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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](mailto:wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or [ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

**Our Diocesan Community** Please feel free to take copies to the homebound, nursing homes, hospitals, etc., to spread the good news of the diocese.

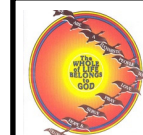
**Aboriginal Stations of the Cross available for purchase**

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](http://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 Co-Principals:** Bambi Afford & Shaun Mohr

**School Phone:** 5332 4894

**School Phone:** 5339 4726

**Staffing**

**Parish Priest:**  
Fr Marcello Colasante

**Finance Officer:**  
Bernadette Prestwood

**St Columba's**  
Parish Co-Ordinator:  
Lia Andanar Yu  
Wed-Friday 10:00am –2:00pm

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)**

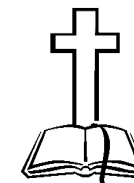
**St Columba's**  
Sunday 10.00 am  
Wednesday 10.00 am

**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 (Vigil) 6.00 pm  
Thursday 10.00 am  
Friday 10.00 am

**Readings for Next Weekend**

Ex 34:4-6, 8-9  
Dn 3:52-56, R. v.52  
2 Cor 13:11-13  
Jn 3: 16-18



**28th May 2023 ~ Pentecost Yr A**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

Pentecost Sunday is often called the birthday of the Church. The earth itself features powerfully in the imagery associated with this feast: harvest, mountain, earthquake, thunder, fire. For the ancient Israelites, Pentecost (meaning 'fiftieth') was a harvest festival celebrated fifty days after the opening of the harvest. When the Jerusalem Temple was built, this harvest festival was transformed into a pilgrimage feast to celebrate the covenant that Israel had made with God on Mt Sinai. Several decades after the death of Jesus, the early Christians reflected on their origins and chose this feast to mark the birth of God's new covenant with God's people. In today's first reading (Acts 2:1-11), Luke tells the new Pentecost story in symbolic language that evokes the story of Moses and the people of Israel receiving God's Law on Mt. Sinai. Just as God's presence to Israel was marked by earthquake and thunder and fire, so God's Spirit enveloping the people of the new covenant in the upper room appears in a mighty rush of wind and tongues of fire. Luke's account also evokes early rabbinic teaching that the voice of God on Sinai divided into seventy tongues and all the nations received God's Law in their own tongue.

For the teaching at the heart of the new covenant, we turn to the gospel reading from John 20:19-23. The resurrected Christ appears to the disciples who are huddled behind locked doors. He offers the simple greeting: "Peace be with you," the greeting we have been in the practice of offering each other with a simple gesture at every Eucharistic celebration—until Covid-19 challenged us to find other ways of communicating the peace of Christ. Jesus sends his disciples on a mission of peace in continuity with his own God-inspired mission. He breathes on them the gift of the Holy Spirit and tells them that God will forgive those whom they forgive, and will "retain" or "seize hold of" the transgressions of those whose sins or transgressions they "retain". To seize hold of wrongdoing is to expose it and deal with it. Sometimes it is best to forgive and simply allow everyone to move on. In other situations, an easy amnesty only exacerbates the problem.

Much of the enduring conflict in our world derives from the inability of ordinary people and of both church and civic leaders to know how to deal with transgression. The Holy Spirit is the unique source of our capacity to deal with the perpetrators of violence. The Holy Spirit is likewise the source of our power to forgive, of our power to refrain from vengeance and our power to ensure restoration and healing. In our times, the earth itself cries out for forgiveness, for restoration and for healing. As we celebrate this feast of the Holy Spirit, we might consider engaging in a "values inventory" by looking at how much of our personal and collective resources we invest in the things that make for peace.

- Veronica Lawson RSM

**Responsorial Psalm:**(R.) Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia!

**Recently Deceased: We commend to God:** Gerard Tobin

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Kevin Irvin, Patricia Gleeson, Lang Dean, Maxwell Franklin, Eileen Dean, John Kirby, Frank Reilly, Kathleen De Groot, Margaret Waight, Joyce Kyneton, Anthony Hall, Faye Tobin, Francis White, Jan Dwyer, Peter Driscoll, Paul Gleeson

**We pray:** for those in need, all who are sick, and for the people of Ukraine, Turkey and Syria.

**Confirmation Celebration May 28th and June 4th** After weeks of parent-led preparation sessions held at St Columba's primary school, the Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated here at St Columba's Church today, May 28th, and next Sunday, June 4th. Thank you to St Columba's school and staff for your support! St Columba's parish congratulates the 36 Confirmation candidates and their families, as they receive this Sacrament of Initiation. There will be 20 candidates celebrating Confirmation today and 16 on June 4th. Let's keep the children and their families in our prayers, as they continue their faith journey towards Reconciliation and First Eucharist next year. God bless!

