

BALLARAT NEWS

What next after the Royal Commission?

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse will sit on December 14th to publicly mark the conclusion of the five-year long inquiry. Royal Commission CEO, Philip Reed, said the sitting will be a chance for Commissioners to thank the community for their continued support of the Royal Commission and its work. "When we began in 2013, we had no idea just how widespread or prevalent child sexual abuse in institutions was in Australia, or how many people would come forward to share their story," Mr Reed said. "Since then we have held 57 public hearings, where we sat for 444 days and heard evidence of more than 1,300 witnesses. Commissioners have also listened to the personal accounts of almost 8,000 survivors of child sexual abuse in institutions through 'private sessions'. "Combined with our comprehensive policy and research program, the Royal Commission has been able to contribute to the community's understanding and awareness of institutional child sexual abuse."

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306 Gregory St, Ballarat North Phone: 0417 168 716

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

Email: ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Email: wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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

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

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

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

Presbytery: Phone 5332 4324

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: 11:00 am Anointing

Mass times: Wendouree

Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm

Sunday: 8:30 am Rural

10:00 am OLHC

Thursday: 10:00 am

Friday: 10:00 am

Readings for next weekend:

Is 61: 1-2, 10-11

Lk 1: 46-50, 53-54 Is 61:10

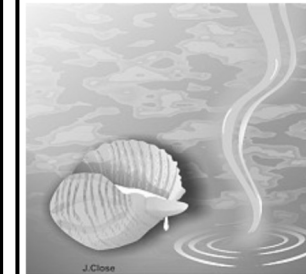
1 Thes 5: 16-24

Jn 1: 6-8, 19-28



10th December, 2017 2nd Sunday of Advent

Focus on the Scriptures



We often think that we can bargain with God to get the best possible deal out of life. The problem with this bargaining image is that it cannot be reconciled with a Christian faith which believes in Advent. The bargaining image of God is the furthestest thing from the mind of the writers of today's readings - Isaiah, Psalm (84) 85, St Peter and St Mark.

These scriptures remind us that God has not held back one thing in his love for us. By becoming one with us in our flesh, God has done everything he can to assure us of his saving love. He has shown us all what can be shown about how to live lives of sacrifice, justice and love and how to transform our world for better.

The image of us 'doing a deal' with God is so prevalent in our theology and prayer that we can find ourselves lapsing into it all the time. 'If you make me well, God, I will lead a better life.' 'I will return to Sunday Mass if I pass my exams.' 'I will raise my children Catholic if I have a fine day for my wedding.' This is all dreadful stuff. And the Church has to take some responsibility for this and correct it.

The scriptures tell us from the beginning of time to the preaching of John the Baptist, to the life, death, resurrection of Jesus Christ and to the continuing work of the Holy Spirit among us today, that we have a God who risked everything so that we might know love and life in this world and in the next. We hold and proclaim, in season and out of season, a God who emptied himself of power and might and came to us as a baby.

That's not the profile of a deal-doer. It's the portrait of a lover.

So this Advent let's not ransom ourselves to a benevolent dictator. Let's ask for anything we need with confidence that God has heard our words and so sent love itself in Jesus Christ our Lord.

@ Richard Leonard SJ.

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Mary Cashman.

Anniversaries: We remember: Fr John Martin, Val Roberts, Sheila Gregory, Ronald Leslie Edgar, Ronald Mark Edgar, Ron Morgan and Nancy Reidy

We pray: for the sick of our Parishes especially Blake Dridan (pupil at St Columba's School), Michael Fitzpatrick, Francis White and Margaret Holmes.

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 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.

Ministry Roster—The next round of rosters have been sent out via email. If you have not received your copy please contact the office with your updated email address. Printed copies are available also in the foyer of the church. Please note that the roster includes the weekend of 23/25 December which is the regular weekend Mass times. Rosters for Christmas Eve Masses (Sunday evening) 6pm & 8-pm and Christmas Day (Monday Mass) at 9am are on the table in the foyer for completion. Please advise your availability. As per usual, if you are unavailable for a rostered ministry please find a replacement.

