

## BALLARAT NEWS

### What next after the Royal Commission?

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse sat 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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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  
Parish Web: ballarat.catholic.org.au (Select parish)  
School Web: 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  
Parish Web: ballarat.catholic.org.au (Select parish)  
School Web: 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 9am—2pm & Thurs 9—1pm.  
**Staff at Wendouree**  
Parish Co-ordinator: Maree Roache  
Wed, Thursday 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  
Tuesday: 11:00 am Hailey House  
Wednesday: 9:30 am  
12 noon School Mass  
**Mass times: Wendouree**  
Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm  
Sunday: 8:30 am Rural  
10:00 am OLHC  
Tuesday: 6:00 pm. School  
Wednesday: 10:00 am  
Thursday: 11:00 am Kelaston  
**Readings for next weekend:**  
2 Sam 7: 1-5, 8-12, 14, 16  
Ps 88: 2-5, 27, 29 R. v 2  
Rom 16: 25-27  
Lk 1: 26-38

**17th December, 2017 3rd Sunday of Advent**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

St John's Gospel never calls John, 'the Baptist'. No, he is John the Witness: 'a witness to speak for the Light'. We discover in this Gospel that this light is embodied in Jesus Christ, most graphically portrayed in the Transfiguration when Christ's body is radiant, translucent, with Divine Light.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the One who came to liberate human beings from the many dark captivities which imprison them, the One who vanquished the inky blackness of the tomb.

We can become partakers in the life of this Divine Light. At baptism, this is symbolised by the lighting of a small candle from the great Easter candle which is sung into the church on the Easter Vigil as 'Christ our Light', the Conqueror of Death.

As a baptised people our allegiance to 'The Light' is not to be a private matter between 'me and God'. No, like John, we must bear witness to 'The Light' by being instruments of His power to dispel the darkness which can enshroud people's lives.

We could pause for a moment to commit ourselves to fulfil the promise of our baptismal candle so that we might more authentically celebrate the birth of the Divine Light come into human history.

© Fr Michael Tate

**Responsorial Psalm:** My soul rejoices in my God.  
**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

**Recently Deceased: We commend to God:** Denis Davey, Paul Melenhorst, William Gordon Spittle (Graeme Spittle's brother), Eileen Buckeridge  
**Anniversaries: We remember:** David Fithall, Maisie Lamb  
**We pray:** for the sick of our Parishes especially Blake Dridan (pupil at St Columba's School), Michael Fitzpatrick, Francis White, Margaret Holmes and Peter Huxtable (Brother of Linley von Bibra)

## ST COLUMBA'S PARISH NEWS

**Baptism** Congratulations to Xavier Scott Johnson, son of Matthew and Rebecca, who will be Baptized on Sunday. May he grow in faith with the loving support of his family and the Parish community.



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


**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 various groups.

**Urgent! 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.

**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.

**Christmas Hampers** St. Columba's School community members and members of our parish Links Committee have prepared Christmas hampers for those in our parish who are unwell and receive Communion in their homes. We would appreciate if the special ministers who take communion to our parishioners could collect a hamper from the St. Columba's School Office from Monday 18th December to Thursday 21st December. We would like to thank the families from the St. Columba's School for their wonderful generosity again this year. Please feel free to contact Alison Thorpe at St. Columba's school on 53324894 if you have any queries or concerns.



	<h1>Christmas Mass Schedule</h1>	<b>Christmas Mass Times—</b>
		Sunday 24th December Christmas Eve Vigil at 6:00 & 8:00pm Sunday 25th December Christmas Day Mass at 9:00am. Each Mass will be preceded by 30 minutes of Carols.

<b>Thanksgiving</b>	<b>We thank you for your generous support</b>	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$	796.90
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$	2985.50 Average for this financial year \$2054.08

NEXT WEEKEND		SATURDAY 23rd Dec	SUNDAY 24th December	What's on this week:
WELCOMER	Margaret & Mary Sullivan	Alison Thorpe	Please note that the Parish office will close at 1pm on Thursday 21st December and will remain closed until 9am Wednesday 24th January. The answer phone will be cleared but for urgent matters please ring Fr Marcello 5332 4324.  Next weekend is the fourth Sunday of Advent. There is a regular schedule of Masses for the Saturday and Sunday.  Wednesday 12 noon End of School Mass in the Church—All welcome.	
COMMENTATOR	Trish Simmons	Volunteer please		
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD	Ruth Marquand	Kim Butler		
SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD	Peter Dalton	Kim Butler		
GIFTS	Scanlon Family	Maureen & Hans		
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Peter Marquand, Ann Lacey, Jennifer Adams	Eleanor Kennedy, Mary Kennedy, Kierce O'Loughlin		
OVERHEADS	Em Barlow	Sharon de Beer		
SACRISTAN	Maree Phelan	Maureen & Hans		

## 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.



**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.

**OLHC Cleaning Rosters** for January—May 2018 are now available. Thank you to those who assist.

### Christmas Mass Times:

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



**Baptism**—Noah Ross McMurray—son of Alicia Verhey and Paul McMurray. The OLHC Parish community welcomes Noah and his family as he starts his faith journey.

**Christmas Message from Bishop Paul.** Bishop Paul's Christmas Message is available to view on the diocesan website [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au).

**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)

<b>Collections:</b>	<b>We thank you for your generous support</b>		
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$	503	Direct Debit \$ 40
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish)	\$	1,326	Week Total \$ 1,366
		Loose Money \$ 77	Year to date \$ 33,333
		Credit Card \$	Weekly average \$ 1,389

NEXT WEEKEND	6 pm	10:00 am	What's on this week
LEADER of SONG	Corrie Harbour	Vin Dillon	19th End of Year School Mass at 6:00 pm. 20th Liturgy Meeting at 10:30 am 21st Mass at Kelaston 22nd Carpet cleaning in church  <b>Please note that the Parish office will close at noon on Friday 22nd December and will remain closed until 9am Wednesday 24th January. The answer phone will be cleared but for urgent matters please ring Fr. Marcello 5332 4324. or 5339 2302.</b>
MINISTER of the WORD	John Bourke	Eileen franklin	
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Pat Dillon, Trish Pearce, John Kirby + 2 volunteers	Eily Green, Tony Bruty, Sue Searls + 2 volunteers	
SACRISTAN	Tony & Pauline Newman	Helen Rieniets	
COUNTERS		Trish Pora, Catherine Clifford, Brian Ratcliffe	
CHURCH CLEANING	Helen Rieniets		
<b>Rural Communities 8:30 am</b>	This Weekend — <b>Waubra</b>	Next Weekend— <b>Learmonth</b>	
<b>Minister of Word:</b>	Clare Mullane	Fon Ryan	
<b>Minister of Eucharist :</b>	Margaret McDonald	Bev Hayward	
<b>Church Cleaning:</b>	Clare & Kerry Mullane	Bev Hayward	