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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 or ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au

COVID Safe Plan

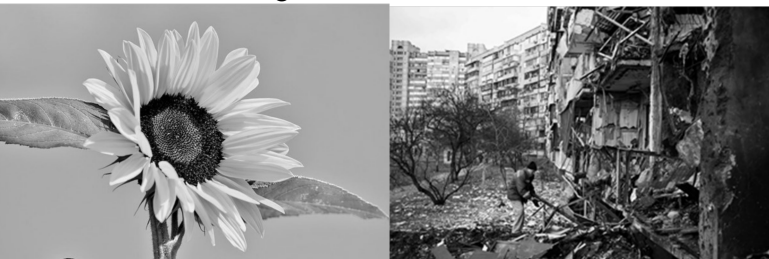
Checking-in is no longer required. Face masks are no longer required in most indoor settings but they are still recommended. Carry a mask when leaving home. Masks are strongly recommend if you have any COVID-19 symptoms, are with people who may be vulnerable to COVID-19 and/or are outdoors and cannot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

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.



gospel focus

Who is a sinner?

The Jews at the time of Jesus had a particular view of sin and its consequences. Because of the multiple rules of purity and proper behaviour, it was almost impossible for an average person not to commit a sin at some time and sin was seen as making one impure. Sacrifice, worship and even baptism were means of restoring purity and removing sin. However, sin that was not acknowledged and rectified quickly would be punished by God. Those who suffered chronic illness, impairment or deformity were seen as being punished by God for their own or their parents' sin and Jesus challenged this interpretation.



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
Thursday 11:00 Kelaston
Friday 10:00 am

Readings for Next Weekend:

25th Sunday Ordinary Time

- Am 8:4-7
- Ps 112: 1-2, 4-8,
R. see w. 1.7
- 1 Tim 2: 1-8
- Lk 16: 1-13



11th September, 2022 - 24th Sunday Ordinary Time (C)

Focus on the Scripture - Veronica Lawson RSM

Diverse creatures of the earth as well as earth elements feature in the gospel for this week of the Season of Creation. While all three parables in today's gospel reading invite us into the experience of loss, loss of a valued creature, of a woman's means of survival, of an adult child's respect and presence, they likewise invite us into an encounter with God who seeks and "saves" the lost, be they human or other-than-human, and who rejoices big time when the lost are found.

These Lukan parables are prefaced by an account of the criticism Jesus endured for hosting "the lost" of the human community, namely the toll collectors and those who were categorised as "sinners". The critics in the story are those who consider themselves "righteous". They have no room in their hearts for compassion or forgiveness and no capacity to accept the goodness of a prophet who acts in ways that cut across their expectations.

"What person (anthropos) among you with a hundred sheep, losing one, would not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the missing one till he/she found it?" asks Jesus of his critics. The lost sheep is found and ultimately embraced by the community. The ensuing celebration is likened to the celestial banquet where there is more joy over one who repents than over those who have no need of repentance. Repent/repentance on the part of the sheep may seem a strange choice of words since the lost sheep simply responds to the initiative of the shepherd who goes after it and returns it to the fold. Jesus may be suggesting that we need others to shepherd us in turning our lives around.

In Jesus' second question to his critics, "Or what woman with ten drachmas would not, if she lost one...search thoroughly till she found it?", the pattern is repeated. The drachma, enough cash for one day, is lost, sought, found and the community rejoices. Occasionally in the biblical tradition, as here, God is imaged as a woman. God is the diligent female householder who seeks and saves what is lost. The third story features a parent who is willing to overlook the delinquency of a wayward child when that child is impelled by hunger to return home. In every case there is joy when the lost one, whether human or animal or mineral, is found. That's how it is with God. If our faith does not bring joy to the lost, to the poor, to the marginalised, to asylum seekers, to endangered species, then it is not of God. Our faith is in God who saves and brings joy to the whole Earth community. No single image can contain the compassionate, loving God of these parables. The invitation to the believing community is to find ways of opening our hearts, and the hearts of the unforgiving in our world, to God's action of seeking and saving the lost—here and now, not simply in the afterlife.

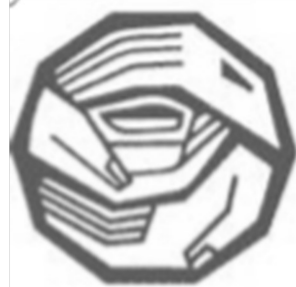
Responsorial Psalm: I will rise and go to my father.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of the reconciliation he has trusted to us. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Val Allan

Anniversaries: We remember Sr Anne McMillan rsm, Steven Molloy, Kathleen Moran, Margaret Hall, Danny Frawley, Elizabeth & Edmund Goodger, Giuseppe Finocchiaro, Michael Crowley, Joseph Davis, Nancy Davis, Basil Gregory, Walter Salo, Kath Mora, Bill Armstrong, Chris Haintz Snr, Kevin McLaughlin, Muriel Mugavin

We pray: Those in need of our prayers: for the people of the Ukraine, and those suffering in Africa and Pakistan



St Vincent de Paul St Alphonsus Conference of Vincent de Paul Wendouree are having a Mass to celebrate the Feast of St Vincent de Paul on the **20th of September** at O.L.H.C. at 10 A.M. Followed by morning tea. (The Feast is the 27th of September). All are welcome

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.

