

Our Lady Help of Christians Parish

communities of
LEARMONTH * LEXTON * MINERS REST * WAUBRA * WENDOUREE
480A Gillies Street North P.O. Box 192 Wendouree 3355

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27th Sunday in Ordinary Time. 4th October, 2015

Exploring The Word

The major themes which have emerged from the gospel readings over the past few weeks are those of 'being receptive' and 'being of service'. One crucial human situation where both of these attitudes are vital is in the marriage relationship. At the time of Jesus, divorce was allowed under the Law of Moses (the Torah) but there were divided opinions. One school of thought held that divorce was only to be sanctioned in the case of the most serious moral misdemeanours on the part of the woman. Another held that any reason was good enough for a man to send away his wife. Jesus cuts through the legal arguments and goes back to the original plan of God as revealed at creation. One aspect of Jesus' answer which must have been surprising to his hearers is that he treats men and women as equals. They are drawn to become one flesh and if either breaks this bond they are equally guilty. In an important sense, Jesus' prohibition on divorce can also be seen as a protection for women. At a time when the status of women was bestowed by their husband or their male offspring, a divorced woman was at the mercy of society. Jesus' understanding of marriage flows not from legality or social convention but from the intrinsic nature of man and woman and their role in God's plan.

- *In what ways is this teaching a challenge to modern attitudes to marriage?*

The Summit Vol 42 No. 3

Liturgy of Lament and Hope

A Liturgy of Lament and Hope will be held at St Patrick's Cathedral in Ballarat at 2.00pm on Sunday, November 1. This is being arranged in the context of the hearings of the Royal Commission relating to child abuse. The liturgy will offer people from throughout the diocese an occasion to lament the wrongs that have occurred in our Church, to ask forgiveness, and to pray for healing for all involved. The liturgy will include Scripture readings and prayers. Following the liturgy there will be a cuppa and time for a chat in the cathedral hall. To help with planning, the organising group asks that a representative from each parish contact one of the following: Karen Davies on 0407 820 622 or Liz Hanrahan on 0417 347 262.



Jubilee Year of Mercy

Pope Francis has announced an Extraordinary Jubilee - Holy Year of Mercy to commence on December 8, 2015, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and will conclude on Sunday, November 20, 2016, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. All are invited to attend the Opening of the Door of Mercy at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat by Bishop Paul Bird CSsR on December 13, 2015, 10.30am. Refreshments will follow the Mass.

Parish Contacts Parish Priest Fr Peter Sherman
& **Assistant Priest** Fr Peter Danh 5339 2302

Mercy Sr. Maureen 5331 5504

Exodus House: 8 Primrose St, 5338 2118

Parish Centre Bookings: 0439 106 399

Baptism Team: Parish Office 5339 2302

Parish School Principal: Stephen Russell, 5339 4726

Senior's Helpline: 0419 975 914

Funeral Ministry: Margaret White

Gentle Dove Prayer Line Val 53331776, Sue 5339 4440

Responsorial Psalm: May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.

Gospel Acclamation: If we love one another, God will live in us in perfect love.

Pope Francis' Encyclical, Laudato Si

It may well disturb us to learn of the extinction of mammals or birds, since they are more visible. But the good functioning of ecosystems also requires fungi, algae, worms, insects, reptiles and an innumerable variety of microorganisms. Some less numerous species, although generally unseen, nonetheless play a critical role in maintaining the equilibrium of a particular place. Human beings must intervene when a geosystem reaches a critical state. But nowadays, such intervention in nature has become more and more frequent. As a consequence, serious problems arise, leading to further interventions; human activity becomes ubiquitous, with all the risks which this entails. Often a vicious circle results, as human intervention to resolve a problem further aggravates the situation. For example, many birds and insects which disappear due to synthetic agrotoxins are helpful for agriculture: their disappearance will have to be compensated for by yet other techniques which may well prove harmful. We must be grateful for the praiseworthy efforts being made by scientists and engineers dedicated to finding solutions to man - made problems. But a sober look at our world shows that the degree of human intervention, often in the service of business interests and consumerism, is actually making our earth less rich and beautiful, ever more limited and grey, even as technological advances and consumer goods continue to abound limitlessly. We seem to think that we can substitute an irreplaceable and irretrievable beauty with something which we have created ourselves.

