

## What's On this week

### Sunday January 1st

Invitation to the Exodus Annual  
New Year's Day BBQ  
12 noon, 8 Primrose St.  
No alcohol allowed.

### Liturgies this Week

**Tuesday** ..... 5.00 pm  
**Wednesday** ..... 10.00 am  
**Thursday** ..... 10.00 am  
**Friday** ..... 10.00 am

### Collections, Thank you

Presbytery: .....1st \$1,598  
Parish: 2nd Collection  
Envelopes: ..... \$1,118  
Loose: ..... \$ 794  
Direct Debit ..... \$ 565  
Bishop's Appeal ..... \$1,088

### Next Week's Readings

Isaiah 60:1-6  
Ephesians 3:203, 5-6  
Matthew 2:1-12

## 7/8 January 2017, EPIPHANY

### Saturday OLHC 6.00pm

**Minister of the Word:** Darryl Clark  
**Sacristans:** Kaye Stringer  
**Communion Ministers:** Val & John Bourke, Lia Yu,  
Pauline Newman, Des Lloyd  
**Leader of Song:** Corrie Harbour, Michael Goss

### Sunday OLHC 10.00am

**Ministers of the Word:** Eileen Franklin  
**Sacristans:** Geoff & Marg McLean  
**Communion Ministers:** Margaret White, Frank Hogan,  
Pauline Howard, + 2 volunteers  
**Leader of Song:** Veronica Stott  
**Counters:** Kaye Stringer, Kath Leonard

### 8.30am Mass at the Rural Communities

**This weekend - Waubra**  
**Minister of the Word:** volunteer  
**Communion Minister:** volunteer  
**Next weekend - Learmonth**  
**Minister of the Word:** volunteer  
**Communion Minister:** volunteer

### Church Cleaning:

**Learmonth:** Bev Hayward  
**Waubra:** Ann and Damien Ferguson  
**OLHC:** Helen Rieniets, Maria Nicania Esperas



# 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)

**1 Jan 2017: Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God  
- The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord**

### Focus on the Scripture

Liturgically, the Octave of Christmas commemorates: the Solemnity of the Mother of God; the day designated for prayers for global peace; and the beginning of the New Year. Though the shepherds gain insight into the presence of God by seeing this holy family, it is Mary who holds all these things in her heart. She is the one who ponders the significance of these mysterious events. Mary becomes for Christians an inspiration of contemplation and reflection. She inspires us to consider deeply the significance of events, lest we go blandly through life without meaning or direction. She inspires us to fidelity to the practices of our faith, practices which are the disciplines of soul that lead the community to a clearer focus on God's presence in human affairs.

The theme of peace appears today on many levels. Its meaning, 'fullness of life', bursts forth in every one of the readings. The ancient prayer or blessing of peace is an appropriate start for the New Year. It resonates well with the angels' wish for people of good will. Peace is also our inheritance in Christ. As adopted children of God, we have been given the freedom to live in a godly manner, calling God our Abba. Right relationships in the covenant activity of God are the pathways of peace. The beginning of a New Year is a good time to reach out to others and to pray for God's blessing of peace for each dimension of human encounter.

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Phone: 53 335519

**Ballarat Meat Co.**  
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**Parish Priest:** Fr. Peter Sherman 5339 2302  
**Parish Office:** Maree Roache 5339 2302  
Wednesday- Friday 9-1pm  
**Parish School:** Co-Principal: Paddy Ryan  
Leigh Bradshaw 5339 4726  
**Parish Centre:** Bookings: 0439 106 399  
**Exodus Community:** 8 Primrose St  
5338 2118  
**Gentle Dove Prayer Line:**  
Val 0412 840 296  
**Baptism:** Parish Office  
**Funeral Ministry:** Margaret White  
5339 2003

**Responsorial Psalm:** May God bless us in his mercy.

**Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son. Alleluia!

### A New Year's Prayer

May God make your year  
a happy one!

Not by shielding you  
from all sorrows and pain,  
but by strengthening you  
to bear it, as it comes;

Not by making your path easy,  
but by making you sturdy  
to travel any path;

Not by taking hardships from you,  
but by taking fear from your heart;

Not by granting you unbroken  
sunshine, but by keeping your face  
bright, even in the shadows;

Not by making your life always  
pleasant, but by showing you when  
people and their causes  
need you most,

and by making you anxious  
to be there to help.

God's love, peace, hope and joy  
to you for the year ahead.

Anonymous.

### Prayer for our Parish:

Gracious and loving God.  
We pray that you will gift us  
with a priest who will live amongst us  
to pray, to preach, to minister,  
to console, to forgive and to  
share with us the

Body and Blood of Christ.  
May we celebrate with him the  
love and care of Jesus  
and grow in our faith.

With our love and prayers.

Amen.

### Extract from Pope Francis message of peace for World Peace Day 2017

"All of us want peace.

Many people build it day by day  
through small gestures and acts;  
many of them are suffering, yet  
patiently persevere in their efforts to  
be peacemakers".[24]

In 2017, may we dedicate ourselves  
prayerfully and actively to banishing  
violence from our hearts, words and  
deeds, and to becoming nonviolent  
people and to building nonviolent  
communities that care for our  
common home. "Nothing is  
impossible if we turn to God in pray-  
er. Everyone can be an artisan of  
peace".[25]

### Franciscus

*From the Vatican, 8 December 2016*

### Congratulations Judith!



Congratulations to  
Judith Potter,  
Principal Loreto  
College, Ballarat  
upon receipt of the  
a State Fellowship

Award from the Australian Council  
of Education Leaders for your  
outstanding contribution over a  
period of time to the improvement  
of student and organisational  
outcome.



### Community Farewell to Fr Peter

January 8th - Rural Communities

January 14/15 - Wendouree communities

Please take these opportunities to thank Fr. Peter  
for his service is our community.

### Lay Pastoral Ministry Program - start in 2017!

The Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program offers low-cost  
opportunities for online study and formation for lay workers, both employees  
and volunteers. Details on the diocesan website (*link to Program on lower  
front page*) email: [amanda.smith@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:amanda.smith@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or phone  
5337 7125. Please note: the Pastoral Ministry Office reopens on 10th January.



### Very Special Kids

are currently seeking volunteers to support families in the Ballarat  
area. If you wish to know more about this support service more  
information can be accessed from <http://www.vsk.org.au/> or  
refer to the Wendouree parish notice board.

### Christmas Lunch

I was lucky enough to be one of the people at your Christmas meal today.  
May I take this opportunity to thank you sincerely for serving up a wonderful  
meal. Your helpers couldn't do enough for everyone. They were marvellous.  
The main course was absolutely perfect. Five vegetables, two different  
meats, gravy and apple sauce. Superb. And the plum pudding was one of  
the best I have ever eaten. It was fantastic. I savoured it as I ate it. And  
such a generous serve. Once again.....thank you so much.....you made my  
Christmas very special. A guest.

**Thank you** to the volunteers and all who made donations for this annual  
event.

### Newsletter sent by Email

If you wish to receive your newsletter by email please advise the parish office  
on [wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au) If for some reason during a recent  
upgrade, you email address has dropped off and you wish to continue to  
receive by email please contact the office so that we can correct this  
omission.