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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.

Blessing Prayer for Volunteers

(taken from the Order of Blessings):

God of glory,
your beloved Son has shown us that true
worship
comes from humble and contrite hearts.
Bless our volunteers
who have responded to the needs of our
parish
and wish to commit themselves to your ser-
vice.
Grant that their ministry may be fruitful
and our worship pleasing to you.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



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

School Co-Principals: Bambi Afford & Shaun Mohr

School Phone: 5332 4894

Office: 480a Gillies Street, Wendouree Phone: 5339 2302

Prayer Line: 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 10:00 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:
3rd Sunday of Advent (A)**

- Is 35: 1-6, 10
- Ps 145: 10
R. see Is 35:4v 7
- Jas 5: 7-10
- Mt 11:2-11



4th December, 2022 - 2nd Sunday of Advent (A)
Focus on the Scripture

Today's readings are like Chaucer's Canterbury Tales. The biblical authors sketch profiles of individuals after whom we can model our lives as we embark on our pilgrimage to eschatological fulfilment. Isaiah depicts the righteous messianic king; Paul provides us with a glimpse of Jesus, the one who ministers to all; and Matthew describes John the Baptist, the prophet who prepared for the Advent of Christ.

The gifts Isaiah attributes to the messianic king are the same gifts that we receive with the anointing of the Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord. The image of the messianic king may have been fulfilled in Jesus, but it is also offered to us as a model after which we can pattern our lives.

Paul declares that Christ came for all. Just as the Canterbury tales describe pilgrims of all backgrounds and characters, so our companions on the pilgrimage come from diverse circumstances. Since the invitation was extended to all, we are expected to welcome all. Some of Chaucer's characters were quite unpleasant, but they were part of the group. Many of the people to whom Jesus ministered were quite unpleasant, but this did not deter him. His example is set before us today.

John the Baptist lived a life of radical self-denial, but he did not require this of others. He preached repentance or change of heart, not a rejection of the circumstances of life. He called for a return to righteousness, to relationships rooted in honesty and respect. He condemned presumption and arrogant reliance on one's religious origin, complacency and the shirking of responsibility, disinterest in the welfare of others.

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Responsorial Psalm: Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace forever.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Thelma McDonald, Catherine Grant, Roger Molomby
Anniversaries: We remember Val Roberts, Bob Davis, Kevin Hanrahan, Barry James

We pray: Those in need of our prayers: for the people of the Ukraine, those suffering in Africa, and those effected by flooding.

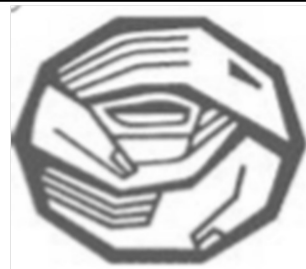
Vincent de Paul Flood Appeal

The St Vincent de Paul Society has established a Victorian Flood Appeal. Contributions can be made by:

- Calling 13 18 12 or Visiting <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-vic/vinnies-vic-flood-appeal-2022>

You can also

- make a monetary donation through any Vinnies Shops at point of purchase
- via your local IGA where the purchase of a token supports the recovery of Victorians devastated by these recent floods.



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 February, 2023 at 10.00am & 5.30pm. Bookings to be made with **P a r i s h O f f i c e**.



Advent Appeal for Ukraine The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference is supporting a special Advent appeal for the people of Ukraine, following a request from Bishop Mykola Bychok CSsR, Eparch of Sts Peter and Paul for the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Australia. Collections in dioceses, eparchies and parishes on the Second and/or Third Sunday of Advent will support Mudra Sprava (Wise Action), a Patriarchal Charitable Foundation in Ukraine. The organisation has three focus areas: Evacuation of people from frontline territories; food packages for people in need; shelters for internally displaced persons. Find out more at www.catholic.au

2023 Pilgrimage to the Holy Land Expressions of interest are invited to join a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, June 11th - 24th 2023 - Jordan, Petra, Dead Sea, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Capernaum, Sea of Galilee, Jerusalem, Mt of Olives, Jericho, Qumran. Fully escorted, all inclusive pilgrimage accompanied by Fr Justin Driscoll and arranged through Lifestyle Travel in Ballarat. Contact Fr Justin for further information (Daylesford 0448 220 685) or info@lifestyletravel.com.au

| St Columba's 11th December | (next week) | Sunday 10:00 am |
|----------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| LEADER of SONG | | Terry Ranger |
| COMMENTATOR | | Ruth Marquand |
| MINISTER OF THE WORD | | Anthea Hinchey |
| COMMUNION MINISTER | | Kaye Merbach |
| DIGITAL PORJECTOR | | Vicki Moroney |
| SACRISTAN | | Volunteer please |

