

Our Lady Help of Christians Parish

communities of
LEARMONTH * LEXTON * MINERS REST * WAUBRA * WENDOUREE
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33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time. 15th November, 2015

Scripture Reflection

Although this is not the last Sunday of the liturgical year, the major theme found in the readings is the end of time. The events that will usher in and will take place during this time are described in apocalyptic terms. The struggles of life will culminate in a massive cosmic confrontation between the forces of good and those of evil. This last battle will be universal in scope, just like the first primordial conflict between chaos and God.

In some way, all of today's readings state that good will finally prevail over evil. In the last days Michael, the angelic warrior of God, will rise up. In the epistle, Christ is pictured seated triumphantly at the right hand of God with his enemies under his foot, a sign of conquest.

Finally, in the gospel, the Son of Man, the mysterious figure from apocalyptic literature, comes in the clouds with great power and glory. All of these images are apocalyptic; each of them is quite hopeful.

We read these stories at the close of the liturgical year, because we are coming to the conclusion of our yearly telling of the story of salvation. However, apocalyptic images are timely whenever we find ourselves in the throes of the battle with evil and it appears that we will succumb. These forms will remind us that good will be able to withstand evil. From this we will conclude that we need only trust in God. © Dianne Bergant CSS

Bishop Paul has announced the following Clergy Appointments for 2016

- John Monaghan pp Maryborough
- Eugene McKinnon pp Ouyen, Quambatook, Wycheproof and Sea Lake
Peter Jose will be assistant priest to these parishes
- Damien Styles assistant priest Mildura
- Gary Jones supervising priest of Gordon parish
- Ed Maloney staff Corpus Christi Seminary, Melb.

Praying for our young people

In the Ballarat Diocese, 113 young people and their leaders are preparing to travel to Adelaide to participate in the Australian Catholic Youth Festival, December 3-5, 2015. We ask that you pray for them in the coming weeks: Prayer for young people going to the Youth Festival

*God of all, you gently call us each by name.
We give thanks for the young people
who are preparing to go to the Australian
Catholic Youth Festival in Adelaide. Continue to
call them, O God, in a world where complexity
and busyness can cloud and distort our way.
As they gather from across this land
of the Holy Spirit may their hearts yearn for you,
who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.*



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

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

Mercy Sr. Maureen 5331 5504

Funeral Ministry: Margaret White

Gentle Dove Prayer Line Val 53331776, Sue 5339 4440

Responsorial Psalm: Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia, Be watchful, pray constantly,
that you may be worthy to stand before the Son of Man. Alleluia.

Pope Francis' Encyclical, Laudato Si

"Because all creatures are connected, each must be cherished with love and respect, for all of us as living creatures are dependent on one another. Each area is responsible for the care of this family. This will require undertaking a careful inventory of the species which it hosts, with a view to developing programmes and strategies of protection with particular care for safeguarding species heading towards extinction."

Cross Cultural Summer School

Sisters of St Joseph and Columban Fathers will be hosting a Cross Cultural Summer School 2016 from January 22 – February 2, 2016. For enquiries Annie Bond rsj and Brian Vales SSC who are the course Co-ordinators. Phone: +61 (0) 40 619 5861 or email: annie.bond@sosj.org.au.

School Advisory Council Annual General Meeting

We invite all families to attend the Annual General Meeting of the School Advisory Council and School Community Team on Thursday 26th November, at 7:00pm in the library resource centre. The Annual Report will be distributed and presented by various SAC and SCT members, followed by supper. We hope that MOST families can come and celebrate our achievements.

Book on Sale "The Blessing of Mercy" by Sr Veronica Lawson rsm

Sr Veronica Lawson rsm has published a book, "The Blessing of Mercy" to help Catholics and other Christians celebrate the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy proclaimed by the Pope. Copies of the book are available in the foyer this week, \$12.00.

MULTI PURPOSE COMPLEX

A most successful meeting of the users of our multi-purpose complex was held on Tuesday October 27th. A working party consisting of representatives from the School, Properties and Finance groups will form a Working Party to develop a response to the issues raised.

PARISH CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCHEON - 25th Year

Volunteers are needed over the next few weeks to assist with taking phone bookings for the meal. A mobile phone will be provided for the two week period to record bookings. If you can assist please contact Sandra Dillon (ph: 5344 8442 / email: sadillon76@gmail.com)

Global Catholic Climate Movement

November 2015 is a historical month to take action against climate change. On November 30, 2015 world leaders will inaugurate the Paris Climate Summit (called COP21) and sign a treaty to tackle the climate crisis. And throughout November, we will pray and mobilize as never before, to put into practice the Pope's *Laudato Si* message. To get started, the Bishops of the world released this "Appeal to the COP21 Negotiating Parties" and our movement responded with this "Call for a Month of Climate Action". Events to participate in: Sign the Catholic Climate Petition -through this petition we urge our political leaders to commit to ambitious climate action and solve this urgent crisis. Petition signatures will be delivered in an event at the Paris Climate Summit; #Pray4cop21 -through the #Pray4cop21 prayer chain we are praying for world leaders to have courage at COP21 and put into practice the Pope's *Laudato Si* message;

Centacare Annual Toy Drive

Centacare Ballarat's 2015 Annual Toy Drive will run from November 8 - December 15. Enquiries on donating and assisting this Christmas, please contact our appeal coordinators, Keryn Monshing, Jenny Grima or Joanne Woodland on 5387 7900 or email keryn.monshing@centacareballarat.org.au

Final Parish Luncheon for 2015

Wednesday 2nd December will be our last get-together luncheon for this year. For booking purposes, you are welcome to add your name to the list in the OLHC Church foyer. Come join us at the Ballarat Golf Club Bistro 12 noon.

