

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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3rd April, 2016 - Divine Sunday of Mercy Year C.

Reflection

The readings for the Sundays after Easter all provide mystagogical catechesis for the entire church, with a special emphasis for the newly baptised. This instruction is meant to help us recognise the presence of the Risen Lord in our midst. The overarching theme for the Second Sunday of Easter is the celebration of this presence in several manifestations.

While we might seek some obvious, tangible manifestation, each reading speaks of the presence of Christ in a way that we would not expect Christ to be present. He is there in the very throes of sickness, in fear and doubt, in the celebration of the liturgy. These presences challenge us to go beneath appearances, beneath the mundane and banal of life, and there discover the risen Lord in personal mystical experience, in the ministry of the believing community, and in the transformative possibilities of the liturgy.

Experiences of the Risen Lord are not reserved for extraordinarily holy people. Any one of us can be invited into a deep personal encounter when we least expect it, in the most unlikely places, with effects that overwhelm us. In fact, the Risen Christ is always just around the next corner, eager to enter our lives with the transforming power of the resurrection. Being part of a community of believers in prayer can be one of the most profound religious experiences. It not only transforms the present, but it also entrusts us with a vision of what is yet to be, an eschatological hope for a glorious future.

Dianne Bergant CSS

Parish Stewardship Program 2016

Our Stewardship Program has been finalised and once again we wish to warmly thank everyone for their involvement and generous response. A special thank you goes to our Program Leadership Team and to all the volunteers who assisted with the follow-up process.

Letters of confirmation and new Stewardship envelopes along with receipts

are available for collection today in the foyer in alphabetical order. The new pledges take effect from next weekend (Sunday 10 April) and some envelope numbers will have changed. To avoid any confusion please recycle any old envelopes that you may still have and commence using the new blue ones as of Sunday 10 April.

If your envelopes are not there please complete a pledge card and leave it on the collection plate or deliver to the Parish Office.

A reminder that Time & Talent sheets are currently being processed and those who responded will be contacted in the near future.

THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN FOR YOUR
GENEROUS SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH.

*Synopsis of results over page
Full report on OLHC foyer noticeboard*

Parish Contacts Parish Priest Fr Peter Sherman
5339 2302

Baptism Team: Parish Office 5339 2302

Parish Centre Bookings: 0439 106 399

Exodus House: 8 Primrose St, 5338 2118

Parish School Paddy Ryan, Leigh Bradshaw,
5339 4726

Mercy Sr. Maureen 5331 5504

Funeral Ministry: Margaret White 5339 2003

Gentle Dove Prayer Line Val 53331776, Sue 5339 4440

Responsorial Psalm: I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

Gospel Acclamation: Christ is risen, the Lord of all creation; he has shown pity on all people.

Parish Stewardship Program

Pledges

The Stewardship Program has been a resounding success through the generosity of parishioner support. With 27 new pledges and several parishioners increasing their contributions the total pledge has increased by 52%, from \$1,055 p/w to \$1,600 p/w (an overall average increase of \$2.40 p/w).

Family Age Statistics

96 parishioners responded to this question on their pledge card. From these responses, 30-40 age group is 1%, 40-50 is 6% and those between the age group of 50 to 70+ is 93% with over half being in the 70 plus.

Time and Talent

66 Time and Talent forms were received. They are currently being processed and the results communicated in the near future.

Parish School

The parent community of the school were also invited to participate in this program. Of the 113 families approached, 1 family responded and is supporting this program.

Thank You

My Parish

My Parish is composed of people like me.

I help make it what it is.

It will be friendly, if I am.

Its pews will be filled, if I fill them.

It will do great work, if I work.

It will make generous gifts to many causes,
if I am a generous giver.

It will bring people into its worship and
fellowship if I invite and bring them.

It will be a Parish of loyalty and love,
of fearlessness and faith, and
a Parish with a noble spirit.

If I, who make it what it is am filled
with these same things.

Therefore, with the help of God,
I shall dedicate myself to the task
of being all the things
that I want my Parish to be.

Easter Celebrations. Appreciation.

We were blest to be able to celebrate our Easter in such a prayerful and meaningful way. Many thanks to the Liturgy teams for the planning and work and our Ministers who assisted in so many ways. It felt a very welcoming and hospitable community. It was wonderful to be able to baptize, so keep your eye out for candidates for 2017. You never know what an invitation may lead to. Many thanks, Peter

A Walk.

I will be away from the parish the week 4th April to 11th April. I am walking the Mary McKillop Aussie Camino with friends and family, Portland to Penola.

The Aussie Camino is a 217 kilometre pilgrimage route running from Portland in Victoria to Penola in South Australia, inspired by the life and journeys of Australia's Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop and her mentor Fr Julian Tenison Woods. For information see: <http://www.aussiecamino.org>



Project Compassion Thank you to those who have returned their donations. If you wish to donate and have not already done so, could you please return your contribution in a clearly marked envelope so that we can close the appeal.

