



Parishes of St Columba's and Our Lady Help of Christians

Communities of Ballarat North, Learmonth, Lexton, Miners Rest, Waubra, Wendouree



306 Gregory St, Ballarat North **Phone:** 5331 7131

Email: ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Parish Web: ballarat.catholic.org.au (Select parish)

School Web: www.scballarat.catholic.edu.au

480a Gillies Street, P O Box 192 Wendouree **Phone:** 5339 2302

Email: wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Parish Web: ballarat.catholic.org.au (Select parish)

School Web: www.olhcwendouree.catholic.edu.au

Parish Priest: Fr Marcello Colasante

Visiting Priest: Fr Barry Ryan

Staff at St Columba's

Pastoral Associate: Judith O'Sullivan

Parish Secretary: Ruth Marquand

Wed 9- 1.30pm, Thurs & Fri 9-2.30pm

Staff at Wendouree

Parish Co-ordinator: Maree Roache
Wed-Friday 9:00am—1:00pm

Exodus Community: 5338 2118

Mass times: St Columba's

Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm

Sunday: 10:00 am

Wednesday: 9:30 am

Mass times: Wendouree

Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm

Sunday: 8:30 am Rural

10:00 am OLHC

Tuesday: 5.00pm

Wednesday: 10.00am

Thursday: 11.00 am Kelaston

Friday: 10.00 am



Readings for next weekend:

Wdm 12:13, 16-19

Ps 85(86):5-6, 9-10, 15-16

Rom 8: 26-27 Mt 13: 24-43

16th July, 2017. 15th Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)

The readings for this Sunday call us to self-examination. The gospel describes various levels of receptivity, the willingness to allow ourselves to receive from another, to be influenced by another, perhaps even to be transformed. The more independent we are, the less likely we will be open to others and, consequently, less receptive to their ideas. By definition disciples are receptive to the one they follow. To be a disciple of Jesus requires receptivity, so it is important that we scrutinise ourselves to discover the extent to which we are open. To what should we be receptive? To the words of Scripture, the words of the liturgy, the words of the sacraments, the living tradition of the community. God's word is sown in many forms and under many guises. It makes little difference who sows the seed. How will we receive it?

Besides the word of God, the readings speak of the world of God. The people of biblical times were aware of the revelation of God in and through the natural world. Isaiah teaches about the effectiveness of the word of God through the metaphor of rain. The psalmist uses the natural world to describe God's work of salvation. Paul claims that eschatological fulfilment will include all of creation. Finally, Jesus' parables are rooted in stories about nature. We cannot afford to close our eyes to the needs of the natural world, or stop our ears to the cries of the earth, or harden our hearts to the world of which we are a part, for the word of God will accomplish the end for which God sent it.



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Responsorial Psalm: The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live for ever. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Josephine Favaloro, Jill Doran,

Anniversaries: We remember: Mena & Bill Heagney, Keith Davies

We pray: for the sick of our Parishes especially Blake Dridan (pupil at St Columba's School), Lesley Bigarelli

ST COLUMBA'S PARISH NEWS

Welcome—a warm welcome to Fr Robert McCulloch SSC who will be celebrating both Masses at St Columba's this weekend.

Thank you—We extend a warm and heart filled thank you to two long serving parishioners who have recently stepped down from their ministries after many years of service. Michael Burke from the Finance Committee and Diane Cowie from the RCIA. Thank you to both of you for all you have done for the parishioners of St Columba's in the past 20 years. We wish you every blessing for the future.

Children's Newsletter We now have a separate newsletter for our children. There is some activities and colouring for them and some questions for parents to help with discussion. We are hoping to make this a regular feature so we would appreciate your feedback.

Opening of the New offices We are now in the new offices behind the Church, please call in and visit. There will be a blessing and an opportunity to walk through after the 10am Mass on Sunday 23 July.

National Day of Action Close the Camps. Bring them here. Please join in an hours vigil to remember the 4th anniversary of the decision that people arriving by boat to seek asylum in Australia would be detained on Manus Island and Naru and never allowed to settle here. Both centres have been condemned by the UNHCR, UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, the Australian Human Rights Commission, Amnesty International and many other human rights organisation. **When:** Wednesday 19th July, **Where:** Queen Victoria Square (opposite the Ballarat Town Hall), **Time:** 5:00-6:00pm, **Bring a candle.** *Cath McDonald, Grandmothers Against Detention of Refugee Children Ballarat.*

Mid Winter Lunch will be held on Thursday 27th July at 12:30pm at the Bluebell Hotel in Howitt Street Wendouree. Senior meals \$17 for 2 courses or \$22 for 3 courses. Includes Turkey & Ham, roast vegies, plum pudding with custard for dessert. See flyer on notice board for more details. Please leave your name on the sheet in the foyer. Any enquiries please ring Judith in the office.

First Eucharist/First Reconciliation we will commence preparation for Grade 4 students in Term 4. For further information please contact Judith in the Parish Office.