Ballarat South Rotary Club Car Raffle

Thank you to the many parishioners who took tickets in the car raffle in support of our parish. Please return butts and money for sold tickets. Thank you.

PARISH WEB-SITE WORKING PARTY

At the October Parish Pastoral Council meeting a working group was formed to review the Wendouree Parish's web-site. Members of the group at this stage are Andrew Black, Deanna Osman and Sue Searls. If anyone else is interested in being part of this group please contact Deanna Osman at deannaosman@gmail.com

Charlie Thomas Plummer Kelly

is baptized in our parish church at 10 am Sunday Mass 15/11/2015. Parents are Matthew and Taneesha

OLHC PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

OCTOBER 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 21st October**. Agenda items discussed by the PPC included:

FORMATION

Father Peter Dahn and Father Frank Smith led a very thought provoking discussion around Chapters Five and Six of 'Rebuilt'. The discussion focussed on two key questions: - 'How do we invite people to our Sunday celebration?' and secondly 'What are we inviting them to?' The need for our parish to understand and be committed to evangelisation is the integral element in attempting to respond to the first question. Inviting the unchurched and dechurched to 'come home' is one thing but as the authors of Rebuilt state if what they are coming home to is more of the irrelevant experience that drove them away to begin with, we could be doing more harm than good. Much food for thought and the PPC will continue discussion on these two chapters at its next meeting.

PARISH COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

Sue Searls attended the meeting to brief the PPC on the parish web-site. The meeting viewed the OLHC web-site as well as those of a number of parishes across the Diocese. The Council sees the web-site as an essential tool for reaching out to the community who don't regularly attend Mass. A working party of Sue Searls, Andrew Black and Deanna Osman has been formed to further investigate an upgrade of our Parish website. A notice seeking expressions of interest from parishioners who would like to be part of this group will be placed in the newsletter.

PARISH COORDINATOR POSITION

An initial draft of a position description for the parish coordinator role was tabled at the meeting. It was suggested that minute secretary for the PPC and updating of the parish web-site be included in the position description. This role is to support the existing ministries and not replace the volunteers. The initial proposal is for the position to be 16 hours per week. Fr Peter S will discuss the financial aspects of employing a person in this position with the Finance Committee.

PRESBYTERY BUILDING WORKING PARTY

Peter Dwyer updated the PPC on the progress of the Working Party. The final report of the Working Party will be presented to the PPC at the November meeting.

SUPPORT FOR REFUGEES

It was decided to send a letter from the PPC to the Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission asking whether there are any plans in our Diocese for parishes to host refugee families who have fled the violence of the Middle East and are currently seeking refuge in Europe.

DISCERNMENT OF EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

The discernment for these positions was postponed until the November meeting.

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
18th November

Upcoming Events

Wednesday November 18 - 7.00 pm

Parish Pastoral Council,
Parish meeting room

Thursday November 19

11.00 am - Kelaston Mass of Anointing. All parishioners welcome.

7.15 pm - Baptism Preparation in the parish meeting room.

Mass Times This Week

Tuesday	5 00 pm
Wednesday	10.00 am
Thursday	11.00 am Kelaston
Friday	10.00 am

Next Week's Readings Feast of Christ the King

Daniel 7-113-14
Revelations 2:508
John 18:33-37

21/22 November 2015

Saturday OLHC 6.00pm

Minister of the Word: Jan Godfrey
Communion Ministers: John Kirby, Pat Dillon
Joyce Jackson, Pauline Howard, Elly Green
Sacristans: Sue & John Calistro
Leader of Song: Sue Searls

Sunday OLHC 10.00am

Minister of the Word: Bill Jones
Communion Ministers: Kaye Stringer,
Margaret White, Meg Johnson + 2 volunteers
Sacristans: Margaret & Geoff McLean
Leader of Song: Vin Dillon

Masses in the Rural Communities

8.30am This Sunday:
Minister of the Word: Fon Ryan
Communion Minister:

8.30am Next weekend:

Minister of the Word:
Communion Minister:

Church Cleaning:

OLHC: Tony Bruty, Ena Bruty
Waubra:
Counters: Frank Godfrey, Bill Loader,
Kevin Murphy.

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 Presbytery:	\$ 717
2nd Envelopes:	\$ 713
Loose	\$ 135
Catholic Mission	\$ 170

Recent Death: Betty White
(*aunt of Trish Pearce*)

Anniversaries: Peter Phillips



Ed Browne

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