



Parishes of St Columba's and Our Lady Help of Christians

Communities of Ballarat North, Learmonth, Lexton, Miners Rest, Waubra, Wendouree



306 Gregory St, Ballarat North **Phone:** 5331 7131

Email: ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Parish Web: ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au

School Web: scballarat.catholic.edu.au

480a Gillies Street, P O Box 192 Wendouree **Phone:** 5339 2302

Email: wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Parish Web: wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au

School Web: olchwendouree@ballarat.catholic.edu.au

Parish Priest: Fr Marcello Colasante

Visiting Priest: Fr Barry Ryan

Staff at St Columba's

Pastoral Associate: Judith O'Sullivan

Parish Secretary: Ruth Marquand

Wed 8.30– 12.30, Thurs & Fri 9–2.30pm

Staff at Wendouree

Parish Co-ordinator: Maree Roche

Wed-Friday 9am–1pm

Mass times: St Columba's

Saturday vigil: 6pm

Sunday: 10am

Wednesday: 9.30am

Mass times: Wendouree

Saturday vigil: 6pm

Sunday: 10am

Tuesday: 5pm

Wednesday: 10am

Thursday: 10am

Friday: 10am

Readings for Next weekend:



Ex 37: 12–14

Psalms 129

Rom : 8-11

Jn 11: 1-45

26th March 2017, 4th Sunday of Lent (Year A)

Focus on the Scripture

Humans see and judge by appearances, but God looks into the heart, and there finds the real person. God's standards are not superficial, as are so many of the standards of the world. It is not age, beauty or physical strength that is important; it is not social position or religious role that is preferred. God chooses whom God chooses. God saw in David, the insignificant shepherd, the potential for being the chief shepherd of his people. The man who was born blind became the one through whom others would see the mighty works of God. Yet, neither young David nor the man in the gospel made the initial step; each simply responded with openness to God's choice of him.



By what criteria do we judge others? Do we consider some people too insignificant for greatness? Are we overly concerned with status? Do we categorise people according to the disease or physical limitation that they must endure? Do we sometimes blame them for their disability? Do our eyes perceive life in accord with the standards of a materialistic, body-orientated, pleasure-seeking society? Or do we look into the other's heart, as God does?

As with the other scrutiny Sundays, catechumens and long-standing members alike are exhorted to make a choice. Jesus is the one who gives sight to blind eyes and religious insight to those open to receive it. However, there is a price to pay. Will it be the standards of the world, or the power of God in Jesus Christ?

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Deaths: Diane Heagney (friend of Kath Leonard)

Anniversaries: Basil Clark, Peter Molloy, Nell Molloy, Annie Sullivan, and Glennis Macmillan

We pray: for the sick of our Parishes especially Brenden Love relative of Eddy and Glenane families, John Macmillan father of Ruth Marquand and Gerard McCormick, brother of Carmel McCormick. We pray for all those preparing to receive Sacraments of Initiation.

ST COLUMBA'S PARISH NEWS

Easter Liturgies-Clipboards are available in the foyer for you to complete if you would like to contribute as a Special Minister, Reader, Commentator, Offertory Gifts, Narrators, etc. for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday celebrations.



Lenten Stations of the Cross-will be held in the Church on Friday evenings from 6.30pm. Contact Judith 5331 7131 if you would like further information.

Men's Group—The next men's group gathering will be held on Thursday 30 March at 2:00pm in the Church foyer. All men welcome for a cuppa an afternoon of fun and games! If you need transport please contact the Parish Office Tel: 5331 7131.

Rosters -We will be preparing the next roster in the next few weeks. Apologies to anyone who was left off the last one. If there are any changes to be made or you would like to join another ministry please contact Ruth in the office. There will be a roster for Easter in the foyer from next weekend to be completed. If you be will around for Easter please fill in the sheet where you are able to assist.

Minnie Vinnies Commissioning Mass—Sunday 26 March—This week we take time to celebrate our St Vincent De Paul organisation in our parish. On Sunday, our Mini Vinnies members will receive their badges and be welcomed into our parish organisation. We will also take time to hear from members across all age groups.

Prayers—If you would like to have a loved one included in the Prayers of the Faithful on the occasion of an anniversary and on the newsletter please do not hesitate to contact Ruth in the Parish Office.

The Scrutinies—As part of Angela Webber and Evan Grano's preparation for receiving the Sacraments at Easter, they will celebrate the Scrutinies. These Scrutinies, which will be observed this weekend and the next, provide a period of self-searching and repentance for the Elect in their faith journey. Most importantly, it offers them strength in Christ, who is the way, the truth and the life. As a faith filled community and witnesses to Christ, we are also encouraged to join in the Scrutinies. This Rite recognises that we are all in need of conversion throughout our lives, so we can join with Angela and Eva in scrutinizing our lives and pray for the grace to overcome the power of sin that infects our hearts. As a community we continue to pray that Angela and Eva, as well as our Candidates, Natasha Bryan and Emily Wallis, may continue to grow in faith as they journey to fullness of faith in the Eucharist.

Baptisms - Welcome into our Faith Community this weekend, Harvey Rodoni, son of Bridget & Kristian Rodoni and Jack and Harry Meerbach, sons of Wendy & Stuart Meerbach who will receive the Sacrament of Baptism on Sunday morning. We congratulate Harvey, Jack and Harry on becoming members of God's family.

