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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 service.
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 Anointing

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 am Kelaston
Friday 10:00 am

Readings for Next Weekend:
4th Sunday of Advent (A)

- Is 7: 10-14
- Ps 23: 1-6 R see w 7:10
- Rom 1: 1-7
- Mt 1: 18-24

11th December, 2022 - 3rd Sunday of Advent (A)

Focus on the Scripture
Half way through Advent we pause for a moment to celebrate Gaudete Sunday, a Sunday for rejoicing. Isaiah paints a picture of regeneration. The desert that once seemed to be dead is now bursting with life; eyes that lacked sight, ears incapable of capturing and holding sound, limbs without strength, and tongues devoid of speech are all given new life. There will be no death in that age of fulfilment, no limitations, no mourning. As we move deeper and deeper into the reality of God's presence in our midst, we will discover the meaning of true fulfilment.

John the Baptist is a standard for judging the privilege of entering here and now, the kingdom of heaven. He was the herald of the coming of Jesus, the one who prepared for him, but John himself died before the death and resurrection of Jesus opened the flood gates of the eschatological tide. By comparison, even the least in the kingdom of God is far greater than this prophetic herald. John also serves as a model of patience in suffering. His circumstances teach us that moving toward eschatological fulfilment is not without cost.

Just as Matthew presents us with the example of John the Baptist, so James describes the patience required of those who await the age of fulfilment. That age of fulfilment will dawn in its time; all we can do is discharge our responsibilities regardless of how demanding they might be, and wait for that day patiently, convinced that it will come in God's due time. © Dianne Bergant CSA



Responsorial Psalm: Lord, come and save us.
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Kathy Perkins
Anniversaries: We remember those who have anniversaries occur about this time: Samantha McArthur, Joan Richardson, Patricia Blood, Fr John Martin. Maureen Casey, Bernard Righetti, Stan Sheehan, Greg Roberts, Maisie Lamb, Eileen Segrave, Ron Morgan, Nance Reidy
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 Parish Office.



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.



St Columba's 18th December	(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		Vicki Moroney
SACRISTAN		Volunteer please

Collections at St Columba's

Thank you for your generous support

Presbytery: \$ 303.05

Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 905.00



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. **Volunteers** are most welcome to assist with the following tasks: Kitchen Cleaning (Dec 20th) and Setting Up & Decorating (Dec 23rd). It would be most appreciated if there were 4 volunteers to assist with 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

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.



Christmas Stall at Nazareth House Nazareth House Auxiliary are having a Christmas stall on Saturday, December 17 and Sunday, December 18 in the reception area of Nazareth House (218 Mill Street, Ballarat) from 10.00am - 2.00pm each day. For further information contact Margaret, ph. 0419003415.

Diocesan Christmas Appeal donations 2022. The following donations have been made on behalf of the our Diocese:

Appeal for Ukraine	\$10,000
Catholic Mission	\$ 5,000
Caritas	\$ 5,000
Nazareth House Ballarat	\$ 5,000
Diocese of Lismore—Flood Appeal	\$ 5,000
St Vincent De Paul—Flood Appeal	\$ 5,000
St Columba's Mission—Peru	\$ 5,000
Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans	\$ 2,000
Total Donations made in 2022	\$42,000

There will be an opportunity to contribute to the Diocesan Christmas Appeal after communion on Christmas Eve.

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

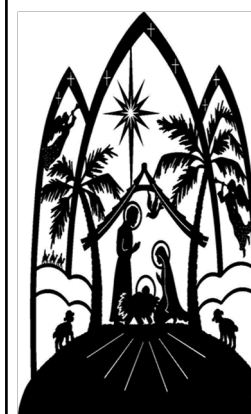
Beaufort Sat 24th Dec 9pm

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 17th December	(next week)	Saturday 6:00 pm
LEADER OF SONG		Paul Hogan
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Lyn Gray
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Helen & Colin Feely
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Christine Richardson & Tony Bruty
SACRISTAN		Tony & Pauline Newman
Waubra Church cleaning	December: Clare Mullane	

Collections at OLHC
Presbytery: \$ 493.45

We thank you for your generous support
Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1535.00