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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

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

Pope Francis' Prayer for Peace in Ukraine: I ask you to pray the Our Father for peace in Ukraine, now and throughout this day. **Our Father...**

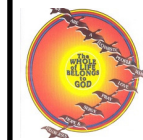
Let us ask the Lord to grant that the country may grow in the spirit of brotherhood, and that all hurts, fears and divisions will be overcome. We have spoken about the Holocaust. But let us think too that [in Ukraine] millions of people were killed [1932-1933]. They are a people who have suffered; they 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.

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)

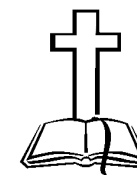
St Columba's
Sunday 10.00 am
Tuesday 10.00 am (Funeral)
Wednesday 10.00 am

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

Ezekiel 33: 7-9
Ps 94:1-2, 6-9 R.v.8
Romans 13: 8-10
Matthew 18: 15-20



3rd September 2023 ~ 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Focus on the Scriptures

Most of us know leaders who take themselves a bit too seriously. Some confuse their role or title with their significance in the scheme of things. Some look for privilege and an easy life, forgetting that leadership of anything worthwhile involves hard work, misunderstanding and opposition. The first part of today's gospel story presents Peter, who has just been declared the foundation rock of the church and given the "keys" of the kingdom or empire of the heavens, refusing to accept that Jesus' mission will involve suffering, even death. The reader is confronted in this story with the expansive rock face at Caesarea Philippi and invited to consider the friable properties of the seemingly indestructible rock. Even rocks can be reduced to sand or gravel and a humbler mode of being.

For all its seriousness, there is something quite comical about this gospel story. Peter actually reprimands Jesus. Jesus then sets him straight in no uncertain terms. The "rock" becomes the leader of the opposition, a serious obstacle to God's purposes, a stumbling block. He is ordered back to the place where disciples properly belong, namely "behind" Jesus, "following" him. Matthew provides a striking contrast in this section of the gospel between Peter who "rebukes" Jesus and Justina, the Canaanite woman, who respectfully and persistently implores Jesus to see from a new perspective. Peter receives a decisive rebuttal, while the woman's plea is heard and she is praised for her great faith.

Peter's impetuous outburst provides the trigger for Jesus to invite his disciples to think about what they really want. Jesus is the teacher and the disciples are the students who have accepted the invitation to follow him. That means living out in their lives the pattern of his life. If they want to be his followers, then they have to embrace the pain involved in his relentless program of teaching and of healing the sick and brokenhearted. They will also share the "glory". If they choose to put their own interests first, then they will surely lose themselves. It is ultimately a question of choosing life. Peter forgets this for a while and has to be reminded to be true to what he has previously professed. He is not very different from the rest of us. We too need to rethink our choices and to reorder our priorities from time to time if we want to find life. September 1 was the World Day of Prayer for Creation. Our church, along with other churches, celebrates September 1 to October 4 (Feast of St Francis of Assisi) as a Season of Creation. At a time when life on our planet is seriously endangered, we might attend more closely to the urgent gospel challenge of living in ways that help to sustain the life of the Earth community. We bring into our celebration those affected by the climate crisis and we pray for the insight to live in right relationship with all that is.

- Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm:(R.) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Owen Rose

Anniversaries: We remember: Anne Nuttall, Cathe McArdle, Neil Sheehan, Newell Barrett, Genoveva Jurisic, May O'Donnell, Paul Mahar, Noreen Earl

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

Ballarat Clergy Support Fund: Collection for Sick and Retired Priests



Creating a secure retirement future for the priests of the diocese is a duty and care in which we can all participate. Seventeen retired priests are currently supported by this Fund. Some live privately, some are retired in units in Ballarat or elsewhere, others live in supported accommodation. A credit card facility is available for your convenience, and contributions over \$2.00 are tax-deductible. *Caring for those who care for us – the Church community's responsibility.*

Congratulations and blessings, Fr. Marcello! August 31st marks the anniversary of Fr Marcello's ordination. Congratulations and thank you to Fr Marcello in his vocation of ministering to the St Columba's and OLHC Parishes.

