

**ROSTERS**

We thank you for the wonderful works you do!



**LITURGY for 31 December/1 January**

**6pm** Welcomers: D White, M Brown Gifts: White Family Readers: P McKimmie, N McLaren  
 Ministers: G McMeel, M Mills, F Moloney, J Moorfield, M Page, S Reimert  
**9am** Welcomers: C Morriss, J O'Grady Gifts: P&M Glynn Readers: J Fish, P Franc  
 Ministers: T Davey, A Jubb, F Lamb

**CHURCH CLEANING:**

**Week commencing**

25 December D&D  
 1 January Group 4: J O'Grady, J Hales, R&M Greene, T Woolley, M&J McLean

**COUNTING TEAMS:**

25 December Team 9: Peter & Geraldine Kenna, Kevin Perera  
 1 January Team 10: Nybyiah & Darren Cross

**LAWN MOWING:** For fortnight 18 December Group 3: Peter Flynn, Don Porter

**COMMUNION TO LYNDPOCH:** 1 January: Margaret Dunne, Peter Flynn



**Making Connections:** Give nourishment to others this week—not just food but a sense of their value to you.

**Marriage Tip:** Sometimes it can be frightening to embark upon a big change in life – a birth, a death, changing a job, or retirement. Call to mind a fear from the past or present. Share it with your beloved, and trust it will be kept safe.

**Daily Prayer:** In this most gentle dawn, O good and most gracious God, we have hastened to behold the wonder that has taken place, for the goodness and loving kindness of our Savior has appeared. Give us words inspired enough to make known the mercy that has touched our lives, deeds loving enough to bear witness to the treasure you have bestowed, and hearts simple enough to ponder the mystery of your gracious and abiding love.

**A Vocation View:** Vocations are born in the family. The priests, sisters and brothers of tomorrow are being born in our local hospitals and playing in our own backyards.

Pope's Prayer Intentions for December

**Universal: End to Child-Soldiers**

That the scandal of child-soldiers may be eliminated the world over.

**Evangelization: Europe**

That the people of Europe may rediscover the beauty, goodness, and truth of the Gospel which gives joy and hope to life.

**PARISH PRAYER:** Loving God, **Good Shepherd** to us all, Gather us and form us into a welcoming parish **family**. Touch our hearts with your love so that we, in turn, may reach out to love one another, in a **neighborly** community. **Our Lady Help of Christians**, guide us as we seek to do Christ's will. Bless us in service, strengthen us in support of each other, and unite us as we grow in **faith & love**, to be a **welcoming**, caring Parish **community**. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. Saints Carthage and Mary MacKillop, pray for our Parish family.

*"Spread light this Christmas from here...to the places others do not reach."*

*"Hope is being able to see that there is LIGHT despite all the darkness."* -D. Tutu

*"Our lives are an Advent, a time of waiting, listening and hoping, a time of openness to the unimaginable gift of God."* -Maria Boulding osb.

*"Life with Christ is a wonderful adventure"* St John Paul II

**Parishioners Email Addresses** To help the efficient circulation of Parish Rosters, please send your name and email address to [olhcwbl@bigpond.net.au](mailto:olhcwbl@bigpond.net.au)

*"Go in peace glorifying the Lord by your life."*



*Our Lady Help of Christians Parish  
 East Warrnambool - Allansford  
 'A Star in the East'*



**PARISH BULLETIN**

**"The Nativity of the Lord" Christmas December 2016**

P.P.: Fr Lawrence O'Toole - Phone 5561 1533

[olhcwbl@bigpond.net.au](mailto:olhcwbl@bigpond.net.au) [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)

OLHC Primary School: Eugene Dalton - Phone 5562 5559

[www.olhcwarrnambool.catholic.edu.au](http://www.olhcwarrnambool.catholic.edu.au)

Facebook: *Our Lady help of Christians Parish*

Emmanuel College: Peter Morgan - Phone 5560 0888

St. Carthage's Church—Grauers Rd, Allansford

**"PEACE TO ALL WHO ENTER HERE"**

*"I AM THE WAY,  
 THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE"  
 JN 14, 18.*

