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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](mailto:wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or [ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto: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.



**OLHC Parish QR Code**

**Waubra QR Code**



**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) or [ballaratnorthpastoral@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto: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](mailto: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**  
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 Vigil 6:00 pm  
Thursday 10:00 am  
Friday 10:00 am

**Readings for Next Weekend:**  
Wis 7: 7-11  
Ps. 89: 12-17 R.V.14  
Heb 4: 12-13  
Mk. 10: 17-30



**3rd October 2021 ~ 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Focus on the Scriptures**  
In marriage, the couple does not merely receive a sacrament, they become one. They become an outward sign of the love of God. They are able to open themselves to each other in love, because God has first loved them. When they become one in marriage, they create something new, something that is a sign of the creative power of God. This in no way minimises the passionate love that they may have, or the unselfishness with which they give themselves to each other. Rather, it underscores the origin of that passion and the model of that unselfishness.

We are brothers and sisters of Christ in more than one way. First, through his incarnation, he became one of us, a little lower than the angels. He shared our human existence; he knew the highs and lows of human life. Then he redefined family relationships, claiming that blood bonds were no longer the determinant for establishing kinship. Instead, those who hear the word of God and keep it, those who commit themselves to God in faithful discipleship, are his brothers and sisters.

Marriage and other forms of discipleship make religious demands on us. Because we are taking a step into the unknown, they require a profound act of trust – trust in ourselves, trust in each other and, most importantly, trust in God. They also expect openness on our part – openness to give and openness to receive. Unfortunately we associate these characteristics with unpretentious children. While children may possess them because they are innocent, adults must repossess them because we have been recreated in Christ. © Dianne Bergant CSA



**Responsorial Psalm:** (R.) May the Lord bless us  
**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! If we love one another, God will live in us in perfect love. Alleluia!

**Recently Deceased:** We commend to God: Fr John Keane, Philip Hart, Jan Mullaly,  
**Anniversaries: We remember:** Mary Quarrell, Margaret Butler, Kevin Dower, Tim McKeegan, Carmel Mitchell, Thomas Rush  
**We pray:** Those in need of our prayers; all the sick in our Parishes, especially Dan Coutts, Pat Hogan and Frank McNulty. Children preparing for Sacraments. For an end of the pandemic.

**Season of Creation – September 1 – October 4, 2021** The Season of Creation is the time of year when the world's 2.2 billion Christians are invited to pray and care for creation. This prayerful season runs annually from September 1 through to October 4 – the Feast of St Francis of Assisi. The Season of Creation is dedicated to prayer, reflection and celebration of God as Creator. It also celebrates and reflects prayerfully on the gifts of creation and the mission given to us by God to care for creation and respond to its needs and crises today. This year our theme is 'A Home for All? Renewing the oikos of God' (one of the meanings for the ancient Greek word oikos is home.) Oikos is a home for all but our common home, the Earth, is now in danger because of people's greed, exploitation, disrespect, disconnection and systematic degradation. Resources to assist celebrate the Season of Creation are available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/catholic-earthcare-ballarat-diocese/season-of-creation-2021/>

**Commission Climate Change Forum – Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission** On November 6, 2021 the Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission will host a Climate Change Forum in Ballarat. Through this forum, we celebrate the launch of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Social Justice Statement 2021-2022 Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor. We are inviting you to share what you have for ecological justice. Do you market a product that is about sustainable practices and clean living? Maybe you know a thing or two about how to reduce carbon emissions. Do you have a particular skill in embracing nature and celebrating all things in the natural environment? We want to show the community what people are doing and this is an opportunity for you to share! It could be anything from how to make bees wax wraps, how to compost food scraps to how to recycle and make your own paper. Perhaps you have a wealth of gardening skills and can set up a stall to showcase them. Maybe you have information about how to save power and water. Get in touch with us and let us know what you've got! We would love to hear from you. Email [social.justice@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:social.justice@ballarat.catholic.org.au).

**Plenary Council – Nearly there!** The First General Assembly of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia opens with Mass at 2.00pm AEDT from St Mary's Cathedral, Perth on Sunday, October 3. The historic event will develop concrete proposals to create a more missionary, Christ-centred Church in Australia. Watch the live-streamed Mass and access other information on the Plenary Council website at <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/assembly-1/>

Key moments during the First General Assembly will be live-streamed between October 3 and 10. They will include daily Masses, morning prayer for Plenary Council members and sharing of the fruits of discernment. All found at <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/assembly-1/> or through the diocesan website [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)

It is anticipated that the 10.30am Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat celebrated by Bishop Paul Bird for the start of the Assembly will be livestreamed. A link will be uploaded in due course to <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/plenary-council/>

People in the diocese are invited to continue to pray with the members and also to continue to engage in the process and to listen deeply to the voice of the Spirit. Please see handout on St Columba's website. It can be printed out, then emailed or posted back in or you can just send answers via email to [pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au). Any submissions will be forwarded to the Diocesan Members to the Plenary Council.

**Collections at St Columba's We thank you for your generous support**  
Presbytery: \$ 225.65 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,025.00

**Mass times:** The impact of COVID-19 has resulted in reduced numbers of worshippers attending Mass in each parish. The number of people who have returned can be accommodated by the provision of one Mass in each Parish. On 10th March a combined gathering of parishioners from both parishes was held meeting to discuss Mass times. On 9th June representatives of each Parish Council met to share their thoughts.