Next Centralised Baptism Preparation Session 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, 7th September 2023.** You may attend either the 10.00 am or the 5.30 pm session.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults RCIA There will be an information/enquiry meeting on **Tuesday 12th September, 5.30pm** at St Aloysius Parish Centre, Ripon Street Redan (between the school and Church). This meeting is for anyone over the age of 16 who is considering becoming a Catholic. This is the initial enquiry meeting, you will be given all relevant information, no commitment needs to be made at this stage. If you require further information, please contact Bernadette at the **St Aloysius Parish Office on 0455 212 123.**

Sacred Heart College Ballarat Reunion A reunion of SHC Ballarat East class of 1965 plus anyone who attended SHC, will be held on Sunday, October 15, 2023 at GC's Ballarat from 11.00am – 3.00pm. To attend email loisknights345@hotmail.com or ph. 0419 902538

St Columba's 10th Sept	(next week)	Sun 10.00 am
LEADER OF SONG		Terry Ranger
COMMENTATOR		Maree Phelan
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Jo-anne van der Voort
COMMUNION MINISTER		Volunteer please
DIGITAL PROJECTOR		Bruce Chapman
SACRISTAN		Barb Brown / Norah Moloney / Josie Crowe

Collections Last Weekend St Columba's *Thank you for your contributions*
 Presbytery: \$ 316.40. Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 1,130.00

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Parishes of St. Columba's Ballarat North and Our Lady Help of Christians Wendouree recognise the traditional owners of parish lands. We acknowledge their ancestors with respect and we are committed to working for justice and reconciliation.

First Eucharist Celebration Congratulations to all the children celebrating First Eucharist today! There are 46 candidates for First Eucharist with 23 receiving the sacrament today and the rest next Sunday, 10th of September. Please keep the children and their families in your prayers.

Thank you! A big thank you to all the parent group leaders who kindly shared their time and talents to facilitate in the preparation sessions, the families who attended the 6 weeks of sessions for both Reconciliation and First Eucharist preparation evenings and St Columba's School for supporting the program. You are all part of the success of our family based, school supported and parish coordinated Sacramental Program for the year.

Happy Father's Day! ★

Happy Father's Day to all the fathers and father figures in our parish community! May God always bless you!

Prayer for Father's Day

*God of kindness and compassion,
 we are your children and you are Father to us all.
 We pray for all men who reflect your fatherly example:
 Those who are dads and grandads;
 step-dads, foster dads, godfathers and fathers-in-law;
 those who embrace their role as father;
 those who struggle with being fathers;
 those who are distanced from their children;
 those who have passed from this world;
 those who are coaches, leaders and mentors;
 those who are elders and wisdom-men of our communities.
 Give them all strength, comfort and peace. Amen.*

Pope's intention for September, for people living on the margins: We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions. May they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance. Lord, hear us.

Graduate Certificate in Teaching Meditation Catholic Theological College is running an online information session for the Graduate Certificate in Teaching Meditation on Monday, September 4, 2023 at 7.30pm (AEST). Registration is essential at [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#) or at <https://www.ctc.edu.au>

Please join us for a Kitchen Table Conversation! A Kitchen Table Conversation is a wonderful opportunity to join with others and listen, learn and reflect on the Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum that will be held in the coming months. Sessions will be held on September 11 and September 28 from 3.30-4.45pm online via Zoom. For more information go to: <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/aboriginal-catholic-ministry/>

The Season of Creation celebration began **September 1**, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and ends **October 4**, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations. **Online launch of Season of Creation** Caritas Australia will host an online launch of the Season of Creation on Monday, September 4, 2023 from 6.00pm – 7.00pm offering participants an enriching and informative experience through its Catholic Earthcare program. For details and to register go to: [Caritas Catholic Earthcare Season of Creation Online Launch Tickets | TryBooking Australia](#)

Safeguarding Sunday, September 10, 2023 The Catholic Church in Australia marks Safeguarding Sunday (formerly Child Protection Sunday) on the second Sunday of September, at the conclusion of National Child Protection Week. Safeguarding Sunday seeks to acknowledge the immense damage caused by the sexual abuse of children and adults at risk, including by priests, religious and lay people within Catholic contexts. It makes a commitment to practices and protocols that create and maintain safe environments for all people. It invites people to pray for those harmed by abuse directly and indirectly. The following resources are available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/safeguarding-sunday-september-10-2023/>

OLHC 9th September	(next week)	Saturday 6.00pm
LEADER OF SONG		Paul Hogan
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL		Volunteer please
MINISTER OF THE WORD		Trish Pora & Darryl Clark
COMMUNION MINISTERS		Harry Kennedy & Pat Dillon
SACRISTAN		Pauline & Tony Newman

Collections Last Weekend *Thank you for your contributions*
 Presbytery: \$ 382.80 Parish: (Env, loose, DD, CC etc) \$ 280.00