Thanksgiving:		<i>We thank you for your generous support</i>	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 937.80		
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$ 1394.20	Average for this financial year	\$ 2035.91

NEXT WEEKEND	1st April	2nd April	What's on this week
WELCOMER	Margaret Ranger	Pat & Bernie Kenna	Wed 29 Martch @ 9:30am—Mass in the Church Foyer, Fr Dan Arundell
COMMENTATOR	Eileen Van der Laar	Irene Monigatti	Thur 30 March
PROCLAIMER 1	Carmel McCormick	Jim Kierce	@ 2:00pm—Men's Group Church Foyer
PROCLAIMER 2	Peter Dalton	Terry Ranger	@ 7:00pm—Parish Pastoral Council Meeting in School Board Room
GIFTS	Simmons Family	Lorna Batty & Carmel King	Fri 31 March @ 6:30pm—Stations of the Cross in the Church
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	A Lacey, T Simmons, T Waight	R Pitman, M Burke, M Kennedy	
LITURGY PREPARATION		Sr Geraldine Mugavin	
OVERHEADS	Volunteer	Harry Chapman	
SACRISTAN	Trish Simmons	Maureen van der Ploeg	
ALTAR & FLOWERS	As arranged	As arranged	

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS PARISH NEWS

OLHC Parish Pastoral Council Change-over: Your Parish Pastoral Council is seeking new members as it goes through its annual changeover. Several members are due to retire and must be replaced. Could those interested, or anyone who thinks they know anyone who might be, please advise a member of the PPC. The term is for two years from June this year, with the option of a further two. Thanks for your consideration of this.

Parish Get-together Luncheon: All Welcome. Wednesday, March 29th at 12 (noon) at the Park Bistro. For bookings please add your name to the list in the church foyer.

Grandmother's Against Violence: Ballarat Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support Network (BRASSN) invites you to join us for a morning of conversations and stories of successful refugee settlement in country Victoria. John and Margaret Millington will share their positive business and community stories about settling Burmese Karen families in rural Nhill. A panel will be open to questions and discussion.

Date: Friday 7th April Registration: 9.45 am Starting Time: 10.00 am Morning tea provided.

Venue: The Trench Room - Ballarat Town Hall RSVP events@brmc.org.au

Car Park: There has been a new speed-hump installed at the Exit Gate. Please be aware of this, and approach very slowly. It has been installed for the safety of the children.



Social Justice: Back to School and Educational Assistance : St Vincent de Paul have released the following information: regarding support for families:. For further information please contact St V de P.

1. Sustainable School Shop - this is an online service for families or schools to trade school items.
2. Laptops and iPads: Reboot IT has a very good range of re-conditioned ACER and DELL laptops. Apple Refurbished has laptops, iPads and desktop computers.
3. Assistance for school camps, excursions and sports events - the Department of Education is providing financial assistance for primary and secondary students in government and non-government schools to attend school camps, excursions and sports events where the parent is a holder of a Centrelink Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card. Primary school students will receive \$125 and secondary school students will receive \$225 per year.

Collections:		We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 657	Project compassion to date: \$1,135	
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$ 875		
Loose	\$ 154		
NEXT WEEKEND		6pm	10:00 am
What's on this week			
LEADER of SONG	Laureen Rhodes	Veronica Stott	Wed 29th St V d P meeting at 11:45 am at Violet Grove.
MINISTER of the WORD	Darryl Clark	Anne Briody	
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Lia Yu, Des Lloyd, Pauline Newman, Pat Dillon, Jo Rix	Elly Green, Tony Bruty, Pauline Howard + 2 volunteers	
SACRISTAN	Pauline Howard	Peter & Deanna Osman	
COUNTERS		Des Lloyd & J Holdsworth	
CHURCH CLEANING	Helen Rieniets, Maria Nicania Esperas		Next Week: Thurs 6th Mass at Miner's Rest
<u>Rural Communities</u>	This Weekend - Learmonth	Next Weekend - Waubra	
Minister of Word:	Bill Keating	Phyllis Bourke	
Minister of Eucharist :	Kerryn Gallagher	Margaret McDonald	
Church Cleaning:	Clare & Kerry Mullane	Bev Hayward	

BALLARAT NEWS

Retreat in Daily Life: Fr Robbie Sian, a Filipino Jesuit priest in Melbourne as part of the Jesuit Tertian program will come to Ballarat for a month commencing April 23rd to lead the Inner Peace in Divine Love Retreat in Daily Life. Information brochures and application forms are available in the church foyer.



Caritas Australia theme this Lenten season is "Love your neighbour"

With limited support in Vietnam for the education and social inclusion of children with disabilities, young Nguyet lived an isolated life. Then through her community, her family became involved with a Caritas-Australia supported program offering her education, creative outlets and community interaction. Now Nguyet's mother has great hope for her future. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion

**PROJECT
COMPASSION**



Address: 1251 Doveton Street
North, Ballarat, 3350
Phone: (03) 5333 3101



Address: 4 Dawson Street Nth
Phone: (03) 5331 3099
Email:
bryan@johnthomaselectrical.com.au



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St Columba's Parish
211 Gillies Street, Ballarat, VIC, 3350
Phone: (03) 5339 9333
Email: info@ballaratholden.com.au
www.ballaratholden.com.au



Phone: (03) 5332 3069
Mobile: 0418 504 254



139 Bogong Ave
Phone: 5331 4510
Mobile: 0418 501 606



Address: Shop 2, 1103
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