

## BALLARAT NEWS

**Mercy Connect Ballarat – Supporting refugee and asylum seeker students in local schools. Volunteer mentors needed.** Mercy Works is currently recruiting volunteers to support refugee and asylum seeker students, in Ballarat Schools, through their Mercy Connect Project. The volunteer commitment is for approximately 3 hours per week for 4 school terms. Experience working in an educational setting is preferred, - ongoing training and support. Provided. Initial training for new volunteers will be held in Feb. 2018. Contact Paulene Barton - Mercy Connect Project Coordinator on 0417 624 330 or email: [mercyconnectb@gmail.com](mailto:mercyconnectb@gmail.com).

**New Evangelisation—planting seeds through family and Parish** Catholic Diocese of Ballarat is delighted to host a workshop on the new evangelisation. Key note speaker Prof Thomas Groome. Workshop in Ballarat. OHLC Parish Centre 9am-12.30pm. Saturday 26th May 2018. Please register by 15/12/17 <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au>. See the noticeboard for further information.

**Peter Tobin FUNERALS**  
Address: 1251 Doveton Street North, Ballarat, 3350  
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0459546980

**Ed Browne Busy Bookkeeping**  
Phone 5364 2922  
[ballarat@busybookkeeping.com.au](mailto:ballarat@busybookkeeping.com.au)

**ADVERTISE  
HERE**

Open Direct to the Public  
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11 Neerim Crescent, Wendouree,  
Industrial Park Ph: 5339 3122.

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**Ballarat HOLDEN**  
Proudly supporting St Columba's Parish  
211 Gillies Street, Ballarat, VIC, 3350  
Phone: (03) 5339 9333  
Email: [info@ballaratholden.com.au](mailto:info@ballaratholden.com.au)  
[www.ballaratholden.com.au](http://www.ballaratholden.com.au)

**N.J. & A.M. HAINTZ Building Contractors**  
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Mobile: 0418 504 254

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Phone: 5331 4510  
Mobile: 0418 501 606

**BALLARAT TROPHIES & GIFTS**  
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Phone: (03) 5339 1166

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55 ALBERT ST SEBASTOPOL PH: 5335 9023

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BALLARAT 3350  
Ph: (03) 5331 2200

**Professionals ballarat**  
Address: 612 Sturt Street, Ballarat  
Phone: (03) 5333 2040  
[www.professionalsballarat.com.au](http://www.professionalsballarat.com.au)  
Email: [michael@professionalsballarat.com.au](mailto:michael@professionalsballarat.com.au)

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**Pat Cashin Funerals**  
Ballarat  
A.B.N. 28 007 228 737  
Address: 1114 Doveton Street North, Ballarat, 3350  
Phone: (03) 5333 3911  
All hours. Moderate cost.

**ACDF FUNERAL FUND**  
Prepaid funerals  
Eliminate family stress  
Details: Ph. 5337 7111

**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: 0417 168 716  
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

**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 & Fri 9-2pm, Thurs 9—1pm.  
**Staff at Wendouree**  
Parish Co-ordinator: Maree Roache  
Wed-Friday 9:00am—1:00pm  
**Exodus Community:** 5338 2118  
**Safeguarding Officers:**  
St Columba's: Peter Marquand  
OLHC: Maree Roache

**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  
Monday: 10:00 am Funeral  
Wednesday: 10:30 am Anointing  
Thursday: 10:00 am  
Friday 10:00 am

**Readings for next weekend:**  
Is 40: 1-5, 9-11  
PS 84: 9-14. R. v. 8  
2 Pt 3: 8-14  
Mk 1: 1-8

**3rd December, 2017 First Sunday of Advent**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

**Hope**  
Be watchful! Be alert!  
Mark 13:33

Our Lord portrays himself as the Master who goes away on a journey. It is certain that he will return, even if no-one in his household knows exactly when. That is our situation. What do we do in anticipation?

Our Lord, the Master, indicates we have a choice. We can close our eyes and enter into the world of dreams where we create our own fantasy futures, or we can stay awake and alert to do what Our Lord wants us to do: 'He left his servants in charge, giving to each his work.'

You and me – his servants – have a particular role or work in and for this phase of human history. A deep down intuition, prompted by the Holy Spirit, indicates what this is. We must be true to this assignment. We could take a moment to pray that, when the Lord returns, we may hear: 'Come, good and faithful servant, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world.'

© Fr Michael Tate

**Responsorial Psalm:** Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

**Recently Deceased: We commend to God:** Cornelia Johanna Van Raaphorst (mother of Corrie Harbour—funeral on Monday), Shirley Hanson (sister of Dorothy Keys)

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Bryan Fitzpatrick, Norah Sowter

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

## ST COLUMBA'S PARISH NEWS

**Parish Phone** At present we are having issues with Telstra regarding connection of the Parish telephone line to the Parish office. In the meantime please contact us on 0417 168 716.

**Advent** is the season of new beginnings. A new liturgical year begins on the First Sunday of Advent and it beckons to us with images of transformation and hope. It is the season of the impossible becoming possible. In the scriptures we read of the dry, barren wilderness bursting into bloom; of broken hearts healing; of a barren woman and a young virgin both conceiving children. It is the season of longing and light. Week by week, candles are lit on the Advent wreath signifying our longing for the light of Christ, as the time of his birth draws near. Yet Advent heralds more than Christ's birth. It paves our way toward celebrating Christ as God-with-us, God in human flesh. This is a profound mystery at the heart of our faith, and it is the cause of our joy at Christmas.



