

## What's On this week

**Thurs:** Mass At Kellaston 11:00 am  
Graduation Mass 6:30 pm

### Liturgies this Week

**Tuesday** ..... 5:00 pm  
**Wednesday** ..... 10:00 am  
**Thursday** ..... 11:00 am  
    Graduation Mass 6:30 pm  
**Friday** ..... 10:00 am

### Collections, Thank you

Presbytery: .....1st \$ 786  
Parish: 2nd Collection  
Envelopes: ..... \$ 844  
Loose: ..... \$ 120  
Direct Debit..... \$ 96  
Credit Card:..... \$ 1670

### Next Week's Readings

#### 4th Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7: 10-14  
Romans 1: 1-7  
Matthew 1: 18-24



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Financial Planning  
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11 Neerim Crescent,  
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**Pat Cashin Funerals**  
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moderate costs

## 17th/18th Dec- 4th Sunday of Advent

### Saturday OLHC 6.00pm

**Minister of the Word:** John Bourke  
**Sacristans:** Pauline & Tony Newman  
**Communion Ministers:** Joyce Jackson, Des Lloyd,  
Pauline Newman, Pat Dillon,  
Bev Hayward  
**Leader of Song:** Corrie Harbour

### Sunday OLHC 10.00am

**Ministers of the Word:** Mario Cordioli  
**Sacristans:** Deanna & Peter Osman  
**Communion Ministers:** Judith Potter, Sue Searls Tony  
Bruty, + 2 volunteers.  
**Leader of Song:** Vin Dillon  
**Counters:** Brendan Curran ,Geoff & Trish  
Doery

### 8.30am Mass at the Rural Communities

**This weekend - Learmonth**  
**Minister of the Word:** Fon Ryan  
**Communion Minister:** Kerryn Gallagher  
**Next weekend - Waubra**  
**Minister of the Word:** Margaret McDonald  
**Communion Minister:** Clare Mullane  
**Church Cleaning:**  
**Learmonth:** Bev Hayward  
**Waubra:** Phyllis and Pat Bourke  
**OLHC:** Maxine Rousch, Leonie Hogan  
Catherine Clifford,

# Our Lady Help of Christians

**Communities of Learmonth, Lexton,  
Miner's Rest, Waubra, Wendouree.**

480A Gillies Street, PO Box 192 Wendouree 3355  
Tel: 5339 2302 Fax: 5339 2303

[wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au) website [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)



## 3rd Sunday of Advent (A) 11th December 2016

### Focus on the Scripture

Half way through Advent we pause for a moment to celebrate Gaudete Sunday, a Sunday for rejoicing. Isaiah paints a picture of regeneration. The desert that once seemed to be dead is now bursting with life; eyes that lacked sight, ears incapable of capturing and holding sound, limbs without strength, and tongues devoid of speech are all given new life. There will be no death in that age of fulfilment, no limitations, no mourning. As we move deeper and deeper into the reality of God's presence in our midst, we will discover the meaning of true fulfilment.

John the Baptist is a standard for judging the privilege of entering here and now, the kingdom of heaven. He was the herald of the coming of Jesus, the one who prepared for him, but John himself died before the death and resurrection of Jesus opened the flood gates of the eschatological tide. By comparison, even the least in the kingdom of God is far greater than this prophetic herald. John also serves as a model of patience in suffering. His circumstances teach us that moving toward eschatological fulfilment is not without cost.



Just as Matthew presents us with the example of John the Baptist, so James describes the patience required of those who await the age of fulfilment. That age of fulfilment will dawn in its time; all we can do is discharge our responsibilities regardless of how demanding they might be, and wait for that day patiently, convinced that it will come in God's due time.  
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**Parish Priest:** Fr. Peter Sherman 5339 2302 **Exodus Community:** 8 Primrose St  
**Parish Office:** Maree Roache 5339 2302 5338 2118  
Wednesday- Friday 9-1pm **Gentle Dove Prayer Line:**  
**Parish School:** Co-Principal: Paddy Ryan Val 0412 840 296  
Leigh Bradshaw 5339 4726 **Baptism:** Parish Office  
**Parish Centre:** Bookings: 0439 106 399 **Funeral Ministry:** Margaret White  
5339 2003

**Responsorial Psalm:** Lord, come and save us.

**Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! The spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

**Parish Council Update:** Following last week's announcement of Fr Peter's appointment to St Alipius Parish commencing on late January 2017, the Parish Pastoral Council will hold an extraordinary meeting this Tuesday regarding the appointment of a replacement Parish Priest for OLHC, to ensure that the needs of our parish are met in a timely manner.

