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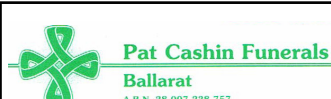
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Child Safe Church The Parishes of St Columba's & Our Lady Help of Christians (including Lexton, Miners Rest and Waubra) follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards as directed 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

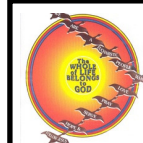
Aboriginal Stations of the Cross available for purchase

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 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
Tuesday 11.00 am (Funeral)
Thursday 11.00 am (Kelaston)
Friday 10.00 am

Readings for Next Weekend

Acts 1: 1-11
Ps 46: 2-3, 6-9. R. v.6
Eph 1: 17-23
Mt 28: 16-20



14th May 2023 ~ 6th Sunday of Easter Yr A

Focus on the Scriptures

Those who defend themselves in court run the risk of being outsmarted by clever and sometimes unscrupulous adversaries. It is never a good idea to be too self-reliant even in a country with a basically sound legal system such as ours. Today's gospel implies that the disciples need a defense attorney or lawyer. Jesus has acted in that capacity for them in their struggles with the anti-gospel forces arrayed against them.

Now he is close to death and he gives them instructions that begin and end with reference to loving him and keeping his commandments. Jesus has given them a new commandment, namely that they love one another: "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another" (13:34). Later in this discourse (15:12-14) the reader of the gospel learns what the actors in the drama already know about Jesus' commandments. "This is my commandment," says Jesus, "that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you." This is no small demand, to be prepared to die for one another.

Given the opposition they are likely to face, the disciples cannot live out such a commitment on their own. Neither is Jesus leaving them "orphans" who have to fend for themselves. He will ask his "Father" to provide "another" defender or advocate who will act on their behalf, an advocate who will always be there. This new advocate is the "Spirit of truth". As we approach the end of the Easter season, the liturgy thus points us towards Pentecost and the gift of God's Spirit.

It is good to know we are never on our own. It is also good to reflect on the capacity we have to make the love of Christ present in our world. Many of us will never find ourselves in a situation where our love is tested to the point that we have to give life for others. Since the outbreak of Covid-19, however, we do not have to look far to find countless people who have done just that. Health professionals, cleaners, truck drivers, flight attendants, shop assistants, school teachers, lecturers, ordinary people everywhere have been laying down their lives for the sake of others. They are truly our friends. The gospel calls us to put the well-being of others, even their survival, before our own comfort. With life-style changes and movement of peoples precipitated by the climate crisis, we find ourselves called to "lay down our lives" for the sake of our friends, humankind and other-kind, across the planet. The Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC) is one powerful faith-based avenue for action. We can, despite opposition, continue to advocate together for climate action and for those displaced by rising sea levels, by war or by persecution. With the help of the Spirit, our Advocate, we can surely rise to the challenge.

- Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm:(R.) Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Helma Van Den Brule

Anniversaries: We remember: Stan Mahar, Brian Molloy, John Kennedy

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



Caritas Australia would like to **THANK YOU** for supporting Project Compassion 2023. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please bring them back next week or visit caritas.org.au/project-compassion and donate online. Your generosity will empower the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and lift themselves out of poverty. Contributions received to date:



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

St Columba's Family Group Celebration - Sunday May 21st This May marks the **50th Anniversary** of the Passionist Family Group Movement begun by Father Peter McGrath. It is also 35 years since Family Groups began at St Columba's. Over the time, the Family Groups have led to the development of strong friendships and bonds between the members which has helped strengthen our Parish Community. To celebrate both these milestones **all** parishioners are warmly invited to the 10.00am Mass at St Columba's on May 21st followed by lunch at the Ballarat Golf Club. For further information about the day please contact Kaye Beggs on 0427739121.

Praying with Pope Francis: 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.