**Recent Deaths:** Kathleen Beattie, Dario Valenke, Sister Myrene Erdman IBUM, Fr. Sean O'Connell

**Anniversaries:** Nancy Ryan, Robert Roache, Ken McLean, Michael Harrington, Les Ryan, Frs. Glennen, Bushell and Tim McCarthy, Kevin McClusky, Roo Smith, Kitty Smith, Bill Brittain, Annie Chapman, Brian Parsons, Pat Bourke, Nance Kelly, Jack Hayes, Joe Martin

**Mass Times:** Tuesday 10.00am (St John)  
 Wednesday 9.30am (The Holy Innocents) (Ken McLean RIP)  
 Thursday 9.30am (Our Deceased Family and Friends)  
 Friday 9.30am (The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph)  
 (Rosary 20 minutes before weekday Masses)

<b>THE LORD'S DAY</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>NEW YEARS DAY</b>
<b>MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD</b>	<b>Sunday Allansford</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	
		<b>10.30am</b>	

**The Word of God:** This Week: Is 9: 1-7, Titl 2: 11-14, Lk 2: 1-14  
 Next Week: Nm 6: 22-27, Gal 4: 4-7, Lk 2: 16-21

**Sacraments: Baptisms and Marriages** by Appointment Please phone 5561 1533  
 Reconciliation—Friday 10.00am, St Pius Saturday 10.20am



*White is the colour of rejoicing*

**Welcome Prayer**

Lord, our God, source of all life, you reveal yourself in the depths of our being drawing us to share in your life and love. Bless each of us as we respond to your Spirit's invitation to open wide the doors to Christ. Make the doors of our hearts, our homes, and communities wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship, narrow enough to shut out envy, prejudice and pride. Let us hasten to welcome the stranger, and so welcome your Son. We make this prayer in his name, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen



**Christmas**

For unto us is born this day a Savior! In response to so great a love, only the gift of my whole self will do. You have given us Yourself, dear Lord; in love and thanksgiving, I commit myself afresh to You.

**Holy Family**

Joseph's obedience to God was not a one-time thing. His attention to the angel's warning kept Jesus from being murdered by Herod and led to the fulfillment of the prophecy that the Messiah would be Nazorean. Fidelity to God's will assures the best use of my talents, too!

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** (Keep for Daily Prayer)



**Today, today a Saviour has been born; a Saviour has been born to us. He is Christ the Lord, Christ the Lord, Jesus Christ the Lord.**

O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth. O sing to the Lord, bless his name. **R**

Proclaim his help day by day, tell among the nations his glory and his wonders among all the peoples. **R**

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, let the sea and all within it thunder praise, let the land and all it bears rejoice, all the trees of the wood shout for joy at the presence of the Lord for he comes, he comes to rule the earth. **R**

With justice he will rule the world, he will judge the peoples with his truth. **R**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

I bring you news of great joy, a Saviour is born of a Virgin. Come you nations and adore Christ the Lord.

**HYMNS: (From the Christmas Book)**

Entrance	18	O Come All Ye Faithful
Gifts	19	O Holy Night
Communion	20	Unto Us a Child Is Born
	21	While Shepherds Watched
	22	Silent Night
	23	Angels We Have Heard
Recessional	24	We Three Kings
	25	Child of Mercy

**Mystery Of Faith**  
 When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.



**WASTING TIME WITH GOD:**

"Friendships need space to develop and grow strong. Friends must waste time together. It is also thus in prayer. Prayer is making friends with God and he with us. Prayer is trying to focus on the mind of God, and to admit him into our hearts. Prayer is wasting time with God. Prayer needs space to develop and grow strong". - Cardinal Basil Hume.

**The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)**

"And the Word became flesh" JOHN 1:14  
 Jesus is God's ultimate gift of love to us. The countless other blessings that God showers upon us are nothing compared to the gift of His only Son. The only appropriate way for us to respond to such generous love is with our own generous love. When we dedicate our lives to sharing all the gifts God has placed in our hands, the peace of Christ truly will control our hearts and we will know Christmas every day.