Annual Inservice for Priests: On Tuesday and Wednesday of this coming week, the Priests of the Ballarat Diocese will gather with +Paul Bird CSsR for their Annual Inservice at the Cathedral Precinct. The topic of focus is reflecting on the gift, experience and meaning of Priesthood. Please remember them in your prayers over the coming days.

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/>

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 6th October 2022 at 10.00am & 5.30pm. Bookings to be made with Parish Office.

St Columba's 18th Sept	(next week)	Sunday 10:00 am
LEADER of SONG		Tony Beggs
COMMENTATOR		Vicki Moroney
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Min Myers
COMMUNION MINISTER		Ruth Marquand
DIGITAL PORJECTOR		Bruce Chapman
SACRISTAN		Josie Crowe

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 Presbytery: \$ 480.10
We thank you for your generous support
 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1250.00

Embracing the Call to Global Mission American Samoa, Cambodia, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Zambia are requesting Australian Catholics to live in and share their skills with parish communities. Embrace one of these **Mission opportunities abroad** and mentor those with little other opportunity. You will be well prepared and supported by Palms Australia who have engaged Australian Catholics in this mission since 1961. **Enquire online** or **Ph: 0422 742 567** and **Register** for a Webinar on **Saturday September 24th at 11:30am** where you can talk directly with Veronica Lawson who is mentoring teachers in Pago Pago, American Samoa now. Or visit others already engaged in Mission with Palms on our **13-day Encounter Tour to Timor-Leste from October 16th to 28th.**

Employment opportunity: St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Ballarat Parish Coordinator / Secretary

The Parish of St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat are seeking a Parish Coordinator/Secretary to ensure the efficient operation of the Parish Office - part time 24 hours (0.6) per week, Tuesday – Friday 10.00am - 4.00pm. The role and hours of work may be expanded to include the co-ordination of the Parish Sacramental Program for a suitable applicant. Position information is available from the Cathedral Parish webpage <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parish/ballarat-cathedral/>. Please contact the Parish Office, ph. 5331 2933 for a copy of the full position description. Applications close Friday, September 16, 2022 at 5.00pm.

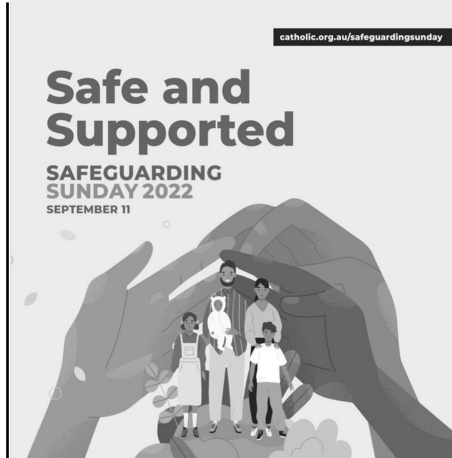
Ballarat Clergy Support Fund Collection for Sick and Retired Priests



The Ballarat Clergy Support Fund relies on your generosity to enable it to continue supporting our sick and retired priests. You are still able to contribute, by using the special envelope provided, or in an envelope marked "Ballarat Clergy Support Fund." A credit card facility is available for your convenience, and contributions over \$2.00 are tax-deductible.

Caring for those who cared for us – the Church community's responsibility

Pakistan Flood Crisis appeal The devastating floods in Pakistan have left a trail of destruction across the country, claiming the lives of more than 1100 people. The United Nations estimates that around 33 million Pakistanis have been affected by the flooding. More than one third of the country has been completely submerged by the heaviest recorded monsoon rains in a decade. There are fears that the death toll will continue to rise. Caritas Australia's partners are responding to support flood-affected communities who need immediate assistance. Your generous support can help provide emergency support to help families recover and rebuild from disaster. Donate now by visiting <https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/pakistan-floods>



area at: www.catholic.org.au/safeguardingsunday

The Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians Wendouree and the Diocese of Ballarat are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and people at risk in our community. Mindful of the theme for National Child Protection Week, may we work together to ensure all people feel safe and supported. You can find out more about the Church's work in this

Prayer for Safeguarding Sunday

Gracious God, you love and care for all of your children, especially the smallest and most vulnerable.

We entrust to you the lives of children and adults at risk who have been sexually abused, and whose trust and innocence have been destroyed.

Help us to hear their cries of pain and to take responsibility for those whose lives have been broken.

Help us to recognise the hurt felt by those wounded by abuse, and the failure to be heard.

We pray that with the help of your grace communities and families will find understanding and support, so that now and in the future their wounds may be healed and they may find lasting peace.

Let your grace and love fall gently now upon our children and adults at risk, giving them the inner strength, peace and resilience to seek out assistance when required.

We ask this prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen

Australian Catholics magazine is now available in the foyer. Please take and read!

OLHC 17th September	(next week)	Saturday 6:00 pm
LEADER OF SONG		Sue Searls
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Lyn Gray
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Ena Bruty & Vin Dillon
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Jennifer Adams & Tony Bruty
SACRISTAN		Kath Leonard & Anne Slattery
Waubra Church cleaning	September:	Kerryn & Lawrence Gallagher

Collections at OLHC
 Presbytery: \$ 588.40
We thank you for your generous support
 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1850.00