Both gatherings were candid, cordial and respectful recognising that whatever decision is made not everyone will be pleased with the outcome. Embracing change is difficult.

Consensus was reached that neither parish seemed particularly concerned about whether they had the vigil Mass or the morning Mass; but for it to be the same time each week to give people a degree of certainty and predictability in organising their own personal routines. Across the 6 Ballarat Parishes, 4 Vigil Masses are celebrated, some in close proximity to each other. It seems reasonable that a vigil Mass be celebrated in Wendouree to cater for people who live in the North Western side of Greater Ballarat. And beyond.

With effect from next weekend (**9th/10th October 2021**) the following Mass Times will apply:

**Wendouree Saturday Vigil 6.00 pm**

**Ballarat North Sunday 10.00 am**

**OLHC—Preparation for Vigil Mass** Parishioners are invited to offer their service in preparing the Church for Saturday Mass. Please consider joining the group of Sacristans who provide this vital service for our community. Contact Maree at the Parish Office (ph. 5339 2302)

**St Columba's 10am Mass Rosters** to assist with planning as we move toward the regular Parish Mass being at 10am Sunday mornings, I would like to hear from anyone who would like to assist at Mass as a reader, Sacristan etc.

**Catholic Mission Month** Catholic Mission Australia has launched its annual World Mission Month Appeal, focusing on the work of the Good Shepherd Sisters in Thailand supporting children from vulnerable and disadvantaged backgrounds through the Kindergarten Centre. For more information go to <https://www.catholicmission.org.au/catholic-mission-launches-world-mission-month-appeal>

**Diocesan Director of Caritas** After many years of generous service, Sue Searls is retiring from the role of Diocesan Director of Caritas. Bishop Paul would like to hear from anyone who would be interested in taking up this role. The position will be funded by Caritas as a part-time role, averaging one day a week, although most of the work is concentrated in the months of February to May in relation to Project Compassion. There is a role description available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/our-diocese/employment/>. If you would like to be considered for this position or if you would like more information, please contact Bishop Paul at [bishopsoffice@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:bishopsoffice@ballarat.catholic.org.au) by Thursday, October 7. Please include your contact details and some notes about your interest in this position and the experience you could bring to this role.

**OLHC Laudato Sí Garden** OLHC Parish have joined with the Gardens for Wildlife Ballarat to obtain plants to add to the garden surrounding the carpark and Parish House. 'Laudato Sí Care of Our Common Home', Pope Francis Encyclical in 2015, and his call to join in the ecumenical **Season of Creation**, from September 1<sup>st</sup> and ending on the Feast of St Francis of Assisi October 4<sup>th</sup> has encouraged the work on this garden. Further explanation is on an addition to the newsletter.



**Synodality & Co-Responsibility - ONLINE** Synodality & Co-Responsibility is the second online conversation in the *Light from the Southern Cross - Catalyst for Conversation* series, to be held on Monday, November 1, 2021. Speakers & Topics: Rev Associate Professor Orm Rush, Australian Catholic University - *The Roots of 'Synodality' in the Vision of Vatican II*; Most Rev Shane Mackinlay, Bishop of Sandhurst - *Discovering Synodality by trying it out: Reflections on the First Assembly of the Plenary Council*; Mrs Teresa Brierley, Director Pastoral Ministries, Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle - *The Long and Winding Road: 30 years of discovery*. For more information go to <https://www.catholicreligious.org.au/events/synodality-and-co-responsibility>

**Prayer during time of PANDEMIC**

Mary Help of Christians, we fly to you today as your beloved children. We ask that you intercede for us with your Son as you did at the wedding in Cana.

Pray for us loving Mother and gain for our nation and world and all our families and loved ones the protection of Gods holy angels that we may be spared the worst of this illness'.

For those already afflicted we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance. Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful, wipe away their tears and help them to trust.

In this time of trial and testing teach all of us in the Church to be patient and kind love one another. Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and our hearts.

We come to you with confidence knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother, health of the sick and cause of our joy.

Shelter us under the mantle of your protection.

Keep us in the embrace of your arms, help us always to know the love of your Son Jesus. Amen



**OLHC School 60<sup>th</sup> Celebrations** The planned celebrations for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of OLHC school have been amended several times, in line with the prevailing Restrictions.

**Events: Concert** – available on the school Facebook page – October 15<sup>th</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/olhcwendoureevictoria>

**Open Day** for past students, families, staff and community – in compliance with Restrictions

**Video Messages** can be forwarded to [principal@olhcwendouree.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@olhcwendouree.catholic.edu.au)

Thank you for your contribution to our school community, it is a privilege to be part of the Our Lady Help of Christians School story. Leigh Bradshaw ~ Principal

**Collections at OLHC We thank you for your generous support**  
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OLHC 9th October	(next week)	Saturday 6:00 pm—Vigil
LEADER OF SONG		Sue Searls
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Veronica Stott
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD		Ena Bruty
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Marie McMillan & Bev Hayward
SACRISTAN & REGISTRATION		Mick & Helen Rienets