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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.

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.

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.



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
Tuesday : 7:00 pm Reconciliation
Thursday 10:00 am
Friday 10:00 am

Readings for Next Weekend:
The Nativity of the Lord
• Is 52: 7-10
• Ps 97: 1-6 R v 3
• Heb 1: 1-6
• Jn1:m1-18



18th December, 2022 - 4th Sunday of Advent (A)

Focus on the Scripture

Joseph could not ignore Mary's pregnancy, but he had an exceptional large-heartedness, so that he preserved a future for Mary even though she had apparently wronged him.

If he had gone to sleep in a frame of mind to avenge his honour, he would not have been ready to have the deepest levels of his consciousness stirred in the way God wanted. In the deep sleep of a just and good man, Joseph was enlightened as to the divine dimension of Mary's pregnancy. The old cycle of human history, literally generation after generation, was being broken. Something utterly new had happened.

You and I are just as likely to receive an intuition as to God's plan for us in the depths of sleep: who we really are, who we are destined to be, where we fit in to God's plan for transforming the whole of creation. When we get these instructive moments in our sleep, what can we do when we wake up? We can do what Joseph did: get up and do what is needed to fulfil the message.

We could pause for a moment to thank Joseph for showing what dreams can be made of. Tonight might be the night!



Responsorial Psalm: Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Terri Mitchell,

Anniversaries: We remember those who have anniversaries occur about this time: Patrick Curran, Stephen Head, Ronald Edgar, David Fithall, Kathleen McDaid, Sarah Tonkin, Kathleen Myers

We pray: for the people of Ukraine, all who are sick and all in need of our prayers.



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



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.

| St Columba's 24th Dec (Saturday) | | Sat 5.30 pm |
|----------------------------------|--|------------------|
| LEADER OF SONG | | Mark Lacey |
| COMMENTATOR | | Terry Ranger |
| MINISTER OF THE WORD | | Peter Marquand |
| COMMUNION MINISTER | | Volunteer please |
| DIGITAL PROJECTOR | | Vicki Moroney |
| SACRISTAN | | Barbara Brown |

| St Columba's 25th December (next week) | | Sunday 10:00 am |
|--|--|------------------|
| LEADER of SONG | | Tony Beggs |
| COMMENTATOR | | Volunteer please |
| MINISTER OF THE WORD | | Volunteer please |
| COMMUNION MINISTER | | Volunteer please |
| DIGITAL PORJECTOR | | Bruce Chapman |
| SACRISTAN | | Josie Crowe |

Collections at St Columba's *Thank you for your generous support*
 Presbytery: \$ 276.80 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 915.00



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.

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

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



The OLHC Parish community welcomes Dakota Park, daughter of Tayla and Jack, and Margot Alexander Moncrieff, daughter of Ashleigh. May Dakota and Margot continue to flourish in the love and care of their families and our parish community.

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



Thank you to the Catering Committee, who have completed their service providing hospitality to our community. Sincere appreciation to Noelene Smith and the many generous parishioners who have assisted with catering, for funerals and other function.

| OLHC 24th December (next week) | | Saturday 7:00 pm |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| LEADER OF SONG | | Corrie Harbour |
| PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL | | Volunteer please |
| MINISTER OF THE WORD | | Volunteer please |
| COMMUNION MINISTERS | | Volunteer please |
| SACRISTAN | | Volunteer please |
| Waubra Church cleaning | January: | TBA |

Collections at OLHC *We thank you for your generous support*
 Presbytery: \$ 284.30 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 635.00