

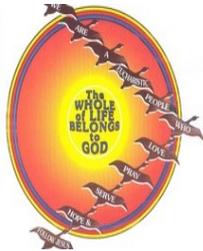
St Columba's Parish - Ballarat North

306 Gregory St, Ballarat North Phone: 5331 7131

Email: office@stcolumbasparish.org or pastoral@stcolumbasparish.org

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

School Web: scballarat.catholic.edu.au



**Weekend of
14th-15th
January, 2017**

Mass times:

Saturday vigil: 6:00pm
Sunday: 10:00am
Wednesday: 9:30am

Pastoral Leader: Judith O'Sullivan

Parish Secretary: Ruth Marquand

Leadership Chair: Bruce Chapman

School Principal: Kim Butler

Reflection on the Gospel-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A (John 1:29-34)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

To provide a reference for someone is a serious responsibility as well as a privilege because, more often than not, a good deal depends on the testimony one provides. John the Baptist took it upon himself to be a referee for Jesus. His testimony reverberates across the centuries, offering an introduction to Jesus, year in year out, for those who seek to understand this Jewish prophet and teacher who was and is more than a prophet or teacher. John wants his disciples to understand that the whole purpose of his water baptism is that Jesus "might be revealed" to God's people. He wants them to know that Jesus is "of God". He is the "lamb of God", the "chosen one of God". He is the one on whom God's Spirit descends and remains. Jesus comes before the Baptist and so ranks before him.

Is the author of this gospel using the character of the Baptist as a vehicle for his particular Christology or presentation of Jesus? That's what many scholars think, although some of the images in the Baptist's testimony are firmly grounded in Jewish tradition and could well come from a prophetic figure like John the Baptist. Maybe the answer to the question is "yes, but not exclusively".

Whether the images have their origin with John the Baptist or John the gospel writer, we might reasonably wonder what it means to say that Jesus is "God's lamb". Does the expression refer to the Passover lamb whose blood signifies liberation or deliverance? The imagery in John's gospel relating to the death of Jesus might point in this direction. Is "God's lamb" the Suffering Servant of Isaiah 53 who takes on the sins of the many? Is it an image of the lamb that God provides for Abraham's sacrifice (Genesis 22)? Is it evoking the apocalyptic lamb of Jewish literature of the time, the powerful conquering lamb that destroys evil in the world? Is it intended to suggest vulnerability as in the prophecy of Jeremiah 11:19 ("I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter").

There is never a simple explanation when it comes to John's gospel, but it seems to me that the symbol of strength in vulnerability has potential for understanding the characterization of Jesus in this gospel. The Lamb of God of John 1:29 "takes away" the sinful condition of the world. Twenty-one centuries down the track there is still violence and hunger and exploitation on a massive scale. The work of the one strong enough to risk vulnerability so that others may have life, the work of God's Lamb, is never done. Witness to that is part of the gift that Pope Francis is offering to the world: despite opposition, even among those closest to him, he never wavers in his response to the distress of God's people, of God's Earth.



What's happening this week:

Fr Barry announced last weekend that the new Supervising Priest for OLHC Wendouree and St Columba's Ballarat North will be Fr Marcello Colasante. Fr Marcello will come to us from the parish of Swan Hill. We look forward to welcoming him to his new post later next month.

Ruth Marquand

Parish Secretary

Tel: 5331 7131

Email: office@stcolumbasparish.org

Grief to Grace – Healing the Wounds of Abuse

A spiritual retreat for anyone who has suffered degradation or violation through physical, emotional, sexual or spiritual abuse. The retreat will be held March 26 – 31, 2017 in Tasmania. To request an application contact Anne by emailing info@griegtograceaus.org.au or phone 0407704539. For more information visit www.griegtograce.org

Recent Deaths: Molly Harris, Max Fletcher, Dorothy Wise, Wendy Lewis

Anniversaries: Patrick Curran, Stephen Head

We pray: for the sick of our Parish

We are Eucharistic people, who love, pray, serve, hope and follow Jesus

DATE: JANUARY 14 & 15		
WELCOMER	Margaret Ranger	Pat & Bernie Kenna
COMMENTATOR	Pat Kenna	Clare Fuller
PROCLAIMER 1	Bernadette Clark	Gerard Macklin
PROCLAIMER 2	Kate Lawry	Joanne van der Voort
GIFTS	Pat & Bernie Kenna	Mandy Carroll
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	T Keogh Jnr, A Lacey, T Simmons	J Brown, C Fuller, E Kennedy
LITURGY PREPARATION		Pat & Bernie Kenna
ALTAR SERVERS	Volunteer please	Gabrielle Arrieta
OVERHEADS	Volunteer please	Judith O'Sullivan
SACRISTAN	Sullivan Sisters	Maureen van der Ploeg
ALTAR & FLOWERS	As arranged	As arranged

DATE: JANUARY 21 & 22		
WELCOMER	Jan Mullaly	Alison Thorpe
COMMENTATOR	Jennifer Adams	Clare Fuller
PROCLAIMER 1	Ann Lacey	Terry Grano
PROCLAIMER 2	Jim Kierce	Brian Kennedy
GIFTS	Brian & Nola Molloy	Sharon De Beer
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	T Waight, M Eddy, K Keogh	M Martino, K Merbach, B Ryan
LITURGY PREPARATION		K & T Snr Keogh
ALTAR SERVERS	Volunteer please	Gabrielle Arrieta
OVERHEADS	Volunteer please	Colleen Wakefield
SACRISTAN	Norah Moloney	Anne Rossiter
ALTAR & FLOWERS	As arranged	As arranged

Please feel free to assist if you notice that people rostered on are away. Thank you.

	Thank you for your generous support	
1 st Collection	For the support of the Clergy of the Ballarat Diocese	\$761.25
2 nd Collection (Envelopes)	-Last week's giving for the up-keep of the parish -Average given weekly for this financial year (week 28)	\$1133.95 \$1988.15
Christmas Dues to 9/1/17	- Presbytery Account	\$1270.25

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