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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.



**SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT**

**Luke-Acts**

*The two works of Luke and Acts, ascribed to the same writer, are both addressed to the same person, Theophilus. However, the Greek name, Theophilus, means 'Friend of God' or 'Beloved of God'. Theophilus may have been a particular person or may have been a literary device by the author - using the name to imply that the books were written to any 'Friend of God'. There is a common style employed in the writing of the two works and a common theology runs through both works and it is these commonalities that lead scholars to conclude that the two works share the same author.*

**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. Masks are strongly recommended 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:**

Pentecost Sunday

- Acts 2: 1-11
- Ps 103: 1, 24, 29-31, 34.  
R.v.30
- Eph 1: 17-23
- Jn 20: 19-23



**29th May, 2022 - Ascension of the Lord (C)**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

The Ascension stories are not primarily interested in how or when Jesus got back to heaven. John and Paul never mention it at all. Mark and Matthew have it happening on the same day as the Resurrection and Luke has it occurring 40 days after Easter on the same day as Pentecost. The one thing, on which all the New Testament writers agree, is where in heaven Jesus went and where he is presently – at God's right hand.

Even to this day, being on someone's right is a place of honour. In the Old Testament being on the right hand of David, Samuel or Elijah was to be the anointed and favoured one, the true son or daughter. In telling us, then, that Jesus is now at God's right hand, the Gospels use a formal phrase to announce that God affirms everything Jesus said and did on earth and that he is the way for us to follow.

That can be all well and good, but Jesus goes one step further and that's why this feast is so important. Jesus taught us that where he is, so shall we be, that he was going to prepare a place for us and that, in and through him, we will have life and have it to the full.

The feast of the Ascension is the day, each year, where we remember and we celebrate that, just as Jesus was welcomed to God's right hand, so, too, shall we be welcomed to the right hand of Jesus. This is his promise, this is our faith and this is the hope we are called to proclaim to the world. And let's be clear about the invitation. There is nothing we have ever done, are doing, or will do, that will get our name removed from the invitation list to the feast of Christ's kingdom. The challenge is accepting that we have a standing invitation and living lives worthy of the love that places our name on the list. The feast of the Ascension announces that Jesus will faithfully accompany us no matter how far we lose our way and that by our fidelity to Christ we accept or reject the standing offer.

And because the Ascension is an Easter feast it develops even further that there is nowhere, bar evil, where God does not dwell. Because of the Resurrection and Ascension we can find God everywhere we want to: in our homes, our work, our suffering, our old age, our emotional, sexual or financial turmoil – and even in our death.

Even though the writers of the New Testament are not too clear on the details of how the Ascension happened, what we initially see in this wonderful feast is not what we get. Thanks be to God, it's so much more.

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**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 always with you always until the end of the world. Alleluia!

**Recently Deceased: We commend to God:** Pat Gleeson  
**Anniversaries: We remember** Kathleen De Groot, John Kirby, Eileen Dean, Jan Dwyer, Anthony Hall, Francis White, Peter Driscoll, Paul Gleeson  
**We pray:** Those in need of our prayers; for the people of the Ukraine, for all the sick in our Parishes, and for the children and families preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

### Pope Francis' Prayer for Peace in Ukraine

I ask you to pray the Our Father for peace in Ukraine, now and throughout this Day.

Let us ask the Lord to grant that the country may grow in the spirit of brotherhood, and that all hurts, fears and divisions will be overcome.

We have spoken about the Holocaust. But let us think too that in Ukraine] millions of people were killed [1932-1933].

They are a people who have suffered; they have suffered from hunger, suffered from much brutality and they deserve peace.

May the prayers and supplications that today rise up to heaven touch the minds and hearts of world leaders, so that dialogue may prevail and the common good be placed ahead of partisan interests.

Please, no more war.

**Catholic Education Week 22nd—29th May.** *Theme: Go into the world and proclaim the good news to the whole of creation. Mk 16:15.* Congratulations to the school communities of St Columba's and Our Lady Help of Christians. This is a great opportunity to celebrate the great work of our Parish schools.

