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**The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Prayer for Peace and Justice in Ukraine**  
God of peace and justice,  
who change the hardened heart and break the power of violence,  
we entrust the people of Ukraine to you.  
Protect them in this time of peril;  
let them know not death but life, not slavery but freedom.  
You are Father of all;  
we are brothers and sisters.  
Give us the strength to live that truth in love,  
choosing peace not war.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



**Have you thought?**  
**Eternal life**

*In the gospel passage, Jesus says of the sheep that belong to him, "I give them eternal life." He does not say, I give them the promise of eternal life. The message that comes through the gospel of John is clear that eternal life is not some future existence, but rather a new way of being in the here and now. But that is not to suggest that there is not an 'eternal' quality to eternal life. The gospel of John makes clear that eternal life begins in the here and now but has no end.*

**COVID Safe Plan**  
Checking-in is no longer required. Face masks are no longer required in most indoor settings but they are still recommended. Carry a mask when leaving home. They are strongly recommend if you have any COVID-19 symptoms, are with people who may be vulnerable to COVID-19 and/or are outdoors and cannot physically distance.

- If you are feeling unwell or have any symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough or sore throat) please do not attend Mass.
- If you are waiting results of a COVID test, stay home.
- Please use the hand sanitiser available upon entering the Church.

**We appreciate your assistance in helping stop the spread of the virus.**

**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)

**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 or  
**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**  
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**  
Parish Co-ordinator and  
Safeguarding Officer:  
Maree Roache  
Wed-Fri 9– 1pm

**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 6:00 pm  
Thursday 10:00 am  
Friday 10:00 am

**Readings for Next Weekend:**  
5th Sunday of Easter

- Acts 14: 21-27
- Ps 144: 8-13  
R.v.1
- Rev 21: 1-5
- Jn 13: 31-35

**8th May, 2022 - 4th Sunday of Easter (C)**

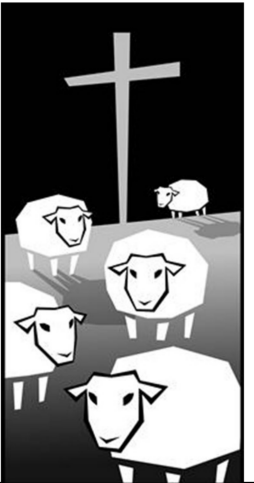
**Focus on the Scriptures**

Shepherds in the first century did not have a particularly good reputation. Whilst the task itself was a responsible one, it was usually undertaken by hired help – usually young men or even boys. Being hired help, they had little allegiance to the flock and were generally regarded as basically untrustworthy and often accused of illicitly selling off the sheep's milk and even the occasional lamb. They lived for months at a time out in the hills with the sheep; often risking their lives in defence of their flock, yet still regarded with suspicion. Shepherds were held in such low regard that they could not appear in court as a witness. Yet, despite this grim picture of shepherds, Jesus described himself as the Good Shepherd. With that one word, he acknowledged the reputation of shepherds but utterly dismissed it by describing himself as a shepherd – but a good shepherd. He chose to describe himself as the worst of all occupations but raised the status to unimpeachable heights.

In describing himself as the good shepherd, Jesus joined a distinguished list of biblical shepherds: Abraham, his son Isaac, and grandson Jacob were all shepherds; Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, when God appeared to him in the burning bush and revealed God's name; and the great King, David, began life as a humble shepherd-boy. So, despite the poor reputation of shepherds in Jewish society, some of the greatest leaders of the Jews began life as shepherds.

Today's gospel passage follows the famous 'good shepherd' passage in the gospel of John and continues on the image. The passage portrays Jesus as 'claiming' his flock; guaranteeing them not only safety but also eternal life. This oath of loyalty and commitment is all the stronger and more remarkable in light of Jesus' rehabilitation of the status of shepherds.

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**Responsorial Psalm: (R)** We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

**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:** Those who have died recently

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Frank Sheehan, Frank Rienets, Gerard Sullivan, Doreen Davies, Margaret Sherman, Kathleen Clohesy,

**We pray:** Those in need of our prayers; for the people of the Ukraine, and all the sick in our Parishes.

**Alive in the Spirit 2022 – Virtual Conference**

“Alive in the Spirit” is for lay and clergy, staff, leadership teams, finance teams, pastoral councils, pastoral ministers and volunteers, those in education, counselling, pastoral care, youth ministry, family ministry, aged care and chaplaincies and anyone who wants to be “Alive in the Spirit”. For more information and to register go to <https://aliveinthespirit.com.au/>

**“Engaging Your Faith” online sessions**

Catholic Theological College presents, “Engaging Your Faith”, a series of online short sessions offering an opportunity to explore your faith through a variety of topics including: Theology, Spirituality, Biblical Studies, Vatican II, Pastoral Studies, *Laudato Si*, Christian Meditation, *Lectio Divina*, Interfaith Relations, and Science and Religion. All topics are presented by lecturers of Catholic

Theological College. For more information go to <https://ctc.edu.au/news-and-events/engaging-your-faith/>

**Laudato Si’ Week: May 16-24, 2022** As part of Catholic Earthcare’s celebration of *Laudato Si’* Week, they are hosting an online screening of the newly released ‘Regenerating Australia’ short film - a fictitious news segment set on New Year’s Eve 2029, examining the decade that ‘could be’. The film challenges people to consider how to respond to the Cry of the Earth. Speakers: Bishop Ken Howell and a range of guest speakers to share in this celebration, followed by a panel discussion & question time You are welcome to join by yourself or register a parish group for the viewing (please note if registering for a group, only 1 person need register via Trybooking). The video will be streamed via zoom. The online event will be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 from 6.00pm – 8.00pm AEST. Bookings at: <https://www.trybooking.com/BZADI>.