Christmas Mass Times—Sunday 24th December Christmas Eve Vigil at 6:00 & 8:00pm, and Sunday 25th December Christmas Day Mass at 9:00am.

Thanksgiving	<i>We thank you for your generous support</i>	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$	746.30
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$	2235.16 Average for this financial year \$ 2013.58

NEXT WEEKEND	SATURDAY 16th December	SUNDAY 17th December	What's on this week:
WELCOMER	Kate Lawry	Volunteer	Sew & So—Thursday 14th December 2017 at 1:30pm. Come for our last gathering for this year and enjoy our closeness as a group with some Christmas Carols. Enquiries Margaret tel: 5331 4032.
COMMENTATOR	Tom Keogh	Kim Butler	
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD	Jim Waight	Anthea Hinchey	
SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD	Frank Sheehan	Min Myers	
GIFTS	David & Catherine Fara	Sharon DeBeer	
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Volunteers please	Eleanor Kennedy, Margaret Martino, Kay Merbach	
OVERHEADS	Trish Simmons	Megan Bourke	
SACRISTAN	Sullivan Sisters	Megan Bourke	

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS PARISH NEWS

"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.



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.

The Giving Tree: The Vinnies Annual Christmas Giving Tree is in the foyer and we ask parishioners to please give generously to those less fortunate in our parish. Food and unwrapped toys welcome.

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

Christmas Mass Times:

Christmas Eve –24th	6:00 pm St Columba's	7:00 pm OLHC	8:00 pm St Columba's
Christmas Day—25th	9:00 am Waubra	9:00 am OLHC	9:00 am St Columba's

Christmas Day Community Lunch

The Christmas Day lunch is always a very enjoyable celebration and all are welcome to come and make it an enjoyable day for others; for bookings: 0419 975 914. Transport is available on the day.

For preparations, a volunteer list is available in the church foyer:

- Venue set-up (tables & decorations) Friday 22nd December at 10am
- Food preparation (Christmas Eve) Sunday 24th Dec 9.00am
- Transport (cars for frailer people) on Christmas day: 11am, 1.45pm (there is a small bus to collect other people around Ballarat)
- Hall pack-up Christmas Day 2-3pm



OLHC Parish

Enquiries Sandra Dillon 0438 448 942, or 0419 975 914 (bookings)

Collections:	<i>We thank you for your generous support</i>		
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$	541	Direct Debit \$ 96
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish)	\$	627	Week Total \$ 2,373
	Loose Money	\$ 109	Year to date \$ 31,967
	Credit Card	\$ 1650	Weekly average \$ 1,390

NEXT WEEKEND	6 pm	10:00 am	What's on this week
LEADER of SONG	Sue Searls	Margaret White	Wed 13th Exodus Community dedication and BBQ. 6:00 pm
MINISTER of the WORD	John Schonfelder	Helen Feely	
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Mavis McNulty, Pauline Newman, Bev Hayward + 2 volunteers	Val Bourke, Judith Potter + 3 volunteers	Wed 13th Reconciliation at 7:00 pm
SACRISTAN	Joyce Jackson	Geoff & Marg McLean	
COUNTERS		Trish Pora, Catherine Clifford, Brian Ratcliffe	Next Week: Sat 16th Family Group—Christmas Morning Tea at Beechworth Bakery`
CHURCH CLEANING	Tony & Ena Bruty		
Rural Communities 8:30 am	This Weekend — Learmonth	Next Weekend— Waubra	Wed 20th Liturgy Group at 10:30 am Thurs 21st Mass at Kelaston at 11am.
Minister of Word:	Bill Keating	Clare Mullane	
Minister of Eucharist :	Kerryn Gallagher	Margaret McDonald	
Church Cleaning:	Bev Hayward	Clare & Kerry Mullane	