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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

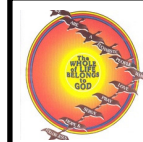
Aboriginal Stations of the Cross available for purchase

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

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

P O Box 192, Wendouree
School Principal: Leigh Bradshaw
School Phone: 5339 4726

Parish Priest:

Fr Marcello Colasante

Staffing

St Columba's

Parish Co-Ordinator: Lia Andanan 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

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 10.00 am
Friday No Mass

Readings for Next Weekend:

Acts 1:1-11
Ps 46:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 R. v.6
Eph 1: 17-23
Lk 24: 46-53



22nd May 2022 ~ Sixth Sunday of Easter Yr C

Focus on the Scriptures

“Take from my heart all painful anxiety.” This is the prayer of the first Sister of Mercy, Catherine McAuley. It echoes the words of the Johannine Jesus, “Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not let them be afraid.” It is all a matter of love. Disciples of Jesus know that they need not be anxious or afraid “for perfect love casts out fear” (1 John 4:18). Today’s gospel makes it clear that “love” finds expression in the keeping of God’s word.

In the prologue to the gospel, John has presented Jesus as the Word, the Logos who has been with God from the beginning. Jesus is the word of God in human form, the embodiment of God’s communication with the cosmos. Jesus keeps God’s word. Disciples are to demonstrate their love for Jesus by keeping the word that he both embodies and proclaims. In other words, they are to live as Jesus has lived and be faithful to what he has taught in God’s name. They will thus become a dwelling place for the divine. The implications of this teaching are overwhelming. If we truly believed and “kept” the words of the Johannine Jesus, we might be more inclined to treat each other and “our common home” with the utmost reverence and respect.

Jesus refers once more to his imminent departure. When he is no longer physically present, God’s Advocate, the Holy Spirit, will be with them. The Greek word translated as “advocate” carries a range of meanings. It literally means “one called alongside to help” whenever necessary. In other words, the disciples need not be troubled or afraid because they are never alone. The Holy Spirit, the Advocate, is always with them to defend them, to intercede for them, to comfort them, as well as to keep them focussed on all that Jesus has said to them. Earlier in this chapter of John’s gospel, the Advocate is called the Spirit of Truth who remains with them and is actually in them. Only through the power of the Spirit will the disciples be empowered to “keep the word” of Jesus.

Jesus gifts his friends with peace, a peace “that the world cannot give.” In John’s gospel, the “world” is first and foremost the tenting place of God’s Word: it is God’s creation. Occasionally, as here, it refers to whatever is opposed to Jesus as God’s Word. The gift of peace that Jesus brings is a peace that casts out fear. It carries all the weight of the Hebrew shalom: it brings total well-being and peace of mind. True peace comes from being centred in God and gathering in all of God’s creation. As Jesus leaves them, the proper stance for the disciples is joy in the knowledge that, although he is going away, he is also “coming to them” since the “Father” will send the Spirit to be with them. The gospel reading thus leaves us to find peace in the unfathomable mystery of God.

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm:(R.) O God, let all the nations praise you!

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: Les Egan

Anniversaries: We remember: Thomas Gurrie, Patricia Gerrett, Peter Cook Joyce Keynton, Claire Carroll, Anton Kors, Nancy Colasante, Jack Lynch, Sidney Morgan, John Francis Deady

We pray: for the people of Ukraine and all in need of our prayers.

Pope Francis' Prayer for Peace in Ukraine

I ask you to pray the Our Father for peace in Ukraine, now and throughout this Day. Let us ask the Lord to grant that the country may grow in the spirit of brotherhood, and that all hurts, fears and divisions will be overcome. We have spoken about the Holocaust. But let us think too that [in Ukraine] millions of people were killed [1932-1933]. They are a people who have suffered; they have suffered from hunger, suffered from much brutality and they deserve peace. May the prayers and supplications that today rise up to heaven touch the minds and hearts of world leaders, so that dialogue may prevail and the common good be placed ahead of partisan interests. Please, no more war.

