

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

P O Box 192, Wendouree **Prayer Line:** 5339 2302

Email: wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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.

Staffing

Parish Priest: Fr Marcello Colasante

Finance Officer: Bernadette Prestwood

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
Office Hours: Wed-Fri 9-1pm

Parish Co-ord & Safeguarding Officer: Maree Roache

MASS TIMES (This week) St Columba's

Sunday 10:00 am
Wednesday 9:30 am Earlier time

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
Wednesday : 11:00 **Feast Day Mass**
Thursday 10:00 am
Friday 10:00 am

Readings for Next Weekend:

Pentecost Sunday

1st Reading: Acts 2: 1-11
Ps 103: 1, 24, 29-31; 34. R. v 30
2nd Reading: 1 Cor 12: 3-7, 12-13
Gospel: Jn 20: 19-23

21st May, 2023 - The Ascension of the Lord (A)

Focus on the Scriptures

The feast of the Ascension is really a kind of liminal moment in the Easter season. It is a time between times, a moment when we have left one place in our journey but have not yet arrived at a second. The glory of the Risen Christ has already been revealed in us, but not yet totally. The feast itself celebrates the exaltation of Jesus. Today we stand awestruck, watching Jesus ascend into the clouds of heaven, there to be enthroned at the right hand of God. Today we are overwhelmed by the reality of the divinity of the one whom we have known in his humanity. Like the conquering creator-god, he has overcome his enemy (death) and now reigns over his new creation (the church).

Christ who ascended into heaven in his body carries on what he began on earth through his new body, the church. He teaches through its apostles and evangelists. He ministers through its prophets and pastors. In and through the church, Jesus continues to heal and to comfort; to forgive and to include. We have not been left alone; we have his power, the same power with which he performed marvels when he walked the earth. We have not been left alone; we have each other. Together we make up the new body of Christ. Together we await the fullness of this body. It is this new body that stands in between the times, secure in what we have, confident of what we will be given.

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Responsorial Psalm: God mounts his throne to shouts of joy; a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. Go and teach all my people gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Ugo Lo Iaconio

Anniversaries: We remember Nancy Colasante, Lang Dean, Max Franklin, Les Eagan,

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

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

To the ends of the earth

In both the gospel passage from Matthew and the passage from the Book of Acts, Jesus commissioned his disciples to go out to the whole world. In Matthew, it is to 'all the nations' and in Acts it is 'to the ends of the earth'. Both writers make it abundantly clear that the message of Jesus is not exclusively for the people of Israel but for all people everywhere. Within only a very few years, early Christian communities had sprung up all around the Mediterranean. Once Christianity became the religion of Rome it spread to all the corners of the Roman Empire.



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, June 1st 2023 at 10.00 am 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



Confirmation will be celebrated on Saturday **27th May** at **6:00 pm**. Please keep the candidates and their families in your prayers.

From Bishop Paul Bird CSsR A number of people have asked about arrangements for the reception of Holy Communion. I have concluded that it is not yet time to reintroduce the sharing of the chalice. 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.

Praying with Pope Francis: Pope's intention for May - For church movements and groups:

We pray that the church movements and groups will rediscover their mission of evangelization each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world,

Mary of the Cross Exhibition: The Mary of the Cross Exhibition will be held April - June 2023, Monday - Friday from 10.00am - 4.00pm. The Heritage Centre is proud to present a new exhibition in the Temporary Gallery that explores the significance of the Cross in Mary's life. Visitors will be able to view objects from the museum's collection of Josephite emblems and crosses, while activity sheets will be available for young people to enjoy. Brochures in foyer.

St Columba's 28th May '23	(next week)	Sunday 10:00 am
LEADER of SONG		Mark Lacey
COMMENTATOR		Anthea Hinchey
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Vicki Moroney
COMMUNION MINISTER		Bruce Chapman/Volunteer
DIGITAL PROJECTOR		Bruce Chapman
SACRISTAN		Barb Brown/ Norah Moloney/ Josie Crowe
Collections Last Weekend St Columba's Thank you for your contributions		
Presbytery: \$ 446.20	Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc)	\$ 2,045.00



LAUDATO SI WEEK From 21-28 May, Catholics are asked to celebrate the 8th anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*: On the Care of Creation. The 2023 theme is "Hope for the Earth, Hope for Humanity" and is a time to reflect on the progress we have made in protecting our common home. To respond to the Pope's call, the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, together with the Laudato Si' Movement and Catholic Earthcare Australia encourage people to view "The Letter: A Message for Our Earth". The documentary tells the stories of four representatives of those on the peripheries who are impacted by climate change and environmental destruction - the displaced, the youth, the indigenous communities and biodiversity - who are invited to speak with Pope Francis about their experiences and hopes for the future. The recipients of Pope Francis' invitation are a Muslim man from Senegal, a 13-year-old girl from India, an indigenous leader from Brazil and a husband/wife scientific team. *Laudato Si'* was an invitation not only to Catholics but to people of all faiths and the secular world to care for our world.

You created us in your own image and made us stewards of all your creation.

You blessed us with the sun, water and bountiful land so that all might be nourished.

Open our minds and touch our hearts, so that we may attend to your gift of creation.

Help us to be conscious that our common home belongs not only to us, but to all of your creatures and to all future generations,

and that it is our responsibility to preserve it.

May we help each person secure the food and resources that they need.

Be present to those in need in these trying times, especially the poorest and those most at risk of being left behind.

Transform our fear and feelings of isolation into hope and fraternity so that we may experience a true conversion of heart.

Help us to show creative solidarity in addressing the consequences of this global pandemic.

Make us courageous to embrace the changes that are needed in search of the common good.

Now more than ever may we feel that we are all interconnected and interdependent.

Enable us to listen and respond to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

May the present sufferings be the birth pangs of a more fraternal and sustainable world.

Under the loving gaze of Mary, Help of Christians, we make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

OLHC Feast Day—Wednesday 24th May—Mass at 11:00 am. All welcome!



Catholic Education Week— May 21st—26th

This year's theme: ***"Let the words you speak always be full of grace"*** (Col 4:6). We give thanks to God for our diocesan schools. Send your spirit upon all involved in catholic education. Grant that they may follow Jesus Christ, the way, the truth and the life. Amen.

Congratulations to the staff, students and families of our Parish school. May they continue their honored work of educating our precious children.



Follow-up Parish Meeting re: **Parish Garden** will be on Thursday 25th, following 10:00 am Mass. Morning tea provided. All welcome! Please add your name to the list in the foyer re: catering.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: May 21-28, 2023 Resources for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity are available from <https://www.ncca.org.au/faith-and-unity-resources>

God of justice and truth, we seek your guidance to embody the prophet's call to do good and to seek justice.

May we grow with the courage and compassion of Christ, and walk in the way of peace and reconciliation.

May God's Spirit enliven and embolden us to stand in solidarity with others until all are treated with dignity and worth.

May our holy living be a foretaste of the mercy and blessing of the reign of God. Amen

Caritas Australia would like to THANK YOU for supporting Project Compassion 2023. Contributions received to date:

Ballarat North \$ 3,350.45 Wendouree \$ 2,341.70

Annual Mass count continues this weekend.

OLHC 27th May 2023	(next week)	Saturday 6:00 pm
LEADER OF SONG		Sue Searls
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Elly Green
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Lauren Rhodes & Ena Bruty
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Tony Bruty & Bev Hayward
SACRISTAN		Geoff & Marg McLean
Waubra Church cleaning	June :	Trish & Steve Coleman
Collections Last Weekend Thank you for your contributions		
Presbytery: \$ 228.20	Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc)	\$ 1,575.00