

## BALLARAT NEWS

**Spiritual Care Program :** A second program for parishioners engaged in pastoral ministry in its many expressions in our parishes is being offered soon. Bethany Pennington will facilitate this program comprising five sessions on the following dates – September 20<sup>th</sup>, October 4<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, November 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Each of these sessions will be held in the MacKillop and Glowry rooms in the smaller hall at the Cathedral. Parishioners engaged in Funeral ministry, Visiting, Communion to those at home or in care are welcome to participate. Please register with Jacinta in the Cathedral Parish Office 5331 2933, by Friday September 15<sup>th</sup>.

### Australian Catholic Youth Festival - Registrations still open!!

Festival registrations are open until September 22 for Groups and under-18s. Over-18 registrations will stay open until Festival capacity is reached. Information and links on [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) / Youth and Young Adult pages or contact Amanda on 0427 748 867 or [youth@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:youth@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

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## 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](mailto:ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

Parish Web: [ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://ballarat.catholic.org.au) (Select parish)

School Web: [www.scballarat.catholic.edu.au](http://www.scballarat.catholic.edu.au)

Presbytery: Phone 5332 4324

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

Email: [wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

Parish Web: [ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://ballarat.catholic.org.au) (Select parish)

School Web: [www.olhcwendouree.catholic.edu.au](http://www.olhcwendouree.catholic.edu.au)

School Phone: 5339 4726

### 3rd September 2017. 22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)

#### Focus on the Scriptures

The first part of today's gospel story presents Peter, who has just been declared the foundation rock of the church and given the "keys" of the kingdom, refusing to accept that Jesus' mission will involve suffering, even death. The reader is confronted in this story with the expansive rock face at Caesarea Philippi, and invited to consider the friable properties of the seemingly indestructible rock. Even rocks can be reduced to sand or gravel and a humbler mode of being.

For all its seriousness, there is something quite comical about this story as it unfolds. Peter actually censures or reprimands Jesus. Jesus then sets him straight in no uncertain terms. The "rock" becomes the leader of the opposition, a serious obstacle to God's purposes, a stumbling block. He is ordered back to the place where disciples properly belong, namely "behind" Jesus, "following" him. Matthew provides a striking contrast in this section of the gospel between Peter who "rebukes" Jesus and the Canaanite woman who respectfully and persistently implores Jesus to see from a new perspective. Peter receives a decisive rebuttal, while the woman's plea is heard and she herself is praised for her great faith.

Peter's impetuous outburst provides the trigger for Jesus to invite his disciples to think about what they really want. In Matthew's gospel, Jesus is the teacher and the disciples are the students who have accepted the invitation to follow him. That means living out in their lives the pattern of his life. If they really want to be his followers, then they have to embrace the pain involved in his relentless program of teaching and of healing the sick and broken hearted. They will also share the "glory". If they choose to put their own interests first, then they will surely lose themselves. It is ultimately a question of choosing life. Peter forgets this for a while and has to be reminded to be true to what he has previously professed. He is not very different from the rest of us. We all need to rethink our choices and to reorder our priorities from time to time if we want to find life. September 1 was the World Day of Prayer for Creation and many churches are celebrating September 1 to October 4 (Feast of St Francis of Assisi) as a Season of Creation. At a time when life on our planet is seriously endangered, we might attend more closely to the urgent gospel challenge of living in ways that help to sustain the life of the whole Earth community.

Veronica Lawson RSM



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

Thursday: 10:00am

Friday: 10:00am

#### Readings for next weekend:

Ez 33: 7-9 Ps 94: 1-2, 6-9

Romans 13: 8-10

Matthew 18: 15-20



**Responsorial Psalm:** My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, Alleluia. May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called. Alleluia.

**Recently Deceased: We commend to God:** Sime Lenkic, Jack Greig, Ryan Engel, David Kotek, Madeliene Carroll, John Van Derkley.

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Anne Nuttall, Cath McArdle

**We pray:** for the sick of our Parishes especially Blake Dridan (pupil at St Columba's School), Steve Molloy.

## ST COLUMBA'S PARISH NEWS

**First Eucharist** We congratulate the children who will receive their First Communion on Saturday night: Charlie Antonio, Taj Bowman, Danica Bridges, Declan Clark, Jett De Livera, Bela Gilchrist, Max Godbold, Freya Haynes, Baxter Horsburgh, Dellah Johnston, Savannah Kennedy, Max Mason, Emerson O'Gorman, Annabelle Pituch, Dathen Seneviratne, Luke Severino, Tess Tigchelaar, Lachlan Warland, Kayden Williams. The second group will receive their First Communion on Sunday 10th September.



**Happy Fathers Day** We wish all our Fathers, grandfathers and great grandfathers a very Blessed and Happy Fathers' Day

### **Ballarat Clergy Support Fund—Collection for Sick and Retired Priests**

The Ballarat Clergy Support Fund provides for retired priests who have spent a lifetime selflessly caring for others, and who deserve a happy and peaceful retirement. The Fund is currently supporting and caring for eighteen retired priests. Over the next few years a number of priests currently in parish ministry will be moving into retirement, and will also need to be supported by the fund.