**Advent Reflection Booklets**—On sale now Advent Reflection Booklets for 2017 with new prayers and reflections appropriate for the upcoming season of Advent. They are an excellent resource to help you prepare for Christmas and a bargain at only \$4.00. On sale in the foyer this weekend and thereafter from the office.

**Anointing Mass** - Wednesday 13th December at 11am followed by a light luncheon. This year the junior pupils from St Columba's School will be joining us and providing hospitality. If you require transport please contact the Parish Office,

**Advent Reconciliation Service**—Wednesday 20th December at 7pm in the Church. All welcome

**Piety Stall**—has for sale a range of beautiful Christmas Cards as well as Columban Calendars. Vinnies Christmas Cards are \$5 for 8 traditional cards and \$3.50 for 5 cards designed by children. Magellan Christmas Cards are \$7 for a pack of 10 and Columban Calendars are A\$10 each.

**Annual Diocesan Christmas Appeal** - The Bishop's 2017 Christmas Appeal will be taken up after Communion at Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Last year \$52,000 was distributed to Loreto Vietnam Australia Program, St Columban's Mission Society, Refugees in the Middle East, Catholic Ed in Myanmar, Caritas, Catholic Mission, Nazareth House Ballarat, 3BA Christmas in July Appeal, Exodus Community Wendouree, Edmund Rice Centre, Villa Maria Catholic Homes, NET Ministries, Opening the Doors Foundation.

**Holy Hour & Adoration** before the Blessed Sacrament will be held on Friday 8th December at 7:00 until 8:00pm in the Church. All most welcome.



**Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception** 10am OLHC Wendouree

Thanksgiving	<b>We thank you for your generous support</b>	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$	663.05
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$	2179.50
Average for this financial year \$ 2098.91		

<b>NEXT WEEKEND</b>	SATURDAY 9th December	SUNDAY 10th December	What's on this week:
WELCOMER	Jan Mullaly	Helen Linane	Wednesday 6th December 9.30am Mass in the foyer
COMMENTATOR	Eileen van de Laar	Judy Brown	
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD	Rosemary Fithall	Derek Streulens	Friday 8th December—Holy Hour in the Church 7pm
SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD	Kate Lawry	Kim Butler	
GIFTS	Helen & Bill O'Loughlin	Mandy Carroll	
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Torie Waight, Jennifer Adams, 1 volunteer	Kierce O'Loughlin, Kathy Bennetts, Judy Brown	
OVERHEADS	Norah Moloney	Judith O'Sullivan	
SACRISTAN	Norah Moloney	Anne Rossiter	

## OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS PARISH NEWS

**Cancellation — Parish Luncheon Get-Together.** Please note cancellation of this luncheon is due to a clash with the Anointing Mass and Morning Tea.

**"Making A Scene at Christmas"** —display in the foyer of OLHC church on Saturday 16th December and Sunday 17th December. Please take some time to view the collection of Nativity scenes from around the world.



**Waubra Catholic Community** would like to thank all who supported our Christmas Raffle in donating goods and buying tickets.

**Winners:** 1st prize: Kerry Hughes; 2nd Prize: Cate Molloy, 3rd Prize: Sue Briody.



**Wendouree West Exodus Community** will celebrate Advent and the Dedication of the New Shed on Wednesday 13th December at 6:00 pm with Mass celebrated by Bishop Paul Bird. A barbecue tea to follow provided by the Knights of the Southern Cross. All Welcome.

**OLHC Anointing Mass** will be celebrated on 6th December at 10:30 am. Morning Tea to follow.

**Reconciliation** will be celebrated on December 13th at OLHC at 7:00 pm.

**Christmas Day Lunch 2017** The planning for the Christmas Day Lunch is happening, would anyone have time to assist in areas such as bookings, volunteer helper organisation, shopping, correspondence? Requests for assistance for the setup, pre-Christmas meal preparation will be made closer to the time. An invitation to assist with supervising and packing away on Christmas Day is also extended to anyone whose family "may be at the in-laws on Christmas Day", which is how supervisors and volunteers have been able to help out on Christmas day for many years now. If possible, please contact Sandra Dillon 53448442



**Defibrillator Training:** There has been a Defibrillator installed in the church foyer. Training about how to use this device will be provided following the parish Masses on Sunday Dec. 10th. Please take the time to be informed.

Collections:	<b>We thank you for your generous support</b>		
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$	708	Direct Debit \$ 450
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish)	\$	665	Week Total \$ 1,115
	Loose Money	\$ 102	Year to date \$ 29,594
	Credit Card	\$	Weekly average \$ 1,163

<b>NEXT WEEKEND</b>	6 pm	10:00 am	What's on this week
LEADER of SONG	Laureen Rhodes	Veronica Stott	Wed 6th Anointing Mass at 10:30 am
MINISTER of the WORD	Daryl Clark	Peter Dwyer	
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Des Lloyd, Joyce Jackson, John Bourke, + 2 volunteers	Robyn Clark, Margaret White, Maxine Rousch, + 2 volunteers	<b>Next Week:</b> Wed 13th Exodus Community dedication and BBQ. 6:00 pm Wed 13th Reconciliation at 7:00 pm
SACRISTAN		Joyce Jackson	
COUNTERS		Peter and Deanna Osman	
CHURCH CLEANING	Tony & Ena Bruty		
<b>Rural Communities 8:30 am</b>	This Weekend — <b>Waubra</b> Next Weekend— <b>Learmonth</b>		
Minister of Word:	Kerry Mullane	Bill Keating	
Minister of Eucharist :	Marg McDonald	Kerryn gallagher	
Church Cleaning:	Clare & Kerry Mullane	Bev Hayward	