**Carols in the Cathedral:** A festival of Readings and Carols on Friday 23rd December at 7:30 pm. Local choirs, bands and guest artists.

**Exodus Community:**

- \* The Exodus Community is looking for a volunteer to keep its books for 12 months in 2017. If you are interested please contact Fr Frank on 5338 2118
- \* On Christmas Eve the Exodus Players will be doing a dramatic presentation during Mass. If you wish to be part of this, please contact Fr Frank on 5338 2118. Open to children (Grades 5 and over), teenagers and adults. Three rehearsals in December

**Christmas Lunch:** OLHC Christmas Lunch is an annual event hosted by this parish. Volunteers are required to co-ordinate the various preparation tasks. Sign-up sheets will be available next week. Bookings for Lunch will open as from December 1st. Ph 0419 975 914.

# HISTORICAL CONTEXT

## Least and Greatest

*Jesus declares that the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater even than John whom he has just finishing praising as greatest of all men. It is an indication that in the kingdom, things are not as they are on earth. The blind, lame, deaf, poor and lepers that Jesus named earlier would have been seen as the very lowest of society. Their afflictions were seen as punishments from God and so it was assumed that they, or their parents, had done something to deserve this punishment. Jesus rejects this interpretation and shows these people to be the most open to responding to his message.*



## Christmas Mass Times for OLHC Parish

**24th Christmas Eve:**

- 6 pm at OLHC
- 8 pm at Learmonth
- 9 pm at OLHC

**25th Christmas Morning:**

- 9 am at OLHC
- 9 am Waubra

Apologies—we unable to have a

**Singing Practice for Advent and Christmas Celebrations:**

Tuesday December 13th at 7:30—8:30 pm

**Rotary Raffle Tickets:** Please return to ticket butts and money asap. Proceeds from the parish ticket sales supports Parish projects.

**Rural Communities Christmas Break-Up Luncheon.** At Quoin Hill Winery, Waubra on Sunday 11th December. To book please phone Anne (5343 6236). All Welcome.

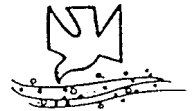
**St Vincent de Paul Christmas Cards and Calendars:** Now on sale. Packets of 5 cards = \$4. Packets of 8 cards = \$6. Columban calendars = \$9.

**Assistance required:** Volunteers to assist with the cleaning of the church are required. All equipment supplied. The roster is for two weeks at a time. If you are available to assist please contact Helen Rieniets (5339 2820) or the Parish Office. (5339 2302)

**Making a Scene at Christmas:** St Patrick's Hall, December 15-18th See poster in the Church foyer.

**Baptism:** Jaxon Leigh Darrigan, son of Louie and Laura is welcomed into the Church through the sacrament of Baptism this weekend.

## BAPTISMS



**Advent : Mass of Anointing:**

Parishioners wishing to prepare for Christmas through the celebration of Anointing are invited to gather on Wednesday 14th December at 10:00 am for Eucharist, Anointing and Morning Tea. All Welcome. Can you assist with bringing someone? Please contact the parish office.

**Kellaston:** Mass will be celebrated at Kellaston on Thursday at 11 am. All welcome.

**Thankyou** to the volunteers who have been weeding, mowing, trimming dead-heading roses. Thank you also to the volunteer who has scrubbed the pathways to the church. The surrounds of the church are looking lovely.

**Recent Deaths:** Trevor Jeffreys

**Anniversaries:** Robert (Bob) Davis