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HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Family ties

In the ancient world, and particularly in Jewish culture, family meant everything. One's identity was completely tied up with family. Families absolutely depended on one another for survival and for personal identity. Young men were identified by who their father was. Women quite literally 'belonged' to their father or husband. The entire fabric of society and tradition was held together by extended families. For Jesus to say that his message would tear families apart was to say that all of society would be transformed by the message. The kingdom of God turns expectations and society on their head, breathing new life into tired, restrictive structures.

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.



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 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 or 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 (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

The Parishes acknowledge that the Aboriginal people of Australia are our first nation people and the traditional owners and custodians of the land.

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

Office Hours: Wed-Fri 9– 1pm

MASS TIMES (This week)

St Columba's

Sunday 10:00 am

Wednesday No Mass

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

Monday: 10:00 am Feast of Assumption

Thursday 11:15 am Kelaston

Friday 10:00 am

Readings for Next Weekend:

21st Sunday Ordinary Time

- Is 66: 18-21
- Ps 116. R. Mk 16:15
- Heb 12: 5-7, 11-13
- Lk 13: 22-30



14th August, 2022 - 20th Sunday Ordinary Time (C)

Focus on the Scriptures

A fierce fire in a eucalyptus forest bursts open the seed pods, cleanses the soil of smothering undergrowth, and returns nutrients to the soil to germinate the seeds. It is that sort of fire which Jesus brings to the earth.

So, at Pentecost, He sent His Holy Spirit '... like tongues of fire', bursting the early disciples out of the protective shell of the 'Upper Room', allowing them to be germinated as seeds of the early Church. It is the same in every generation which has to ask: What personal, family or social situations provide a hard casing which must be cracked open? What is the smothering undergrowth which prevents our germination as fearless disciples?

Jesus himself felt smothered by the small-minded people of Nazareth to which He never returned. He warns that families and good friends can try to smother the spark He wishes to ignite.

We might pause for a moment to pray that the fiery Holy Spirit might enable us to become a stand of tall trees reaching for the Risen Son in all His glory.

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com



Responsorial Psalm: (R) Lord, come to my aid!

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and the follow me. Alleluia.

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Patricia Cook

Anniversaries: We remember Kevin Nester, Judith Johnstone, Neil Woods, Sr. Mary Ursula Caine rsm, Peter McMahon, Eng Liang

We pray: Those in need of our prayers: for the people of the Ukraine, and those suffering in Africa. Please pray for the children who are preparing for the Sacrament of First Eucharist in the coming weeks.

Vinnie's Winter Appeal Domestic violence is the leading cause of homelessness for women and children. Your support of the 2022 Vinnie's Winter Appeal will help provide emergency accommodation, financial support, as well as material assistance. To donate go to <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-vic/winter-appeal-vic>



Vinnies Winter Appeal – Ballarat City Brass Band Concert

The Ballarat City Brass Band presents, "A Golden Era Music" on Sunday, August 14, 2022 at 2.00pm at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat. Entry by gold coin donation and all proceeds will be donated to the Vinnies Winter Appeal.

Pastoral Practitioner vacancy at St John of God Hospital, Ballarat

The hospital has an exciting opportunity available for a dedicated and committed Pastoral Practitioner to join the Pastoral Services team in promoting and providing holistic pastoral services to patients and clients. Position description and application details are available at <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/our-diocese/employment/>. Applications close August 17, 2022.

Laudato Si GOAL 6: Ecological Spirituality

When we use the word creation, rather than environment, or nature, we are acknowledging the Creator. For Christians our 'responsibility within creation' and 'our duty towards nature and the Creator' are an essential part of our faith (LS n 64).

Laudato Si culminates in a call to an ecological spirituality that 'can motivate us to a more passionate concern for the protection of our world' (LS n 216). It invites us to understand our heritage of Christian spirituality in a way that does not fall into the trap of viewing the life of the spirit as something separate from our bodies, nature, and the world. In fact, we live our spirituality in and with our bodies and in communion with all of God's creation. We can discover God in all things.

Where and when have you experienced a sense of connection with God in creation? What was it like? Do you have a favourite place to pray outdoors? How do you think an ecological spirituality might be better reflected in our prayer and liturgy?