This collection has raised nearly 1.8 million dollars since it began in 1991, including nearly \$60,000 last year. Along with the priests' own contribution of approximately \$37,000 per year, this annual collection has allowed the Fund to continue to support our sick and retired clergy. Please give as generously as you can, and help us continue 'caring for those who cared for us'. Special envelopes are available for this collection, which will be taken up today. You may also return your envelope next week. A credit card facility is available for your convenience, and contributions over \$2.00 are tax-deductible.

**Happy Birthday** the Parish sends Birthday blessings to Margaret Holmes who turns 90 today. Congratulations Margaret on reaching this wonderful milestone.



## OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS PARISH NEWS



**Baptism**— This weekend we welcome into the life of our Parish Xavier James Ryan, son of Ricky and Kymberly. May Xavier continue to grow in the love of God and family.

**Ballarat Clergy Support Fund.** This weekend there is a leaving collection for the Sick and Retired Priests of the Ballarat diocese. Your support will be appreciated.

**Happy Father's Day—September 3rd.** This weekend we honour all those who are fathers in our community, and those who accept the role of father figure to



**OLHC School:** Leigh Bradshaw has been appointed as Principal of OLHC school. The parish community congratulates Leigh and wish her well as she continues with the leadership of our school community.

**OLHC Parish Luncheon Get-together** on Wednesday 20th September at the Park Hotel Bistro at 12 noon. "All Welcome". For booking purposes please add your name to the list in the church foyer.

**Social Afternoon - Catholic Women's League.** On Wednesday September 6th at 2pm, Dianne Colbert will present "Children and the Media" in the small hall at St Pats Cathedral. Come along and here Dianne confront the issues that are being debated in Australian society today. Afternoon tea, stall and competition. Entry Free. All welcome.

**"Deësis: Prayer and Image" Exhibition:** This exhibition is dedicated to the role of icons as agents of intercession. Art Gallery of Ballarat until Sunday, September 10, 2017.

**First Communion:** OLHC First Communion dates are set for Saturday, September 17th at 6:00 pm and Sunday September 23rd at 10:00 am. Preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will also occur during this time. The second workshop to support children to prepare for this sacrament will be on Wednesday September 6th, with the Reconciliation ceremony on Wednesday, September 13th. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers.



**Corpus Christi College Annual Raffle Results for 2017.** 1st prize: Ticket # 3690—Brenda Beveridge, 2nd prize Ticket # 4322 - Bernard Jordan, 3rd prize Ticket # 2550 - Ron Stobas, 4th Prize Ticket # 2462 - Sisters of St Joseph of Cluny. Thank you to all who supported this fund raiser.

Thanksgiving	<i>We thank you for your generous support</i>	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$	839.55
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$	1817.00
Average for this financial year \$2126.20		

NEXT WEEKEND	SATURDAY 9th Sept	SUNDAY 10th Sept	<b>What's on this week:-</b> <b>Wed 6 Sept</b> — Social Afternoon— Catholic Women's League, 2pm in small hall at St Pat's Cathedral, Dianne Colbert will present 'Children & the Media' confronting the issues that are being debated in Australian society today. Afternoon tea, stall and competition, <b>entry free. All welcome.</b>  <b>Fri 8 Sept</b> —Holy Hour & Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament 7-8pm in the Church. All most welcome
WELCOMER	John Madigan Family	Dan & Mern Couatts	
COMMENTATOR	John van de Laar	Bruce Chapman	
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD	Maureen Mooney	Carmel King	
SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD	Kathleen Keogh	Mandy Carroll	
GIFTS	First Communion Children	Lorna Batty & Volunteer	
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Peter Marquand, Judith O'Sullivan, Shirley Edgar	Chris Haintz, Irene Monigatti, Kierce O'Loughlin	
OVERHEADS	Volunteer please	Sharon Debeer	
SACRISTAN	Volunteer please	Josie Crowe	

Collections:	<i>We thank you for your generous support</i>		
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$	537	Direct Debit \$ 385
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish)	\$	976	Year to date \$ 12,051
		Loose Money \$ 54	

NEXT WEEKEND	6 pm	10:00 am	What's on this week
LEADER of SONG	Vin Dillon	Veronica Stott	Wed 6th Reconciliation Workshop  Thurs 7th Baptism Meetings 10:00 am and 7:00 pm at Cathedral  <b>Next Week:</b>  Wed 13th 1st Reconciliation at 7:00 pm.
MINISTER of the WORD	Laureen Rhodes	Marie McMillan	
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Maxine Rousch, Pauline Newman, Pat Dillon, Trish Pearce + 1 volunteer	Val Bourke, Helen Rieniets, Margaret White + 2 volunteers	
SACRISTAN	John & Sue Calistro	Geoff & Marg McLean	
COUNTERS		Trish Pora, Catherine Clifford, Brian Radcliffe	
CHURCH CLEANING	Beth Clark, Margaret McLean		
<b>Rural Communities 8:30 am</b> This Weekend - <b>Waubra</b> Next Weekend— <b>Learmonth</b>			
Minister of Word:	Anne Dalton	Bill Keating	
Minister of Eucharist :	Kerryn Gallagher	Bev Hayward	
Church Cleaning:	Trish & Steve Coleman	Bev Hayward	