**Catholic Education Week 2023 Prayer**

*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.*

**ACU Centre for Liturgy launches Australian-first liturgy podcast** The ACU Centre for Liturgy proudly presents an exciting array of local and international experts who explore a wide range of liturgy-related topics. The podcasts feature thought-provoking discussions on Catholic liturgy, liturgical music, art and architecture, liturgy in Catholic schools, preaching, and more. Listen at <https://www.acu.edu.au/about-acu/institutes-academies-and-centres/acu-centre-for-liturgy/the-liturgy-channel>

**St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal** St Vincent de Paul will be having a leaving collection for the Winter Appeal today, May 28, and next Sunday, June 4. The annual Vinnies Winter Appeal will focus on the number of older women experiencing and at risk of homelessness. Vinnies are also experiencing an increase in the number of people seeking assistance for the first time. Donations can also be made at 13 18 12 and at all Vinnies Shops. Donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible.

**Mass Counts all weekends of May** This is the final week of the Annual Diocesan Mass Count. Collectors please take note.

St Columba's 4th June	(next week)	Sun 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG		Tony Beggs
COMMENTATOR		Tom Keogh
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Peter Marquand
COMMUNION MINISTER		Judy Brown
DIGITAL PROJECTOR		Bruce Chapman
SACRISTAN		Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe

**Collections Last Weekend St Columba's** Thank you for your contributions  
 Presbytery: \$ 535.70 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 950.00

*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.*

**Laudato Si' Week: May 21-28, 2023** Globally, Catholics are celebrating **Laudato Si' Week**. The theme for the 2023 **Laudato Si' Week** is "Hope for the Earth, Hope for Humanity". This annual celebration allows us to commemorate the eighth anniversary of Pope Francis' historic encyclical, **Laudato Si'**: "On the care of Creation", and to reflect on the progress we have made in protecting our common home.

**Common Prayer for the 8th Anniversary of Laudato Si'**

Loving God,  
 Creator of heaven and earth and all that is in them,  
 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.

**National Reconciliation Week: May 27 – June 3** The CECV Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Working Party has written a prayer to celebrate National Reconciliation Week (NRW). All Victorian Catholic schools, parishes and offices are invited to join in unity and voice by saying the prayer during the week. The prayer is available at NRW website <https://nrw.reconciliation.org.au/>

**Knights of the Southern Cross Victoria's Archbishop's Dinner – Save the date** The annual Archbishop's Dinner in support of Corpus Christ Seminary, will be held on Friday, September 1, 2023 at Moonee Valley Racecourse at 7.00pm. Guest speaker is Corpus Christi College Seminary Rector, Fr Cameron Forbes.

**Praying with Pope Francis** The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) is an international movement that is more than 170 years old. Each month, the Pope puts forward a prayer intention and asks Catholics around the world to join him in prayer. These intentions cover all sorts of areas of life, encouraging faith, renewing hope and calling us to loving service. Praying each month 'The Pope Video' forms part of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network – view at [www.thepopevideo.org](http://www.thepopevideo.org). **Pope's intention for May** For church movements and groups: We pray that Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelisation each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world. Lord, hear us.

**Position Vacant: Pastoral Practitioner at St John of God Hospital Ballarat**

The hospital has an exciting opportunity available for a dedicated and committed Pastoral Practitioner to join our Pastoral Services team in promoting and providing holistic pastoral services to patients and clients. Will include on call across 24 hours and weekends. For more information about this position, please contact Margaux Chant on (03) 53202503. To obtain a position description, read more about the great working conditions on offer and apply, go to <https://www.sjog.org.au/working-with-us/job-search>

**Next Centralised Baptism Preparation Sessions** Parents planning to have their child baptised are required to attend a Baptism Preparation Session. Next sessions are at the MacKillop and Glowrey Rooms, St. Patrick's Cathedral Hall, 3 Lyons St South, Ballarat, **Thursday, 1st of June 2023**. You may attend either the 10.00 am or the 5.30 pm session.

**Grampians Health Ballarat Seeking Volunteer – Pastoral Care Visitors**

Grampians Health Ballarat is seeking expressions of interest for volunteer 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, 5320 8634 or email Paul at paul.ryan@bhs.org.au

OLHC 3rd June	(next week)	Saturday 6.00pm
LEADER OF SONG		Vin Dillon
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Laureen Rhodes
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Trish Lawson & Kevin Murphy
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Pauline Newman & Harry Kennedy
SACRISTAN		Lyn Gray & Michael Rienets

**Collections Last Weekend** Thank you for your contributions  
 Presbytery: \$ 332.05 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 440.00