National Families Week Australia: May 15-21, 2023 Family Week is a perfect time to come together to celebrate the power of family relationships in all their diversities, and the importance they play in our lives and community. CatholicCare Victoria's theme for Family Week this year is "Circle of Inclusion." Resources from CatholicCare are available at <https://www.catholiccarevic.org.au/page/103/familyweek>. The National Families Week website is <https://nfw.org.au/>

St Columba's 21st May	(next week)	Sun 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG		Tony Beggs
COMMENTATOR		Vicki Moroney
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Min Myers
COMMUNION MINISTER		Kaye Merbach
DIGITAL PROJECTOR		Bruce Chapman
SACRISTAN		Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe

Collections Last Weekend St Columba's Thank you for your contributions
 Presbytery: \$ 435.15 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 605.00

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.

Prayer for Mother's Day – Sunday, May 14, 2023

Loving God, we pray for our mothers, who have given us life and love, that we may show them reverence and love, and others who show us a mother's love.

We pray for adoptive mothers and for the women who wish to give birth but experience challenges, that they know your care.

We pray for mothers who have lost a child through death, that their faith may give them hope, and their family and friends support and console them.

We pray for those who wish to serve as mothers, but are not able to do so, that they know your comfort.

We pray for mothers who have died, that God may bring them into the joy of his kingdom. Amen.

Sacrament of Confirmation Preparation Sessions begin at St. Columba's on Monday, May 15 and culminates with the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation on May 28th and June 4th. Let's keep the children and their families in our prayers during this time of preparation.

National Volunteer Week: May 15-21, 2023 National Volunteer Week (NVW) is Australia's largest annual celebration of volunteers. This week is a chance for all of us to celebrate and recognise the vital work of volunteers and to say thank you and this includes people in our diocese, parishes and agencies. The theme for NVW 2023 is "We are the Change Makers." This campaign celebrates the powerful impact volunteers make supporting individuals, communities and the nation. The Volunteering Australia website has National Volunteer Week resources at <https://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/national-volunteer-week-2023-resources-now-available/#/>

St Vincent's College Bendigo Reunion Past students of St Vincent's College Bendigo and their partners are invited to attend our 65th Anniversary and Sports Hall of Fame Dinner on Saturday, May 20, followed by Mass and BBQ at Catherine McAuley College on Sunday, May 21, 2023. For more info and booking details, contact Tim Coates on 0407 403 574 or timothycoates@gmail.com or [visit our website](#).

Laudato Si' Week: May 21-28, 2023 Globally, Catholics are celebrating **Laudato Si' Week**, which will take place from May 21 - 28. 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.

World Communications Day: May 14, 2023 The Church in Australia marks World Communications Day on the Sixth Sunday of Easter – May 14 this year. Pope Francis' message for the Day is titled 'Speaking with the heart: The truth in love'. Access Pope Francis' message for World Communications Day and resources at <https://www.catholic.au/s/article/World-Communications-Day-2023>.

Words from Pope Francis: "Listening without prejudice, attentively and openly, gives rise to speaking according to God's style, nurtured by closeness, compassion and tenderness. We have a pressing need in the Church for communication that kindles hearts, that is balm on wounds and shines light on the journey of our brothers and sisters."

Catholic Earthcare Australia "Action" online event Catholic Earthcare Australia is hosting an online "Action" event. In two hours, participants will engage in ten actions, designed to help bring forth an integral ecology and care for creation. All ten actions are in some way inspired by *Laudato Si'* and can be done from the comfort of your own home. The event will be held over zoom and is FREE! This also will be a wonderful way to join with parishioners all over Australia. Wednesday, May 17, 2023 from 4.00pm – 6.00pm AEST. Bookings are essential at <https://www.trybooking.com/CHVPE>

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>

Mass Counts all weekends of May The Annual Diocesan Mass Count will continue over the next four weekends of May. Collectors please take note.

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

OLHC 20th May	(next week)	Saturday 6.00pm
LEADER OF SONG		Paul Hogan
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Lyn Grey
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Zeena Lazarus & Sue Calistro
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Helen Feely & Jennifer Adams
SACRISTAN		Kath Leonard & Anne Slattery

Collections Last Weekend Thank you for your contributions
 Presbytery: \$ 289.80 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 570.00