**Australian Sainthood: Sr. Mary Glowrey.** Doctor and humanitarian Sr. Mary Glowrey was exhumed from her grave in Bangalore, India, this week, her body has been returned to Guntur, where she carried out most of her work with India's poorest before her death 60 years ago. Sr. Mary graduated from the University of Melbourne as a Doctor in 1910. As an undergraduate she served the marginalized and vulnerable, visiting slums in Fitzroy, Collingwood, and Richmond to care for women and their babies. The Church started the process for Sr. Mary Glowrey's sainthood three years ago. The legacy of her efforts from 1920 to 1956 live on. Mary left her thriving medical career in Victoria in 1920 to join the Congregation of the Society of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, prompted into mission work after reading about the appalling death rate of babies in India. She received a special dispensation from Pope Pius XI to practice medicine to become the first nun-doctor missionary.



*"May you and yours experience the blessings of Christmas: peace, love, hope." - Father Lawrie and the Parish Coordinating Team*

**Sacraments for Children 2017**

**Reconciliation** (Grade 2) - March 15 & 16      **Confirmation** (Grade 3) - June 3 & 4  
**First Holy Communion** (Grade 4) - September 9 & 10      Enquiries—5561 1533

**PARISH LIFE—LIFE TO THE FULL**

**OLHC Community acknowledges and respects the traditional custodians of this land—the Gunditjmara People and other tribes.**

**WELCOME TO OLHC & ST. CARTHAGE** In imitation of Jesus Christ, we welcome all people to worship and celebrate God's all-inclusive love with us. Whoever you are, wherever you are in your life, we thank you for choosing to be here with us today.

**Our Parish Vision** "Bringing People together in an atmosphere that is welcoming, nurturing and challenges all to share in the Mystery of God's Love."

**Spend December with the Saints** "Throw wide the gate of your heart and stand before the sun of everlasting light." (St Ambrose—7th Dec)

"Set pools of silence in this thirsty land." (James McAuley)

The Parish has been gifted with a **Defibrillator**. We invite parishioners who would be willing to learn how to use it.

**Columban Calendars** are for sale by the **St Vincent de Paul Society**.

**Mass at Allansford** on New Year's Day 10.30am.

**Mary MacKillop Penola Centre** S.A. 08 87372092, visitors welcome.

**St John's School Dennington** will benefit from the Woodford Race Meeting on Tuesday.

**Child Safety Standards:**

New standards will be introduced in Victoria from January 1st 2017 for all organizations in Victoria that provide services to children.

As a Parish community we wish to provide a supportive, enriching and safe environment for our children. The Parish Coordinating Team are ensuring all necessary policies and procedures are in place. As part of the standards we have displayed in the foyer the Child Safety Poster and the Commitment Statement of Child Safety and Code of Conduct. More information will be shared in the coming weeks. (Dion Bartlett—Parish Safeguarding Officer)

"Let us pray for those who are sick. We remember them in our Masses"

"From Mary we learn to surrender to God's will in all things. From Mary, we learn to trust even when all hope seems gone."

- St John Paul II

"When Our Savior came to earth God blessed this land" (Origen)

**Thanksgiving and Eucharist**

Eucharist means **thanksgiving**. In the ancient dialogue between priest and people that introduces the Eucharist (thanksgiving) prayer, the priest says "let us give **thanks** to the Lord, our God." The people respond "it is right and just."

Why must we discharge this obligation at Mass rather than in the comfort of our own homes? Because our sacrifice of **thanksgiving** is weak and insufficient on its own. There was only One who has ever offered perfect worship to the Father, and His sacrifice is made present again at every Eucharist. Our inadequate "**thanks**" is absorbed into the perfect sacrifice of praise offered by the Son much like the drop of insipid water the priest puts in the chalice is absorbed into the rich wine that becomes Christ's blood.

But thanksgiving can't be limited to Sunday Eucharist. We are called to develop a lifestyle of thanksgiving. We're called to become a Eucharistic people. (Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio)

*"It is Christmas every time we allow Jesus to love others through us."*

(Saint Mother Teresa)