

WHAT'S ON

Tuesday 15th - 7.00 pm

Grade 6 Graduation Ceremony

Wednesday 16th - 6.30 pm

Exodus Mass & BBQ

Thursday 17th - 7.30 pm

Celebration of Reconciliation

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 4th Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:1-4
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-44

Collections - Thank you

1st - Presbytery \$ 723
2nd - Envelopes..... \$ 800
Loose \$ 135

19/20 Dec - 4th Sunday of Advent

Saturday OLHC 6.00pm

Minister of the Word: Ena Bruty

Communion Ministers: Yvonne Cluff, Jo Rix,
Bev Hayward, Kath Leonard, Frank Hogan

Sacristans: Sue & John Calistro

Leader of Song: Vin Dillon

Sunday OLHC 10.00am

Minister of the Word: Bill Jones

Communion Ministers: Gloria Dwyer,
Kaye Stringer, Margaret White + 2 volunteers

Sacristans: Marg & Geoff Mclean

Leader of Song: Sue Searls

Masses in the Rural Communities

8.30am This Sunday: Learmonth

Minister of the Word: Bev Hayward

Communion Minister: Bev Hayward

8.30am Next weekend: Waubra

Minister of the Word: Sharon Moran

Communion Minister: Gwen Molloy

Church Cleaning:

OLHC: Beth Clark, Margaret McLean

Waubra: Gwen & Brendan Molloy

Counters: Chris & Trish Pearce,

Frances Dorrington



Our Lady Help of Christians

Communities of Learmonth, Lexton, Miners Rest, Waubra, Wendouree.

480a Gillies Street PO Box 192 Wendouree 3355

Tel: 5339 2302 Fax: 5339 2303

wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

13th December 2015, 3rd Sunday of Advent Year C

Scripture Reflection

We are at the midpoint of Advent. Today we celebrate *Gaudete* Sunday. The principal theme of the day is joy. According to Paul, joy is one of the fruits of the Spirit (cf. Gal 5:22). Such joy is a religious sentiment, not emotional happiness. Along with gratitude, it is the heart's response to God's goodness. Zion is told to shout for joy because it has been saved by God from its enemies and because God is in the midst of the people. The psalm response proclaims the same message; the reading from Philippians announces that the LORD is near. This is cause for joy.

Advent is a time for joy, not primarily because we are anticipating the anniversary of the birth of Christ, but because God is already in our midst (Immanuel). The readings for this Sunday assure us that God is with us, not as a judge but as a Saviour. We rejoice over the saving acts of God that make us confident of God's care and unafraid of whatever may cross our paths. We rejoice in the peace of God that surpasses all understanding. Advent joy is like the delight that fills a woman who has just given birth, even if it occurred in the throes of birthpangs. Advent joy springs from the realisation that the presence of God in our midst can so transform our lives that the promises of peace and security will be fulfilled. Advent joy is the way we live in the tension between already and not yet.

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11 Neerim Crescent,
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Ph: 5339 3122.

Parish Priest: Fr. Peter Sherman 5339 2302

Assist. Priest: Fr. Peter Danh

Parish School: Principal: Stephen Russell
5339 4726

Parish Centre Bookings: 0439 106 399

Exodus Community: 8 Primrose St
5338 2118

Baptism Contact: Parish Office
5339 2302

Mercy Sisters: Sr. Maureen
5331 5504

Gentle Dove Prayer Line: 5333 1776

Responsorial Psalm: Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me: he sent me to send Good News to the poor. Alleluia! Alleluia!



Jubilee Year of Mercy

All are invited to attend the Opening of the Door of Mercy at Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat by Bishop Paul Bird CSsR on December 13, 2015, 10.30am.

Refreshments will follow the Mass.

Rome

Any efforts at reform or renewal of the Catholic church that do not place God's mercy at the center of their work are "useless" because they make Catholics "slaves" to the church's institutions, Pope Francis said Wednesday. Speaking in his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square just one day after launching his global Jubilee year of mercy, the pontiff said that "only a merciful church shines."

"The necessary work of renewal of the church's institutions and structures is a means that must bring us to make alive and enlivened the experience of God's mercy that alone can guarantee a church that is a city upon a hill that cannot remain hidden," said the pope.

"If we were to forget, even just for a moment, that mercy is 'that which God likes most,' every one of our labors would be useless because we would become slaves of our institutions and our structures, however renewed they might be," he said. "We would always be slaves."

School Graduation Mass / Year 6 Graduation Ceremony

The students of year 6 will celebrate their graduation from Our Lady Help of Christians Parish School beginning with Mass on Tuesday December 15 at 7.00 pm followed by a special graduation ceremony with their families. Please pray for the students as they begin a new journey in life. All welcome

Rotary Club Car Raffle

Please return the butts and money for the car raffle tickets a.s.a.p. Thank you for supporting our Parish.



Making a Scene at Christmas

Vin and students at Making a Scene at Christmas.

Advent Calender

Community Celebration of Reconciliation: Thursday 17th 7:30 pm
Individual Reconciliation after 10.00am Mass Wednesday & Friday

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve - Wendouree 6pm and 9.00 pm
Lexton 6pm - Learmonth 8pm

Christmas Day - Wendouree 9am - Waubra 9am.

Mass of Anointing Thank you

We had a very prayerful celebration of healing and Eucharist, followed by a lovely morning tea. Many thanks to all who contributed and supported our celebration.

Calendars and Christmas Cards for Sale

Columban calendars and Christmas cards are for sale from St Vincent de Paul in the gathering area after mass and each weekend in the lead-up to Christmas. Please support our Vinnies.

Christmas Day Lunch

If you know of someone who will be alone on Christmas Day, please invite them to join with others if they wish. 12.00 pm -2.00pm in OLHC Parish Hall, Bookings by 24th December (add any diets). Phone: 0419 975 914.

Assistance needed pre Christmas - contact: 0419 975 914.

- ◆ Wednesday 23rd December at 10.30 am - setting up in the hall
- ◆ Thursday 24th December at 9am - spring clean the kitchen
10 am. - preparation of food
- ◆ Christmas Day - a parish volunteer who will take charge of the clean up after lunch (directing where things go and locking up) 1.00 pm to 2.30pm. Thank you.

Exodus Advent Mass

All are invited to Exodus Advent Mass and BBQ Wed 16th December, 6.30pm.

Recent Deaths: Betty Bourke

Anniversaries: Graham Thomson