

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

- ◆ If you are feeling unwell or have any symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough or sore throat) please do not attend Mass.
- ◆ Ensure that you maintain appropriate physical distancing at all times (1.5 metres).
- ◆ Whilst a face mask is not compulsory they are recommended.
- ◆ Please use the hand sanitiser available upon entering the Church.

We appreciate your assistance in helping stop the spread of the virus.

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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.

16th April, 2023 - 2nd Sunday of Easter (A)

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	11:00 am (Kelaston)
Friday	10:00 am

Readings for Next Weekend:

3rd Sunday of Easter
1st Reading: Acts 2: 14, 22-23
Psalm: 15: 1-2, 5, 7-11 R. v.11
2nd Reading: 1 Pt 1: 17-21
Gospel: Lk 24: 13-35



Focus on the Scriptures

Thomas was granted the gift of seeing the Risen Lord bearing the wounds of His crucifixion. Thomas was invited to touch them. Responding, he simply cries out: 'My Lord and my God.'

Thomas does not declare his belief in the Resurrection as such. That was all too apparent. Rather, he declares his faith in the identity of the risen Jesus Christ: 'My Lord and my God.'

Pope Francis says we can only join Thomas in this faith by touching the wounds of Christ. Those wounds are to be found in the body of someone wounded. This can be in a myriad of ways.

We have to bend down and touch those wounds in whatever means of healing is available to us. Otherwise we simply engage in philanthropy at a distance. We end up believing in a semblance of God, but not God embodied in the Risen Lord Jesus Christ always bearing his wounds.

Sometimes we struggle with our faith – after all, it is an astounding claim that Jesus of Nazareth is God embodied for us. You, or any other person intrigued by Jesus, are invited to touch the wounds of Christ and let the patience of God take care of the timing of the response of faith.

We could pause for a moment, praying to be counted amongst those who receive the Blessing promised to those who have not seen the Risen Lord as such, but who touch his wounds and proclaim, 'My Lord and my God.'

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Responsorial Psalm: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; his love is everlasting

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me and still believe! Alleluia

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Inez Sullivan,

Anniversaries: We remember Betty Kirkpatrick, Wencelito Andanar, Eileen McLoughlan, Val Dooley, Helen McMahan-Martina, Sheila Fay,

We pray: Those in need of our prayers: for the people of Turkey, Syria and Ukraine.



Have you thought?

Those who have not seen

Jesus says to Thomas, 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' That's us! Jesus' words in the gospel are meant for people like us living today. We are not in the position of Thomas and the other disciples who were able to see the risen Lord face to face and so convince themselves of his rising. The gospel recognises that to believe in the resurrection without that physical, personal encounter with Jesus is to be celebrated even more. Happy are we - Blessed are we - who have not seen and yet still believe!

Bishop Paul has issued the following information for people of the diocese:

Now that the Covid pandemic is less in the news, a number of people have asked about arrangements for the reception of Holy Communion. Some have proposed reintroducing options that were permitted before the pandemic, particularly receiving the host on the tongue and sharing the chalice.

Over the past few weeks, I have consulted various people about this, including the members of our Diocesan Liturgical Commission. I have also received advice from a medical point of view. This has included advice from the Chief Executive Officer of the Southern Grampians Health Service and the Head of the Infectious Diseases Department at the Alfred Hospital. These consultations have highlighted the fact that Covid infections are still a serious concern and that we can reduce the risk of infections by continuing the present provisions regarding Holy Communion.

I have concluded that it is not yet time to reintroduce the sharing of the chalice. While reception of Holy Communion under both species of bread and wine is a fuller sign of our sharing in the banquet of Christ, we can find reassurance in the teaching of the Council of Trent that the whole Christ, body and blood, soul and divinity, is contained under each species. So, even when we simply receive the host, we are receiving the whole Christ.

In regard to the way of receiving the host, recognising the continuing risks of the pandemic, and out of consideration for the health of all parishioners, I recommend reverent reception of the host in the hand rather than reception on the tongue.

May our Communion draw us ever closer to Christ and strengthen our love and care for one another.

God bless you all. *Bishop Paul*

Praying with Pope Francis: Pope's intention for April - For a culture of peace and non violence:

We pray for the spread of peace and non violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens.