When he wrote Laudato Si Pope Francis wanted to speak to every person living on the planet. Let us ask the Holy Spirit today to renew the face of the earth. With Pope Francis we can be confident that 'the Spirit of God has filled the universe with possibilities and therefore, from the very heart of things, something new can always emerge' (LS n 80).

OLHC Laudato Si Garden: During Mass over the last few weeks, we have been looking at the Laudato Si Action Platform Goals. You are invited to provide some feedback on this series. The feedback and suggestion box will be in the foyer for a few weeks.

Feast of the Assumption - 15th August

Since the 5th Century there has been an active tradition and belief around the assumption of Mary. The tradition states that Mary was physically 'taken up' into heaven at the end of her life. It is believed that her soul and her body remained united. This ancient belief was defined as an infallible teaching of the Church by Pope Pius XII in 1950. It is one of only two infallible statements that have been defined as such and both related to the Blessed Virgin Mary.



Welcome Jessie Rizk and her family, as Jessie receives the Sacrament of Baptism in OLHC Church this weekend. Blessings to her, her family, her school friends and the Parish community.

"The Church gives the faith to your children through Baptism and you have the task to make it grow..." - Pope Francis.

Urgent Caritas Appeal for Africa Caritas is having a special appeal, "Make Hunger History" campaign to raise funds for its Africa Food Crisis, to support over 16 million people facing extreme hunger in Africa who have been affected by drought, conflict and COVID. You may have seen recent articles on Catholic News where Caritas CEO Kirsty Robertson and the Caritas Leadership Team have travelled recently to see things first hand. Thanks for your ongoing support and assistance. Jillian Hogbin, Diocesan Caritas Director.



CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal

The CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal is being this weekend. CatholicCare Victoria works with individuals, families and communities to

build strength, resilience and empowerment to reach their full potential. Your compassionate generosity will help the most vulnerable members of our community – those facing job loss and homelessness, those experiencing mental health issues, families struggling with relationship problems, people in hospitals and prisons, newly arrived refugees, and those experiencing anxiety, grief and trauma. Please donate to the CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal. Your support and generosity will help the most vulnerable and marginalised in our community. You can donate using the appeal envelope available or online at www.catholiccarevic.org.au or call (03) 9287 5513. All gifts of \$2 and above are tax deductible

First Eucharist Preparation for OLHC Candidates will commence with the 1st Workshop on Tuesday, August 16th at 6:00 pm. First Eucharist celebration on Saturday September 3rd at 6:00 pm. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers.

DIOCESE OF BROOME Kimberley

Catholic Volunteer Service
NEEDED URGENTLY - VOLUNTEER WORKERS

 The Diocese of Broome, WA, urgently requires volunteers to assist with the work of the local Church on Aboriginal Missions. There are various important voluntary tasks: **administration, building maintenance, gardening, shop staffing, cooking, cleaning etc.** Placements are preferred for a period of 6 months plus. In return for being part of the team, we offer accommodation, living expenses and an allowance. **For further details, and an application form, please contact:** Volunteer Coordinator, Janet Ryan: 08 9192 1060
Mail: **PO Box 76, BROOME WA 6725**
Email: volunteers@broomedioocese.org Web: www.broomedioocese.org

St Columba's 21st August	(next week)	Sunday 10:00 am
LEADER of SONG		Mark Lacey
COMMENTATOR		Colleen Wakefield
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Ruth Marquand
COMMUNION MINISTER		Judy Brown
DIGITAL PORJECTOR		Bruce Chapman
SACRISTAN		Josie Crowe

Collections at St Columba's We thank you for your generous support
Presbytery: \$ 355.20 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 745.00

OLHC 20th August	(next week)	Saturday 6:00 pm
LEADER OF SONG		Sue Searls
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Volunteer, please
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Zeena Lazarus & Vin Dillon
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Helen Rieniets & Tony Bruty
SACRISTAN		Tony & Pauline Newman
Waubra Church cleaning	September:	Kerryn & Lawrence Gallagher

Collections at OLHC We thank you for your generous support
Presbytery: \$ 356.40 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 960.00