Pro-life Speaker - Sunday 3rd April

Dr. Rachel Carling-Jenkins MLC - Member for Western Metro and a committed Christian, will speak on the Infant Viability Bill which she is introducing into State Parliament soon. This is to change Victoria's abortion laws to protect pre born babies from the 20th week of gestation. Time: **11.30am -12.30 Sunday 3rd April at St. Patrick's Cathedral Hall, 3 Lyons Street, South Ballarat. A light lunch will be served.** All welcome. Petitions are circulating and your support is vital. Inquiries 0401175045. Entry free.

Justice trends: Latest edition available in foyer. "Church says "no" to Nauru and other issues of Justice.

Wedding:



We congratulate Loretta Liston and Anthony Wilson married this weekend at St Patrick's College chapel.



We welcome to the Life of Christ, Matilda Grace Jarvis, baptized into our community this weekend.

OLHC PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

MARCH 2016 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 Frank Smith (Exodus)
Paddy Ryan (School Co-Principal)

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE OLHC PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The Parish Pastoral Council of Our Lady Help of Christians,
Wendouree will be:

Prayerful
Pastoral
Representative
Discerning
Prophetic
Enabling
Collaborative

The Parish Pastoral Council met on **Wednesday 16th March, 2016**. Items discussed included

Parish Stewardship Program

Prior to the meeting, the PPC met with Parish Finance Committee to hear an update on the Stewardship Program from Finance Committee Chairperson, Chris Pearce and Lorella Di Paolo, Parish Development Officer. Council Members were much encouraged by the progress achieved thus far. The Council is very appreciative of the enormous work that has been carried out by the Program Chairperson Chris Pearce to ensure its success.

PPC Executive

Following the January meeting Peter Dwyer has taken on the role of Parish Pastoral Council Chairperson and Ena Bruty will be the Deputy Chairperson.

Formation

At this meeting Chapter 7 of the book 'Rebuilt' was discussed. The title of the chapter 'Mobilize the Next Generation' summarized the challenge facing every parish. Although a number of the strategies described in the chapter were more applicable in an American context, it did provide a catalyst for an in-depth discussion around the involvement of young people in the life of our parish. Not an issue to be solved by one discussion at a PPC meeting but something that must be an on-going focus for our whole parish community.

2016 PPC Priorities

Prior to the meeting PPC members were asked to rate six priorities that had emerged from the formation and discussion at the meetings over the past eight months. The priorities were: *To be a parish where all are welcome / Development of a comprehensive parish communication strategy / Consolidation of parish initiatives (presbytery, parish co-ordinator, multi-purpose complex) / A parish that is focussed on mission rather than maintenance / Establishment of quality parish - school links / A parish that focuses its resources on the weekend-from the perspective of lost people*. All priorities were seen as important but the priority that was considered to be a logical starting point was that of being a welcoming parish. The discussion around this priority will continue at the April meeting.

St Vincent de Paul

The issue of the diminishing number of personnel involved in the local St V de P Conference was raised. The meeting strongly supported the idea of a promotion in the near future at weekend Masses as an attempt to attract more parishioners to serve in this ministry.

PPC Membership Succession Planning

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
DATE
20th April**

Upcoming Events

Thursday 7.30 pm

Miners Rest Community Mass at the home of Helen & Colin Feely - Fr Frank Smith will celebrate

Dates for Celebration of Sacraments 2016

Confirmation: 14/15 May, Eucharist, 3/4 Sept.

First OLHC parish get-together luncheon for 2016

"All Welcome " Wednesday April 13th, 12 noon at the Park Hotel (Bistro) Please note change of venue. For booking purposes, please add your name on the list in the Church foyer.

"Time Out" Family Group

early notice for Sunday 10th April
12 noon Lunch at Ballarat Golf Club own cost.
1.00 pm - Jazz Club concert with Shiraz Jazz Band.
Cost \$15.00. Contact Sue or John.

Australian Daylight Savings Reminder

This weekend daylight saving concludes Sunday April 3 at 3,00 am. Clocks are turned back 1 hour.



9/10 April, 2016

Saturday OLHC 6.00pm

Minister of the Word: Laureen Rhodes
Communion Ministers: Trish Pearce, Des Lloyd, Jo Rix
Mavis McNulty, Pauline Newman
Sacristans: Val & John Bourke
Leaders of Song: Sue Searls, Michael Goss

Sunday OLHC 10.00am

Ministers of the Word: Deanna Osman
Communion Ministers: Judith Potter, Margaret White
Kaye Stringer + 2 volunteers
Sacristans: Mick & Helen Rieniets
Leader of Song: Vin Dillon

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: Bill Keating
Communion Minister: Tony McDonald

Church Cleaning:

OLHC: Tony and Ena Bruty
Learmonth:

Counters: Chris and Trish Pearce

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: \$ 788
2nd Collection - Parish
Envelopes: \$ 237
Loose \$ 651
Project Compassion \$ 677

Mass Times this week

No Masses this week

Recent Deaths

Elsie Bainbridge,
Patrick McDonald
(brother of Tony, Brendan and Donald)



Ed Browne

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