Catering after Funerals

Through the commitment of the Caring Group, OLHC Parish has had a long tradition of offering catering after a funeral. This is a most important part of our community reaching out to care for those who are grieving. Thanks to Noelene Smith who has very generously offered to take on the role of coordinator of the group, the parish will once again be able to offer this ministry but it is important Noelene has assistance. A meeting to discuss how the group might best operate will be held on Wednesday October 14th at 2.00pm in the Meeting Room. All are encouraged to attend.



Feast of St Francis of Assisi

To celebrate St Francis of Assisi day, Professor Singarayer Florentine, Federation University, will speak on the topic of ecological restoration of landscapes October 7th from 7-9pm at St Patrick's Hall, Ballarat. All welcome. Enquiries 0438 448 942 Resources for the Feast of St Francis of Assisi on October 4, 2015 are available from the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services_and_agencies/liturgical_and_sacraments/liturgy_resources.

Mental Health Week 4th -10th October.

Information sheet defining "Mental Health Explained" is available from the Church entry. This is an important issue to be informed around, lest we do not treat ourselves or others with the care and love we and they deserve. "Telling someone with a mental illness to "just get over it" is as helpful as suggesting a deaf person should listen harder"!! We remember, pray for and affirm those who are living with mental illness, and those who are caring for them.



World Youth Day
- **register now &**
calling young teachers!

Registrations are now open - register soon to ensure a place on the WYD Pilgrimage to Krakow, Poland in 2016. Young teachers: CEO Ballarat is supporting early-career teachers to go on the WYD pilgrimage - contact CEOB on 5337 7131 or Amanda on 0427 748 867. More information on Diocesan Youth and Young Adult Ministry webpage at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Corpus Christi College Building Appeal

A special appeal will be conducted to raise funds for the addition of new rooms for Seminarians at Corpus Christ College, Carlton. Poster is available in the church foyer.

Australian Daylight Savings	
	STARTS 4 Oct Forward 1 hour
	ENDS 5 Apr Back 1 hour

OLHC PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 2015 UPDATE

MEMBERSHIP

Discerned Members:

Andrew Black	Ena Bruty
Peter Dwyer	Frank Hogan
Margaret McDonald	Stephen Molloy
Kevin Murphy	Deanna Osman

Ex-Officio Members:

Fr Peter Sherman (Parish Priest)
Fr Peter Dahn (Assistant Priest)
Fr Frank Smith (Exodus)
Stephen Russell (School Principal)

ROLE

Through prayer, reflection, discussion and working in collaboration with the Parish Priest, our Parish Pastoral Council seeks to:

- Review the life and activities of the parish in order to enable the kingdom / reign of God to flourish in the life of the community

Be inspirational in calling forth the gifts and talents of all parishioners to achieve our goals

Listen to and gather information about the hopes, ideas, opinions, needs and concerns of parishioners

Recognise and build on work already done, affirm the contribution of those involved and celebrate the gifts and achievements of all parishioners

The Parish Pastoral Council met on **Wednesday 16th September**. Agenda items discussed by the PPC included:

PARISH COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

A discussion paper which looked at various aspects of a parish communication strategy was tabled for consideration by the PPC. Effective communication is of central importance to the life of our community. Examples of a parish's communication might include Sunday Bulletin, Quarterly Newsletter, Christmas Newsletter/ Easter Cards, Parish Web-Site and Social Media such as Facebook. The PPC is open to exploring all possibilities. Sue Searls has been invited to attend the next PPC meeting when the parish web-site will be discussed.