Laudato Si' Week: May 16-24, 2022

As part of Catholic Earthcare's celebration of *Laudato Si'* Week, they are hosting an online screening of the newly released 'Regenerating Australia' short film - a fictitious news segment set on New Year's Eve 2029, examining the decade that 'could be'. The film challenges people to consider how to respond to the Cry of the Earth. Participants will be joined by Bishop Ken Howell and a range of guest speakers to share in this celebration. After the film, there will be a panel discussion and question time regarding how we can take the teachings of the film and respond as Catholics here in Australia. You are welcome to join by yourself or register a parish group for the viewing (please note if registering for a group, only 1 person need register via Trybooking). The video will be streamed via Zoom so you can watch together on a large screen at a suitable venue like a parish hall. The online event will be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 from 6.00pm – 8.00pm AEST, 4.00pm – 6.00pm AWST. Bookings at: <https://www.trybooking.com/BZADT>.

The Legion of Mary will host a 'Day of Reflection' on Friday, 27 May 2022 in honour of Our Lady Help of Christians, Patroness of Australia. Father Nathan Rawlins of St Peter's Parish, Epping, will be the Keynote Speaker for the day. All members of the Legion of Mary Family, active, auxiliary and past members, including parishioners from all Parishes of Ballarat, are cordially invited to participate in this event. The day will start at 9.15 am and finish at 3.15 pm at St Patricks Cathedral.

St Columba's 29th May	(next week)	Sun 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG		Volunteer
COMMENTATOR		Vicki Moroney
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Min Myers
COMMUNION MINISTER		Ruth Marquand
DIGITAL PROJECTOR		Bruce Chapman
SACRISTAN		Volunteer

Collections Last week at St Columba's Thank you for your contributions
 Presbytery: \$ 419.20 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 2,170.00

"Engaging Your Faith" online sessions

Catholic Theological College presents, "Engaging Your Faith", a series of online short sessions offering an opportunity to explore your faith through a variety of topics including: Theology, Spirituality, Biblical Studies, Vatican II, Pastoral Studies, *Laudato Si*, Christian Meditation, *Lectio Divina*, Interfaith Relations, and Science and Religion. All topics are presented by lecturers of Catholic Theological College. For more information go to <https://ctc.edu.au/news-and-events/engaging-your-faith/>

Walking in the Spirit

The People of God are invited to make a prayerful journey towards the Second Assembly of the Plenary Council through the "Walking in the Spirit" prayer campaign. Walking in the Spirit begins on Easter Sunday, April 17, and runs until the Second Assembly, which opens on Sunday, July 3. Resources have been created for use by individuals, families, schools, parishes and other Catholic communities. Find out more at www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/walkinginthespirit/

Advance Notice: Ordinations to the Priesthood

Deacons Matt Restall and Bill Lowry will be ordained priests for the Diocese of Ballarat on Friday, July 22, 2022 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 7.00pm.

Common Prayer for the 7th 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.



All Saints Parish Portland 175th Anniversary

Over the weekend of August 27 & 28, 2022 celebrations will be held for the 175th anniversary of All Saints Parish Portland. All Saints Portland is the oldest parish in the Diocese of Ballarat. If anyone has any old photographs, stories, memorabilia or anything which you believe may be of interest, we invite you to please contact us at the Parish Office by email portland@ballarat.catholic.org.au or by posting copies of items to All Saints Parish, PO Box 210, Portland, 3305.

St Augustine's Church Creswick 150th Anniversary On the weekend of September 17 & 18, 2022 celebrations will be held for the 150th anniversary of St Augustine's Church, Creswick. If anyone has any old photographs, stories, memorabilia or anything which you believe may be of interest, please contact Leonie in the parish office, ph. 0488220685 or email creswick@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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. Pope's intention for May: **For faith-filled young people:** We pray for all young people, called to live life to the fullest. May they see in Mary's life the way to listen, the depth of discernment, the courage that faith generates, and the dedication to service.

Caritas Australia - Thank You!



Caritas Australia would like to **THANK YOU** for supporting Project Compassion 2022. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please return them. Your generosity will empower the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and lift themselves out of poverty. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations.**

Mass Counts continue throughout the month of May.

OLHC 28th May	(next week)	Saturday 6.00pm
LEADER OF SONG		Sue Searls
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Volunteer
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Helen & Colin Feely
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Pauline Newman & Harry Kennedy
SACRISTAN		Tony & Pauline Newman

Collections Last Week at OLHC Thank you for your contributions
 Presbytery: \$ 303.10 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,190.00