the life and ministry of Jesus. Over the period of Lent and Easter, we have been re-membering his death and resurrection. The liturgy now draws us into another aspect of the Mystery, that of the presence and absence of the One who has been raised. The physical loss of Jesus means a new and different sort of presence. Like the early Christians, we need time to grasp each dimension of the one great Mystery of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, time to ponder the implications of this great Mystery for us and for our planetary home.

Today's gospel passage receives little attention in commentaries and classes because, along with the immediately preceding passage (Mark 16:9-14), it is a late addition to the original text of Mark's gospel. The author of these verses is familiar with the similar commission to proclaim the good news to all nations and to baptise in the name of the Trinity, found at the end of Matthew's gospel. In Mark 16:15, the command is to go "into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation (ktisis)." It is a more inclusive vision than Matthew's and opens a space for an ecological reading of the text, an extension from the human to the other-than and more-than-human elements of the Earth community. The command to proclaim the good news, the gospel, recalls the first words of the Markan Jesus, "The time is fulfilled, and the kin-dom of God has come near; repent [=expand your horizons], and believe in the good news" (1:15).

If we were to accept that our mission in the "in-between times" is to bring the gospel to all creation, then we might take more seriously God's command in Genesis 2 to reverence and protect the earth (usually translated as "to till and to keep"). We might stop polluting the air that all creatures need for life. We might also read the affirmations of Genesis 1 through the lens of Mark 16 and respect once more the intrinsic goodness of all creation as a gospel imperative.

The "Ascension" event recounted towards the end of the passage presupposes a pre-scientific, three-tiered understanding of the structure of the cosmos. In this ancient view, God is in the heavens above and Jesus is caught up into God's realm. The vertical movement is balanced by a horizontal movement: Jesus' return to "the right hand of God" ensures a different kind of presence in the church despite his seeming absence, one that enables believers to stop "looking up to the heavens" (Acts 1:11) and to continue the healing and re-creative ministry of Jesus "to all creation".  
Veronica Lawson rsm



**Responsorial Psalm:** (R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.  
**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

**Recently Deceased:** We commend to God: All who have died recently  
**Anniversaries: We remember:** Brian Molloy, John Kennedy, Dean Lang  
**We pray:** Those in need of our prayers; all the sick in our Parishes especially Dan Coutts, Jan Mullaly and Pat Hogan. For the success of the Plenary Council. For children beginning their preparation for Sacraments of Confirmation (OLHC) and First Eucharist (St Columba's)

**Get vaccinated for the common good** Vaccination against COVID-19 is a morally good thing, providing protection for the person vaccinated and the wider community. Some COVID-19 vaccines are associated with ethically questionable production and research practices, but Pope Francis and the Australian Bishops have advised that it is morally permissible to receive any vaccine made available. More information is available at <https://www.catholic.org.au/coronavirus>. A media release and FAQ information from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference is available from the diocesan website "news" section <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/catholics-in-australia-encouraged-to-receive-covid-19-vaccine/>

**Mercy Works** Assistance is urgently needed for the growing crisis in Papua New Guinea. We would be very grateful if you could send a donation to this URGENT food APPEAL by 31 May 2021. In response to the growing alarm and anxiety about this health crisis for our nearest neighbour, the people of Papua New Guinea. You can do this by clicking onto our website: [www.givenow.com.au/mercyworksappeal](http://www.givenow.com.au/mercyworksappeal)

**First Eucharist preparation** begins with an enrolment Mass. Dates for these Masses are Saturday 8th May and Saturday 15th May. We have 49 children enrolled and ask that you keep them in your prayers as they begin their preparation.



**Fundraising program launched for Mass for You at Home** A fundraising program has been launched to help enable the ongoing broadcast of Catholic Mass on free-to-air television as it prepares to mark 50 years ministering to people who cannot attend a local church. In recent years, due to changes in religious programming obligations, the annual cost of producing and broadcasting the Mass has run into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. To donate go to <https://massforyou.com.au/>

**Mass Numbers** the state government has announced an easing of restrictions for places of worship to take place from 28th May. This means we will now be able to accommodate 200 people in both St Columba's and Our Lady Help of Christian's churches. As part of this increase in numbers we will be required to have as many people as possible attending to sign in using the electronic QR code. Please upload the Service Victoria app on your phone. If you do not have a mobile phone we will need to sign in on your behalf. Please arrive in plenty of time for us to do this on your behalf.

**OLHC Discernment Process** for new members of the Parish Pastoral Council will be conducted on Wednesday May 26th. Sr. Karon Donnellon will facilitate this process.

**Annual Mass Count** during the weekends of May we will be undertaking the annual Mass counts. Parishioners will be moving around the Church to count all adults and children present for that Mass.

**Collections at St Columba's** We thank you for your generous support  
Presbytery: \$ 295.85 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 855.00

St Columba's 22nd May	(next week)	Sat 5pm
REGISTRATION		Judith
COMMENTATOR		Ann Lacey
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Peter Dalton
COMMUNION MINISTER		Jennifer Adams
OVERHEADS		Volunteer please
SACRISTAN		Volunteer please

**Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Virtual Learning Program** Our partners, Dayton University offer low-cost online study and formation for employed or volunteer lay workers in parish and other ministries. Study subjects over 3 and 5 week cycles. Study Cycle 3 begins April 11. This cycle is mostly 3 week courses. Registrations are now open for new and returning participants. For more information go to [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) or email [djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or ph. 5337 7121.