Thanksgiving	<i>We thank you for your generous support</i>	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 705.95	
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$ 1776.00	Average for this financial year \$2324.33

THIS WEEKEND	SATURDAY 15th July	SUNDAY 16th July	What's on this week:
WELCOMER	Ruth Marquand	Helen Linane	What's on this week: Tuesday 18 July @ 6pm—Finance Committee Meeting in Parish Office meeting room Wednesday 19 July @ 9:30am—Mass in the Church Foyer. Wednesday 19th @ 7pm Links committee meeting in School board room
COMMENTATOR	Kathleen Keogh	Anne Rossiter	
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD	John Kennedy	Mandy Carroll	
SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD	Jennifer Adams	Gerard Macklin	
GIFTS	Kath Scanlon & Family	Maureen & Hans Van Der Ploeg	
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Tom Keogh, Jim Waight, Ann Lacey	Bruce Chapman, Rebecca Pitman, Carole Barr	
OVERHEADS	Volunteer please	Volunteer please	
SACRISTAN	Sullivan Sisters	Megan Bourke	

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS PARISH NEWS

Exodus Community: There is a basket for donations of canned, dried or packaged food stuffs to be collected by the members of the Exodus community. This basket is available in the church foyer. Donations will be gratefully accepted. Toiletries would be greatly appreciated.



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Raffle Tickets are available for the support of our Seminary. First prize: Travel Voucher to the value of \$15,000. Cost per ticket: \$10. Please contact Joyce Jackson.

First Communion for parishioners of OLHC parishes will commence with a parent information evening on Wednesday, August 16th at 7:00 pm in the parish Meeting Room. OLHC First Communion dates are set for Saturday, September 17th at 6:00 pm and Sunday September 23rd at 10:00 am. ,



Nazareth House Coffee Party on Friday 28th July commencing at 1:30 pm. Devonshire Tea, Entrance Prizes, Fancy Good & Produce Stall, Spinning Wheel.

Funeral Ministry Team meets this Wednesday 19th July at 10:30 am in the Parish Office. Anyone who may be interested in this vital ministry is welcome to attend.

Stewardship Update: For the year 1 July 2016—30 June 2017 the contributions received using envelopes, direct debit, credit card and loose money was \$ 78,397 which ensures that we meet all our commitments. Well done!

Updated **Church Cleaning Rosters** are available in the sacristy. Please collect for your information.

Parish Office: Maree will be on annual Holidays for the next 3 weeks. Information can be sent via email, or phone messages to the parish will be collected regularly. In emergency, **please contact Fr Marcello on 5332 4324.**

Collections:	<i>We thank you for your generous support</i>
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 495.55
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish)	\$ 673.00
Direct Debit	\$ 410.00
Loose Money	\$ 15.55

NEXT WEEKEND	6pm	10:00 am	What's on this week
LEADER of SONG	Vin Dillon	Margaret White	Next Week: Funeral Ministry team Wednesday 19th at 10.30am
MINISTER of the WORD	Jan Godfrey	Marie McMillan	
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Pauline Newman, Pat Dillon, Trish Pearce, John Kirby + 1 volunteer	Peter Briody, Christine Richardson, Judith Potter+ 2 volunteers	
SACRISTAN	Pauline Howard	Peter & Deanna Osman	
COUNTERS		Des Lloyd, John Holdsworth	
CHURCH CLEANING	Tony & Ena Bruty		
Rural Communities 8:30 am	This Weekend - Waubra	Next Weekend—Learmonth	
Minister of Word:	Kerryn Gallagher	Bill Keating	
Minister of Eucharist :	Margaret McDonald	Clare Mullane	
Church Cleaning:	Sharon & Marty Moran	Bev Hayward	

BALLARAT NEWS

Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide Proposals In April this year, the bishops of Victoria published a pastoral letter in response to proposals to introduce legislation allowing euthanasia and assisted suicide. As a follow-up to that letter, a group of lay people has prepared a flyer encouraging people to write to parliamentarians and express their opposition to such legislation. Copies of the flyer have been made available for your consideration. You are invited to write to parliamentarians as suggested.



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BALLARAT FOUNDATION In June the foundation held its 31st Annual General Meeting, so it is timely to remind parishioners of the purpose of the Foundation and to update the diocese on the activities of the Foundation during 2016.

The Foundation was established in 1986 to raise funds to assist the Bishop fund the pastoral needs of the Diocese of Ballarat. Over the last twenty years in particular there has been a shift in the demographics of our diocese with declining population in many rural areas, population growth in regional towns, and a continuing decrease in mass attendance. Our diocese comprises 51 Parishes with 109 church communities within those Parishes. We are faced therefore with an increasing challenge to provide services to people within our Diocese. The Foundation is in its 32nd year of assisting the Bishop in providing these services.

The objectives of the Foundation are:

to financially assist the Diocese in its mission to grow Christ's kingdom here on earth; to financially assist the charitable works of the Diocese; and to provide for relief, support and comfort of those suffering from disadvantage within the Diocese, inter alia from unemployment, low income, age, physical or mental disability, language difficulties or social or economic isolation.

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