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GOSPEL FOCUS

First and Last

"Yes, there are those now last who will be first, and those now first who will be last." These words of Jesus carry with them a major thrust of his ministry in the gospel of Luke. Jesus reminds his audience that their status in society means nothing when it comes to their status in the kingdom of God. What will make people 'first' in the kingdom is their acceptance of Jesus' message, their faith and their compassionate actions toward others. Jesus' insistence on the inherent value of the 'last' in society must have been a constant irritant to those who considered themselves 'first'.

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 10:30 am Funeral

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:
22nd Sunday Ordinary Time

- Sir 3: 17-20, 28-29
- Ps 67: 4-7, 10-11.
R.v.11
- Heb 12: 18-19, 22-24
- Lk 14: 1, 7-14

21st August, 2022 - 21st Sunday Ordinary Time (C)

Focus on the Scriptures

This week's gospel passage picks up one of the major themes that runs throughout the gospel of Luke: the message of salvation is not reserved exclusively for the Jews, but is for all people; Jew and Gentile alike. A number of times in this gospel, the writer makes a point of having Jesus relate this controversial and fairly unpopular message to his audience. Today's gospel makes clear that to gain salvation, you have to do more than just show up! Like those knocking on the locked door and claiming friendship, we can't just turn up at the last minute and expect to be received. Salvation – entrance into the kingdom of God – belongs to those who accept the message of Jesus and act on it for the rest of their lives.

The gospel makes plain to the Jewish people of the time that unless they accept the message of Jesus and act upon it, they will get a terrible shock ('weeping and grinding of teeth') at the coming of the kingdom. Those who believe in name only will find themselves looking in from the outside and will see the greatest prophets in the kingdom while they themselves are denied access. To further make the point, they are told that people from east and west, north and south will be welcomed into the feast of the kingdom. References to people from the four points of the compass always indicate people from other lands – non-Jews. Jesus tells his audience that people who are faithful to his message, even though they may be Gentile, will gain salvation before anyone who thinks they deserve it because of their birth or title. The kingdom must be earned through faithful effort, not by just turning up and claiming to be a believer.

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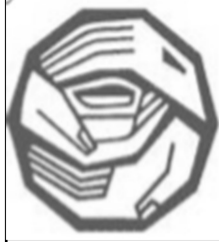
Responsorial Psalm: Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! am the way, the truth and the life, says the Lord; no-one come to the Father, except through me. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Lorraine Campbell, Mary Clark, Michael Kennedy

Anniversaries: We remember Noel McNulty, Anne Briody, Marlene Van Vugt, Frank Nicol, Bill Maguire, Tess Maguire, Terry Beggs, Gwen O'Connor, Kevin Nester, Sean McKinnon,

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>

Social Justice Statement 2022-23 & Social Justice Sunday:

August 28, 2022 The 2022-23 Social Justice Statement, "Respect: Confronting Violence and Abuse", points out that the roots of domestic and family violence 'lie in the abuse of power to control and dominate others' and that 'this stands in contrast to the relationships to which God calls us.' The statement and the full range of resources are available at <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2022/08/02/sjs2022-23/>

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. For more information regarding the weekend celebrations, contact the parish office by email portland@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5523 1046.

Aboriginal Stations of the Cross available for purchase Within the chapel of Aboriginal Catholic Ministry in Thornbury, in Melbourne's inner north, a set of Indigenous Stations of the Cross are on display, which were created by artist 'John Dunn', a member of the Stolen Generations. These Stations are an exploration of his own journey and they illustrate beautifully how Aboriginal people resonate with the sufferings of Jesus. 10cm x 16cm resource sets are available for parishes, churches and school communities at \$15.00 each. For more information go to <https://art.catholic.org.au/2021/07/13/aboriginal-stations-of-the-cross/>

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. For more information go to <https://staugustines150.weebly.com/>

St Columba's 28th August	(next week)	Sunday 10:00 am
LEADER of SONG		Tony Beggs
COMMENTATOR		Peter Marquand
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Terry Ranger
COMMUNION MINISTER		Kaye Merbach
DIGITAL PROJECTOR		Bruce Chapman
SACRISTAN		Josie Crowe

Collections at St Columba's We thank you for your generous support
 Presbytery: \$ 220.15 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1955.00

Laudato Si Action Platform Goal 7:

Community Resilience and Empowerment.

"We need a conversion which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all." Laudato Si n 14

The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged us to creatively reimagine our ways of connecting and living community. We have attended Mass livestreamed into our homes on social media platforms, teaching has been via online classes, periods of isolation due to lockdown and covid infection, support by family and friends has been very important.

We have been learning about resilience and what can be achieved by communities. We have also been learning that at times communities need support and coordination.

Laudato Si calls us to be communities of action at the local, regional, national, and international levels. Everyone's participation is needed if we are to care effectively for our common home. Pope Francis encourages us over and over, reassuring us that 'local individuals and groups can make a real difference' (LS 179). We are on a journey together.

Community building and resource sharing are pillars of the Laudato Si Action Platform that create opportunities to connect directly with communities around the world. It also provides resources to build communities locally.

If our community involvement and participatory action are animated by a sense of synodality, or journeying together as the pilgrim people of God, then our struggle for justice, ecology and peace will surely bear fruit.

OLHC Laudato Si Action Platform series: 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.

Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program – Online Study Our partner, Dayton University, offers low-cost (\$50usd) online study and formation for employed or volunteer lay workers in parishes. Study cycles are over 3 or 5 weeks. The next Cycle begins September 5. There are 37 subjects to choose from – find one that interests you! Registrations are open now. More information is available on the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/pastoral-ministry/lay-pastoral-ministry-program/> or email [djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:djurджа.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or ph. 5337 7121.

First Eucharist Preparation for OLHC Candidates and family members will commence with the 2nd Workshop on Tuesday, August 16th at 6:00 pm. First Eucharist celebration for OLHC Parish will be on Saturday September 3rd at 6:00 pm. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers.



Apostolic Letter "Desiderio Desideravi" of the Holy Father Francis The Apostolic Letter from Pope Francis to the Bishops, Priests and Deacons, to consecrated men and women and to the lay faithful on the liturgical formation of the People of God, is available to download from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/apostolic-letter-desiderio-desideravi-of-the-holy-father-francis/>



The community of St John's Waubra welcomes through the Sacrament of Baptism

- * Evangelie Gallagher, daughter of Arvin and Krystal,
- * Mila Gallagher, daughter of Christopher and Jacqui,
- * Walter Gallagher, son of Shaun and Lucy.

May these children continue to flourish in the love and care of family 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.**

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 1st September 2022 at 10.00am & 5.30pm. Bookings to be made with Parish Office.

Director of Faith & Mission Position St Mary MacKillop College Swan Hill is on the search for its next amazing Director of Faith and Mission. This role in a Catholic school is vitally important. For position description and application details, go to <https://smmc.vic.edu.au/our-community/employment/>

OLHC 27th August	(next week)	Saturday 6:00 pm
LEADER OF SONG		Corrie Harbour
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Kath Leonard
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Kevin Murphy & Pauline Newman
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Harry Kennedy & Trish Lawson
SACRISTAN		Geoff & Marg McLean
Waubra Church cleaning	September:	Kerryn & Lawrence Gallagher
Collections at OLHC	We thank you for your generous support	
Presbytery: \$ 258.30	Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,453.00	