**Diocesan Liturgical Commission Membership** is currently seeking new members from all areas of the diocese. Membership is for an initial term of three (3) years with the option of two further terms (3 years per term). The Commission meets five times per year in Ballarat. Video linking facilities are available for meetings. All members of the Commission must hold a current Working with Children check or VIT (Victorian Institute of Teaching) registration. The Charter of the Liturgical Commission is available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/liturgy-sacraments/diocesan-liturgical-commission/>. Expressions of interest can be forwarded to [liturgy@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:liturgy@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

**Confirmation OLHC.** Due to large numbers, Confirmation will be offered over two Sundays: 23rd May at both Waubra and OLHC, and 30th May at OLHC. Please keep the Confirmation Candidates and their families in your prayers as they continue along their journey to full initiation into the Catholic Church. A revised Sacramental Brochure has been published regarding the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist, available in Term 3 at OLHC.

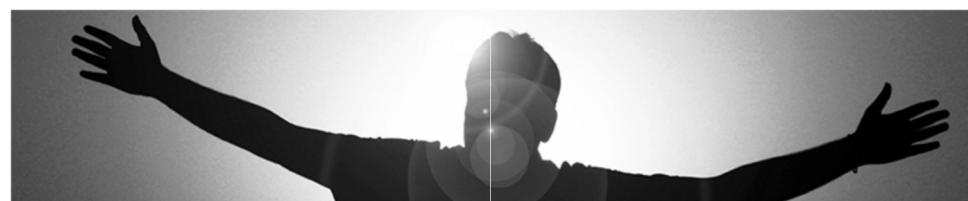
**Year of St Joseph Monthly Reflections** Each month during the year of St Joseph, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference will publish a reflection on the various aspects of St Joseph's life and character. Robert Falzon reflects on how St Joseph may have responded to his astonishing call to be the foster-father of Jesus and spouse of Mary. What does it mean for fathers and husbands in today's world? <https://catholic.org.au/yearofstjoseph>

**Advance Notice:** Waubra Mass—change of Date for the celebration of Confirmation. No mass on Sunday 16th May. There will be Mass on Sunday 23rd May at 8:30 am. Thanks to the Waubra and Beaufort communities for making this change in order to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation for the candidates and their families who live in Waubra, Learmonth and Lexton.

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: May 16 - 23, 2021** The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2021 was prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp. The theme that was chosen, "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit", is based on John 15:1-17 and expresses Grandchamp Community's vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the church and the human family.

Opportunities to join in the week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Ballarat will be at 2.30pm on the following afternoons in the following Churches:

Monday May 17th St Patrick's Cathedral  
Wednesday May 19th Peel St Church of Christ  
Thursday May 20th Ballarat Central Uniting Church  
Friday May 21st Christ Church Anglican Cathedral



**Year of the Family** Pope Francis launched the "Amoris Laetitia Family Year" on March 19, the 5th anniversary of the publication of his Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris laetitia*, a document on the beauty and joy of love in the family. The year will conclude on June 26, 2022 on the occasion of the 10th World Meeting of Families in Rome with the Holy Father. The launch was a virtual event entitled, "Our Daily Love", organised by the Vatican Dicastery for the Laity, the Family and Life, the Diocese of Rome and the Pontifical John Paul II Theological Institute, all based in Rome. The event is available to view online at [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkl4OUXU7\\_LBguDrPZQKsng](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkl4OUXU7_LBguDrPZQKsng)

**Vinnies launches 2021 Winter Appeal to support homelessness** As Vinnies responds to a growing demand for services following the end of Job Keeper and cuts to Job Seeker, the National Council of St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia is calling for donations to help support the rising number of people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, including children, which have all been exacerbated by the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Society provides vital services and support for individuals and families facing financial hardship. With generous support from the public, Vinnies aims to maintain the dignity of those on the edge and restore hope to people who have fallen on hard times. To donate go to <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/winter-appeal>

**Laudato Si' Week: May 16 - 23, 2021** This week is the 6th anniversary of Pope Francis' Encyclical *Laudato Si'* – "Care for Our Common Home". You are invited to join an online event "Sowers of Hope" on Friday, May 21 at 5.30pm. The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Office of Social Justice and Caritas Australia's Catholic Earthcare program, are co-hosting this prayer and reflection event in *Laudato Si'* Week to celebrate the conclusion of the *Special Laudato Si' Anniversary Year 2020 - 2021*. For more information and registration details go to <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2021/04/16/laudato-si-sowers-of-hope/>

**National Volunteer Week: May 17-23, 2021** National Volunteer Week (NVW) is Australia's largest annual celebration of volunteers. From May 17 –23, 2021 NVW will celebrate the significant contribution of Australia's almost six million volunteers, which includes people in our parishes and agencies. Each year these volunteers dedicate over 600 million hours to help others. The theme for NVW 2021 is Recognise. Reconnect. Reimagine. which acknowledges that it is time to: RECOGNISE, celebrate and thank volunteers for the vital role they play in our lives. RECONNECT to what is important by giving our time to help others and ourselves. REIMAGINE how we better support volunteers and communities they help. For more information about National Volunteer Week 2021 go to <https://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/get-involved/nvw/>

**Collections at OLHC** We thank you for your generous support  
Presbytery: \$ 426.30 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 416.00

OLHC 23rd May	(next week)	Sunday 10am
LEADER OF SONG		Vin Dillon
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Veronica Stott
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD		Frank Hogan
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Harry & Coralie Kennedy
SACRISTAN & REGISTRATION		Michael & Helen Rieniets