Collections at St Columba's *Thank you for your generous support*
 Presbytery: \$ 217.55 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,025.00



OLHC Parish

OLHC Christmas Day Lunch Bookings open are now open and can only be made by phoning **0419 975 914**. Numbers will be limited to 140 guests so please advise anyone you know who may be wishing to attend to book early.

Volunteers are most welcome to assist with the following tasks: Kitchen Cleaning (Dec 20th) / Setting Up & Decorating (Dec 23rd) and the Pack Up (2.00pm - 3.30pm Christmas Day) Please add your name to the list in the Church foyer.

Donations of a 1.25 / 2.00 litre bottle(s) of NO SUGAR Soft drink— can be left in the basket in the Church Foyer

Sew and So..... Thursday 8th December 2022 at 1.30 in Saint Columba's Church Foyer. Come along for a cuppa and bring a favourite Christmas Decoration and tell us the story of it. Also if anyone has knitting rugs or baby singlets for East Timor this is an opportunity to drop them for collection. Happy and Holy Christmas. Our next gathering is in February. Enquiries Margaret 53314032

Sacristan Assistance at OLHC Are you able to help with Sacristan duties at OLHC on Saturday evening 6.00pm Mass?

The tasks are to open the Church and assemble Mass requirements, and lock up at the end of the liturgy. Guidance is available and ongoing.

In each four-month roster cycle, you will be rostered 3 or 4 times.

Please phone OLHC office if you can help. Office 53392302. *Thanks*

Prayer Requests: At different times in our lives, circumstances happen for which there is added need for prayer, and there is comfort in knowing that we need not be alone in praying. Our parish is connecting with a Ballarat wide Prayer-Line where requests for prayer can be made. All prayer requests are confidential. Please ring the Parish Office 5339 2303. The parish phone is monitored for messages at all times and your request will be forwarded to the Prayer-Line.



Our Diocesan Community The final edition for this year is available in the foyer. Please take and read.



The OLHC Parish community welcomes Harry Jones, son of Claire. May Harry continue to flourish in the love and care of his family and our parish community. *"The Church gives faith to your children through baptism and you have the task to make it grow..."* Pope Francis.

2022 Christmas Liturgies

Anointing Mass St Columba's Wed 14th Dec 10am

Reconciliation OLHC Tue 20th Dec, 7pm

Christmas Eve St Columba's Sat 24th Dec 5:30 pm



OLHC Sat Dec 24th at 7pm

Beaufort Sat 24th Dec 9pm

Christmas Day Waubra Sun 25th Dec 8:30am

St Columba's Sat 25th Dec 10am

Pope's Intention for December. We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new

ACU Parish Courses: see flyers available in the OLHC foyer, or <https://www.acu.edu.au/about-acu/institutes-academies-and-centres/acu-centre-for-liturgy/pastoral-training> paths to international cooperation.



Making a Scene at Christmas (Bridge Mall from Dec 3rd - 10th) is a display of over 500 Christmas Nativities from over 60 countries. You can see & smell real frankincense and myrrh, see coins minted around the time the census was called that brought Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem, and see handcrafted nativities from Australia, Africa, Asia, North & South America. Nativities that prize social justice and the environment, Entry is a gold coin donation. **Everyone welcome.**

| OLHC 10th December | (next week) | Saturday 6:00 pm |
|----------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| LEADER OF SONG | | Corrie Harbour |
| PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL | | Elly Green |
| MINISTER OF THE WORD | | Vin Dillon & Zeena Lazarus |
| COMMUNION MINISTERS | | Trish Pora & Jennifer Adams |
| SACRISTAN | | Kath Leonard & Anne Slattery |
| Waubra Church cleaning | December: | TBA |
| Collections at OLHC | <i>We thank you for your generous support</i> | |
| Presbytery: \$ 297.90 | Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 385.00 | |