**Novel coronavirus (COVID-19)** 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 recommended if you have any COVID-19 symptoms and are with people who may be vulnerable to COVID-19

**All Saints Parish Portland 175th Anniversary** Over the weekend of August 27 & 28, 2022 celebrations will be held for the 175th anniversary of All Saints Parish Portland. All Saints Portland is the oldest parish in the Diocese of Ballarat. If anyone has any old photographs, stories, memorabilia or anything which you believe may be of interest, we invite you to please contact us at the Parish Office by email [portland@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:portland@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or by posting copies of items to All Saints Parish, PO Box 210, Portland, 3305.

St Columba's 5th June	(next week)	Sunday 10:00 am
LEADER of SONG		Volunteer please
COMMENTATOR		Anthea Hinchey
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Vicki Moroney
COMMUNION MINISTER		Bruce Chapman
DIGITAL PROJECTOR		Bruce Chapman
SACRISTAN		Volunteer please

**Collections at St Columba's** *We thank you for your generous support*  
 Presbytery: Parish: \$ 358.40      Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 620.00

**OLHC Parish Sacramental Program.** This program is Family Based, School Supported and Parish Co-ordinated. Confirmation is available for Baptised Catholic children in Year 3 or older.



OLHC have 10 children and their families participating in this preparation program. Please keep them in your prayers over the coming weeks.

Confirmation ceremony will be on Pentecost Sunday—  
 at the 6:00 pm Mass on Saturday, June 4th.

**Daily Gospel Reflections** During the height of COVID in 2020, the Archdiocese of Brisbane's Adult Formation Team launched a daily gospel reflection resource to help Catholics stay connected with God whilst they couldn't attend Mass. The resource has been so well received that the offer is extended to all who may find it useful. The Daily Gospel Reflections are delivered each weekday morning to your email inbox, and will take just a few moments to read but will centre you in relationship with God for the rest of the day. To find out more or subscribe go to <https://evangelisationbrisbane.org.au/daily-reflections/>

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

### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity for 2022: May 29 – June 5

The theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2022 was chosen by the Middle East Council of Churches "We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship" (cf Matthew 2:2). Resources for use in prayer services in your parishes, local ministers associations or inter-church Councils are available at <https://www.ncca.org.au/faiith-and-unity-resources/wopcu22>

### A Christian Prayer for Unity

One only Holy Spirit of Father and Son in whom all are baptised,  
 one giver of many gifts, one tree of many fruits  
 one speaker of every tongue, renew in our day the wonders of Pentecost,  
 grant that people of every race and nation may understand one another,  
 and as one, proclaim the praises of God.  
 Grant that all may be one  
 as you, Spirit, with the Father and the Son are one God, one Lord.  
 Grant unity to the Body of Christ; grant unity to the human family.  
 Sole breath of every living thing, may all be one who, in you,  
 live and move and have their being.

- Carl K. Moeddel, From Jesuit Resources



**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

**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.

**National Reconciliation Week: May 27 – June 3** National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia <https://www.reconciliation.org.au/our-work/national-reconciliation-week/>

**Baptism Preparation Session** Parents planning to have their child baptised are required to attend a Baptism Preparation Session. Centralised Baptism Preparation Session will be held at MacKillop and Glowrey Rooms of St. Patrick's Cathedral Hall on Thursday 2nd June 2022 at 10.00am & 5.30pm. Bookings to be made with Parish Office.

**Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre Open Day** Acknowledging the Feast of the Sacred Heart: Saturday, June 18, 2022 at 362 Albert St, East Melbourne from 10.00am – 4.00pm:

Mary MacKillop Walking Tour available at 11.00am;  
 Mass in the Chapel at 1.00pm; Take a tour of the Museum;  
 Visit the Gift Shop; Refreshment options available for purchase.

For further information and to register for the walk and Mass go to <https://www.mmhc.org.au/open-days-2022/>, ph. 9926 9300 or email [admin.mmhc@sosj.org.au](mailto:admin.mmhc@sosj.org.au)

OLHC 4th June	(next week)	Saturday 6:00 pm
LEADER OF SONG		Corrie Harbour
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Kath Leonard
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD		Ena Bruty & Vin Dillon
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Helen Rieniets & Trish Lawson
SACRISTAN		Lyn Gray & Kylie Gray
Waubra Church cleaning	June:	Clare & Kerry Mullane

**Collections at OLHC** *We thank you for your generous support*  
 Presbytery: \$ 193.90      Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 305.00