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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

Aboriginal Stations of the Cross available for purchase

Within the chapel of Aboriginal Catholic Ministry in Thornbury, in Melbourne's inner north, a set of Indigenous Stations of the Cross are on display, which were created by artist 'John Dunn', a member of the Stolen Generations. These Stations are an exploration of his own journey and they illustrate beautifully how Aboriginal people resonate with the sufferings of Jesus. 10cm x 16cm resource sets are available for parishes, churches and school communities at \$15.00 each. For more information go to <https://art.catholic.org.au/2021/07/13/aboriginal-stations-of-the-cross/>

COVID Safe Plan

Checking-in is no longer a requirement. Face Masks are no longer required to be worn in most indoor settings but are recommended, particularly if you have any COVID-19 symptoms. They are also recommended for people who may be vulnerable to COVID-19 and are in settings where keeping a safe physical distance from other people is not possible.

- **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 awaiting results of a COVID test, please stay home.**
- **Please use the hand sanitiser available upon entering the Church.**
- **Please do not touch any surfaces unnecessarily.**



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

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

Email: wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au

P O Box 192, Wendouree

School Principal: Leigh Bradshaw

School Phone: 5339 4726

School Co-Principals: Bambi Afford & Shaun Mohr
School Phone: 5332 4894

Parish Priest:

Fr Marcello Colasante

Staffing

St Columba's

Parish Co-Ordinator: Lia Andanar Yu
Wed-Friday 10:00am –2:00pm

Our Safeguarding Officer:

Peter Marquand

Our Lady Help of Christians

Parish Co-ordinator and
Safeguarding Officer:

Maree Roache

Wed-Friday 9:00am -1:00pm

MASS TIMES (This week)

St Columba's

Sunday 10.00 am
Wednesday 10.00 am
Holy Thursday 7.00 pm

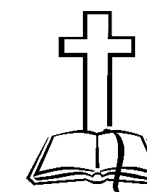
Our Lady Help of Christians

Waubra 1st & 3rd Sunday 8.30 am
Beaufort 2nd & 4th Sunday 8.30 am
Lexton 5th Sunday 8.30 am
Wendouree
Good Friday 3.00 pm
Holy Saturday 7.00 pm

[Easter Vigil]

Readings for Next Weekend

Acts 10:34, 37-43
Ps 117:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 R. v.24
Col 3:1-4
Mt 28:1-10



2nd April 2023 ~ Palm Sunday Yr A

Focus on the Scriptures

This year we hear Matthew's passion narrative through the lens of armed conflict and death from deprivation. The prospect of untimely death is a reality for many. Even more abhorrent is the ongoing practice of capital punishment in so many places, particularly when a just person is put to death for specious reasons or to political ends. That's what confronts us in today's gospel, although the gospel writers pay little attention to the details of the suffering and death of Jesus: they are more interested in the meaning of these events.

The Romans execute Jesus outside Jerusalem when the city is filled with Jewish pilgrims, there for the Passover festival. For Jesus' friends and followers, every subsequent Passover is celebrated in the light of his death by crucifixion. They share their memories and reflect on the meaning of his death in the light of their sacred traditions. Every element of the Passover story, the ancient story of God's deliverance of their ancestors, resonates with echoes of the experience of Jesus who is now present to them in a new way. Little wonder, then, that the final events of Jesus' life were probably the first part of his story to be committed to writing.

Though Matthew draws much of his material from Mark, he fashions the tradition into a new narrative and adds several distinctive features. "To fulfil all righteousness" is Jesus' stated mission (3:15). He has declared "blessed" those who suffer for the sake of righteousness (justice or right relationship)" (5:10). He now embodies his own teaching as the just or righteous one, the one in right relationship with God. The prayer on his lips as he faces death (Psalm 22) is that of the suffering just Israelite who is utterly faithful to his mission and whose trust in God never fails.

There are hints that Jesus' death is not the end, but is rather the inauguration of the new age of God's empire, a compassionate alternative to the brutality of Rome. In response to the high priest Caiaphas, Jesus points beyond death to his resurrected life "at the right hand of power..." Extraordinary signs follow his death: the tearing of the temple curtain; the trembling of the earth; the recognition by the Roman centurion and his companions that this man is of God; and finally, the opening of the graves and appearance of the dead in anticipation of the resurrection of those who accept him as the Christ. These signs offer the hope of reversal to all who have witnessed the events surrounding Jesus' death. They offer hope to the women who have followed him all the way from Galilee and "ministered to him". They offer hope to the male disciples who have deserted or denied him, to faithful disciples like Joseph of Arimathea, and even to his Roman executioners. They have the potential to bring hope to us all at this time, especially to those who put their lives on the line for others.

- Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm:(R.) My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?
Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! Christ became obedient for us even to death, dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: all who died recently.

Anniversaries: We remember: Nancy Trower, Tony McDonald, Brendan Love, Bill Eddy, Eleanor Eddy, Monica Eddy, Marion Goss

We pray: for those in need of our prayers, all who are sick, especially Rachael Eddywing, and for the people of Ukraine, Turkey and Syria.

Ballarat Way of the Cross The Annual Way of the Cross Walk will occur this **Good Friday from 10am** until 12pm, leaving **St Columba's Catholic Church** and making its way through the streets of Ballarat North to the Lookout on Black Hill. This ecumenical event has occurred for over 40 years and this year will be led by Bishop Bird with hymns and readings of the Passion of Jesus.