SCHOOL - PARISH COMMUNITY LINKS

The Council welcomed to its meeting Paddy Ryan who is Acting Principal at the school while Stephen Russell is on sick leave. The further strengthening of School and Parish links is a key concern of the Council. Possible activities to achieve this include - the school assisting with a Sunday Eucharist during Term 4, promotion of the upcoming Mission Market Day to the Parish, on one Saturday evening / Sunday morning opening the school for visitation by parishioners and a Christmas activity with senior parishioners.

CATERING FOR FUNERALS

This important ministry has been a feature of our parish for many years and it was most pleasing for the Council to learn of an offer from a recently retired parishioner to coordinate the catering. A meeting will be scheduled shortly for all parishioners who wish to assist.

PRESBYTERY BUILDING WORKING PARTY

Peter Dwyer as chairperson of this working party provided an update on its work. The PPC is most grateful to the Working Party members for the structured and comprehensive manner in which they are exploring all available options. Des Lloyd from the Properties Committee is now a member of the group. It is expected that the final report will be presented to the November PPC meeting.

MULTI PURPOSE COMPLEX USAGE

The meeting to discuss the operation of this complex will be held on Tuesday October 27th at 7.00pm.

PPC RESOURCE OFFICER ROLE

The key function of this role is to assist the Parish Pastoral Council to operate effectively as the principal leadership group of the Parish. The Resource Officer will be in attendance at Council meetings but is not a member of the Council and does not have a decision making role in Council meetings. Father Peter has appointed Vin Dillon to this role for the next three years.

If any parishioner has an item they wish to place on the PPC agenda please contact Vin Dillon 53448442 / vindillon@gmail.com at least one week prior to the meeting

FUTURE MEETING DATES

21st October
18th November

Upcoming Events

Thursday 8th October

Bereavement Group - Meet after 10.00 am Mass

Help Needed

Calling for volunteers to assist with the following ministries:

- Readers
- Communion Ministers
- Sacristans
- Leaders of Song
- Data projector support
- Musicians
- Typists for Parish Newsletter
- Photocopiers

If you can assist or would like to learn more about these ministries please contact the Parish Office on 5339 2302.

10th/11th October, 2015

Saturday OLHC 6.00pm

Minister of the Word: Pauline Howard

Communion Ministers: Pat Dillon, Pauline Howard, Elly Green, Yvonne Cluff, Jo Rix.

Sacristans: Pauline & Tony Newman

Leaders of Song: Stephen Russell

Sunday OLHC 10.00am

Ministers of the Word: Stan White

Communion Ministers: Roma Hills, Tony Bruty, Kaye Stringer + 2 volunteers.

Sacristans: Geoff & Marg McLean

Leader of Song: Sue Searls

8.30am Mass at the Rural Communities

This weekend - Waubra

Minister of the Word: Phyllis Bourke

Communion Minister: Margaret McDonald

Next weekend - Learmonth

Minister of the Word: Bev Hayward

Communion Minister: Gwen Molloy

Church Cleaning:

OLHC: Maxine Rousch, Catherine Clifford, Leonie Hogan

Learmonth: Bev Hayward

Counters: Peter & Kath Leonard, Kaye Stringer

Sunday Mass Times

St John the Baptist, Waubra 1st & 3rd Sundays 8.30 am **St. Joseph's Learmonth** 2nd & 4th Sundays 8.30am
St Joseph's Lexton 5th Sundays 8.30am **OLHC Wendouree** Saturday 6.00 pm Sundays 10.00 am

Collections - Thank you

1st Collection - Presbytery: \$ 743

2nd Collection - Parish

Envelopes: \$ 810

Loose \$ 119

Mass Times this week

Tuesday 5:00 pm

Wednesday 10:00 am

Thursday 10:00 am

Friday 10:00 am

Anniversaries:

Leo Kirby, Robin Askwith,
Br John Webster



Ed Browne

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FUNERAL FUND

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Financial Planning
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Phone 53 335519

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