St Columba's 23rd April	(next week)	Sunday 10:00 am
LEADER of SONG		Volunteer please
COMMENTATOR		Peter Marquand
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Geraldine Mugavin
COMMUNION MINISTER		Kaye Merbach
DIGITAL PROJECTOR		Bruce Chapman
SACRISTAN		Barb Brown/ Norah Moloney/ Josie Crowe

Collections at St Columba's	<i>Thank you for your generous support</i>
Presbytery: \$726.00	Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 794.55



Rite of Christian Initiation

This weekend we welcome into the our faith community

Jack Benson (Baptism)

Lily Benson (Baptism)

Zella Raggatt Baptism

Mark Cowell (Welcome, Confirmation and Eucharist),

Jaleesa Cowell (Baptism and Confirmation).

Please continue to pray for these new members of our community.

Caritas Project Compassion Thank you for supporting Project Compassion 2023. Through the generosity of parishes across Australia during Project Compassion, together we have helped build a movement to create lasting change for our global community. Being part of the second largest humanitarian organisation in the world and most importantly with your support, Caritas Australia already has partners on the ground who are ready to reach out to those most in need. Together, your parish has helped make a difference now, and **For All Future Generations**. To help us process all donations and allow us enough time for donation receipting by the end of the financial year, please assist us by getting your donations in by May 31, 2023. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact us on 1800 024 413 or go to www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Donations to date:

St Columba's \$ 3270.45 OLHC \$ 1709.20. *Thank you!*

Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program – Online Study

The Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation is an initiative to offer adult religious education and faith formation anytime and anywhere. This low-cost (\$50usd) online study and formation for employed or volunteer lay workers in parishes is available through our partner, Dayton University. The next Cycle begins May 22, 2023. There are 32 subjects to choose from – find one that interests you! Registrations open April 19. 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 or ph. 5337 7121.

Cardinal Pell Luncheon & Lecture: Aid to the Church in Need is launching an annual George Cardinal Pell Luncheon & Lecture with the inaugural event to take place in Melbourne CBD on Sunday 21 May. The keynote speaker will be Mr David Pell, brother of the late Cardinal. **For information and to register, please visit www.trybooking.com/CGUDA.**

Mass at Kelaston is celebrated each month on the third Thursday. This Mass is for the residents. Any other visitors will be required to comply with the COVID-Safe measures implemented by Kelaston.



Centralised Baptism Preparation Session

Parents planning to have their child baptised are required to attend a Baptism Preparation Session. Next session is on Holy Thursday at MacKillop and Glowrey Rooms of St. Patrick's Cathedral Hall, 3 Lyons St South, Ballarat, **Thursday, 4th of May 2023 at 10.00am and 5:30 pm.**

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



Sacrament of Confirmation preparation programs for St Columba's & OLHC Parishes commence in early Term 2 for children in Grade 3 or above who have received the Sacrament of Baptism. The preparation programs are offered as Workshops in both parishes.

OLHC Confirmation Workshops (child & parent) - **May 9th and 16th** at **6:00 pm** in the **OLHC School Library**. Confirmation will be celebrated on **Saturday 27th May at 6:00 pm.**



On behalf of the Liturgy team we extend our thanks and gratitude to all who participated and volunteered their time and talents during our Easter Ceremonies. This resulted in a prayerful and meaningful time for our community.

Volunteers Pastoral Care Workers at Grampians Health Ballarat Grampians Health Ballarat is seeking expressions of interest for volunteers Pastoral Care Workers to provide regular pastoral care support to patients and visitors of all faiths and beliefs. If you are willing to commit to 2.5 hours per week, and provide a listening ear, then Grampians Health Ballarat would like to hear from you. Contact Paul Ryan, ph. 5320 8634 or email Paul at paul.ryan@bhs.org.au

OLHC Parish Meeting on **April 29th** following 6:00 pm Mass. Pizzas provided. At OLHC Meeting Room. All Welcome.

OLHC 22nd April 2023	(next week)	Saturday 6:00 pm
LEADER OF SONG		Vin Dillon
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Elly Green
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Ena Bruty & Kevin Murphy
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Tony Bruty & Bev Hayward
SACRISTAN		Pauline & Tony Newman
Waubra Church cleaning	May:	Clare Mullane & Suzanne McDonald

Collections at OLHC	<i>We thank you for your generous support</i>
Presbytery: \$ 454.55	Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 250.15