Holy Land Collection – Good Friday, April 7, 2023 The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land will take place on Good Friday, April 7. The ongoing effects of the pandemic have created enormous challenges for the people of the Holy Land in terms of health and a catastrophic loss of income due to the absence of pilgrims. Pilgrims are vital because they generate income that allows the Friars and local Church to fulfil their mission of caring for the Holy Places (that also gives work to the local people), as well as running parishes, schools and caring for orphans, refugees, the homeless and more. It is also used to maintain over 70 churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus. The Pontifical Good Friday Collection will continue to support the works of the Holy Land through the generosity of the Australian Church. Your donation is a direct way to make a difference in the lives of people who are keeping alive the Christian presence in the land of Jesus, often in the face of great odds and in recent years, made all the more difficult by the pandemic.

Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans Online National Gathering: May 3, 2023 ACRATH invites you to join their national gathering (online) on Wednesday, May 3, 2023 "Hearts stirred to action - The Call of the Human face of trafficking." Details of the event available at <https://acrath.org.au/hearts-stirred-to-action/will>

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 9th April	(next week)	Sun 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG		To be announced
COMMENTATOR		Maree Phelan
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Terry Ranger
COMMUNION MINISTER		Peter Marquand
DIGITAL PROJECTOR		Fiona Newton
SACRISTAN		Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe

Collections Last Weekend St Columba's Thank you for your contributions
 Presbytery: \$431.40 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$897.00

In the spirit of reconciliation, the Parishes of St. Columba's and Our Lady Help of Christians acknowledge that the Aboriginal people of Australia are our first nation people and the traditional owners and custodians of the land.



Project Compassion Palm Sunday – April 1 & 2, 2023 Every day, more than 200 million children miss out on school, around 690 million people go hungry and 2.2 billion people cannot access clean drinking water. With your generosity, Caritas Australia has been able to help millions of vulnerable people around the world, through the Project Compassion appeal. Please donate to Project Compassion 2023. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations**. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes/envelopes available from your parish, by visiting <https://www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion> or by calling 1800 024 413.

Choir for Mass of the Oils 2023 Singers and musicians in the diocese are invited to join the music group which has been formed for the Mass of the Oils on Monday, April 3, 2023 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 6.30pm. All are welcome to attend. Supper will follow in the Hall. The final choir practice is on Palm Sunday, 6.15pm (following 5.00pm Mass). To register your interest, please contact Julie Boyd Pastoral Ministry Office julie.boyd@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7159.

4 in 10 Australians would accept an invitation to an Easter service if invited by a close friend or family member NCLS Research has some encouraging numbers from the 2022 Australia Community Survey about inviting people to church for Easter. Read about it at the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/ncls-research-four-in-10-australians-say-they-would-go-to-an-easter-service-if-invited-by-a-close-friend-or-family-member/>

A message from the Vatican Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue about the Muslim celebration of the month of Ramadan The Vatican's Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue has issued a message of good wishes to Muslims for the celebration of the month of Ramadan. A copy of the letter is available to read on the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/vaticans-dicastery-for-interreligious-dialogue-message-for-the-month-of-ramadan/>

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, 6th of April 2023 at 10.00am**. There will be just the one Baptism preparation morning session in April.

Palm Sunday 2023 Justice for Refugees Ballarat Event. Meet at View Point, Lake Wendouree at 2pm. Speakers Robyn Burgess, a refugee nurse at Ballarat Community Health, and refugees with lived experience. For those who wish to walk, it will finish in front of Loreto College at the viewing area for rowing. Organised by: Rural Australian for Refugees Ballarat and Amnesty Ballarat.

Holy Week Liturgies

Apr 4 Holy Tuesday 7.00 pm Reconciliation OLHC Wendouree
 Apr 6 Holy Thursday 7.00 pm St Columba's, Ballarat North
 Apr 7 Good Friday 3.00 pm OLHC Wendouree
 Apr 8 Easter Vigil 7.00 pm OLHC Wendouree

Easter Sunday

Apr 9 Easter Sunday 8.30 am Beaufort
 10.00 am St Columba's, Ballarat North

Volunteers please for Holy Thursday, 7.00 pm, Mass of the Lord's Supper, St Columba's church– Sign-up sheet is at the church foyer.

Türkiye-Syria Earthquake Disaster A 7.8 magnitude earthquake has unleashed devastation on Türkiye and Syria. Over 50,000 people have been killed, with many more injured and left homeless. After 12 years of war, Syria is at breaking point and desperately needs assistance. We must act NOW and help those affected by this catastrophe. Your generous donation means our partners in Türkiye and Syria can respond swiftly to support the survivors of this unimaginable tragedy. Visit www.caritas.org.au/syria-turkey or call 1800 024 413 toll free to donate now.

Volunteer 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. Please contact Paul Ryan, ph. 5320 8634 or email Paul at paul.ryan@bhs.org.au

OLHC 8th April	(next week)	Saturday 6.00pm
LEADER OF SONG		Sue Searls, Corrie Harbour
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Kath Leonard
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Volunteer please
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Helen Rieniets, Helen Feely
SACRISTAN		Sue & John Calistro

Collections Last Weekend Thank you for your contributions
 Presbytery: \$353.00 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$895.00