**Mass Counts** will be occurring for the next 4 weeks. Please be aware that attendance will be noted and reported to the Diocese.

**Invitation** to acknowledge the conclusion of the first phase of the Synodal process on Sunday May 15th, 2022 at 10:30 am at St Patrick’s Cathedral, Ballarat. All welcome to attend this Mass.

St Columba’s May 15th	(next week)	Sunday 10:00 am
COMMENTATOR		Volunteer
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Volunteer
COMMUNION MINISTER		Volunteer
OVERHEADS		Volunteer
SACRISTAN		Volunteer

**Collections at St Columba’s** We thank you for your generous support  
 Presbytery: Parish: \$ 304.45 Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1 219.00



The OLHC Parish community welcomes Sophie Madeline Ryan, daughter of Ricky and Kymberly. May she grow in faith and love within her family and supported by the Parish.

**Our Diocesan Community – Issue 1 2022** The first edition of ODC 2022 has been published. Feel free to take copies to share with the homebound, nursing homes, hospitals, etc., to spread the good news of our diocese.

**Time Out Family Group ~ 15th May** - Lunch— Golden Point Hotel (formerly Zagames). 639 Main Road. 12 noon to celebrate Maree Howletts 60th birthday (10th May). Senior’s Menu available. Numbers to Maree by Monday 2nd May 0400 053 465.



**Reflection Day - Tuesday 17th May from 9.30am - 2.00pm**  
 Invitation to attend a day of reflection “Where is the will of God for us in loss” OLHC Parish Wendouree. Numbers are limited. For bookings contact Kath 5331 2677.

**OLHC Parish Sacramental Program.** This program is Family Based, School Supported and Parish Co-ordinated. Preparation for Confirmation will commence shortly. Confirmation is available for Baptised Catholic children in Year 3 or older Enrolment Forms are available in the Parish or through OLHC school.



**Confirmation** preparation will be presented via Workshops (child and parent) on Tuesday 17th May and Tuesday 24th May at 6:00 pm in the OLHC Library, Confirmation will be celebrated on Saturday June 4th at 6:00 pm. Enquiries to Maree in the Parish Office (5339 2302 or [wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au)). NB: Reconciliation and First Eucharist programs will be conducted in Term 3.

**Advance Notice: Ordinations to the Priesthood** Deacons Matt Restall and Bill Lowry will be ordained priests for the Diocese of Ballarat on Friday, July 22, 2022 at St Patrick’s Cathedral Ballarat at 7.00pm. Matthew had been present our Parishes during 2019. Bill is currently working in the Redan Parish.

**St Augustine’s Church Creswick 150th Anniversary**  
 On the weekend of September 17-18, 2022 celebrations will be held for the 150th anniversary of St Augustine’s Church, Creswick. If anyone has any old photographs, stories, memorabilia or anything which you believe may be of interest, please contact Leonie in the parish office, email [creswick@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:creswick@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or ph. 0488220685

**Praying with Pope Francis** The Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) is an international movement that is more than 170 years old. Each month, the Pope puts forward a prayer intention and asks Catholics around the world to join him in prayer. These intentions cover all sorts of areas of life, encouraging faith, renewing hope and calling us to loving service. Praying each month ‘The Pope Video’ forms part of the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network – view at [www.thepopevideo.org](http://www.thepopevideo.org). Pope’s intention for April:

**For health-care workers:** We pray for health care workers who serve the sick and the elderly, especially those in the poorest countries. May they be adequately supported by governments and local communities.



**SEW and SO** .....Thursday 12th May, 1.30 pm in the foyer of St Columba’s Church. Last month we had two new members who found the companionship of the afternoon very enjoyable. Come along and meet us. Also anyone who has knitting for Irene and her East Timor Project can drop it off for her to collect. Donations of any

spare 8ply ACRYLIC yarn is very welcome. **Enquiries** Margaret 53314032

**Prayer for Mother’s Day**

Loving God, we pray for our mothers, who have given us life and love, that we may show them reverence and love, and others who show us a mother’s love.



We pray for adoptive mothers and for the women who wish to give birth but experience challenges, that they know your care.

We pray for mothers who have lost a child through death, that their faith may give them hope, and their family and friends support and console them.

We pray for those who wish to serve as mothers, but are not able to do so, that they know your comfort.

We pray for mothers who have died, that God may bring them into the joy of his kingdom. *Amen.*

OLHC 14th May	(next week)	Saturday 6:00 pm
LEADER OF SONG		Paul Hogan
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Volunteer please
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD		Kevin Murphy & Pauline Newman
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Tony Bruty & Jennifer Adams
SACRISTAN		Geoff & Marg McLean
Waubra Church cleaning	May	Trish & Steve Coleman

**Collections at OLHC** We thank you for your generous support  
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