

BALLARAT NEWS

Mass of the Oils Monday, March 26, 2018: The Mass of the Oils will be celebrated in St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat at 6.30pm. This Mass is a celebration of the whole Church of the Diocese of Ballarat. We celebrate the unity and ministry of the ordained priests in the midst of the entire priestly people of God in Diocese. This Mass also has a special significance for those who will use the blessed oils in 2018—the sick, those to be baptized and confirmed. All members of the Diocese are invited to participate in this celebration which truly expresses the unity of the Diocesan Church.

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

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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: 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

Wed, Thurs, Friday 9.00am -1.00pm

****Office will be closed on Thurs 15th & Friday 16th February****

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: 9.30am

Mass times: Wendouree

Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm

Sunday: 8:30 am Rural

10:00 am OLHC

Monday: 10:30 am Funeral

Tuesday: 5:00 pm

Wednesday: 10:00 am

Thursday: 10:00 am

Friday 10:00 am

Readings for next weekend:

Gen 9:8-15, Ps 24:4-9

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mk 1:12-15



11th February 2018. 6th Sunday of Ordinary Time (B)

Focus on the Scriptures

We all seek to be part of family and community because we are social beings who need to engage with others and with our environment. Some are deprived of choice in this respect, in our times as in ancient times. Repeated name-calling and labelling is an age-old strategy of exclusion. "Illegals" is a label that excludes some of the most vulnerable people in today's world. "Leper" is a label that is used metaphorically of those who are not welcome, of those deemed to be "infectious". Today's gospel about a man with leprosy invites us to reflect on the pain of exclusion. To be a leper in the world of early Judaism was to have some sort of skin disease that excluded a person from community and in particular from public worship. There were very strict regulations regarding such lepers (see the first reading from Leviticus, dating from several centuries before the time of Jesus). Their condition required ritual cleansing by a priest and an offering that cost money. That seems horrifying from our perspective, and it was. In Mark's story, the man with leprosy approaches Jesus of Nazareth who is not one of the priests. This afflicted person thus cuts across the established procedures. Jesus is "moved with compassion", literally "moved in his gut, or in the depths of his being". In other words, Jesus empathises deeply with the suffering person. He has a physical reaction in the face of suffering. Some manuscripts have "moved with anger". A later scribe probably considered that expression too harsh as an emotion for Jesus and softened the text. Jesus speaks and acts. He declares that he wills the cure of the man. He actually reaches out and touches him: a bodily encounter brings healing. He then sends the man back to tell the priests "as a proof to them". The verb used for "send back" suggests that the priests had already been approached without success. Jesus, the Galilean healer, succeeds in mediating the power of the God of Israel and so restores this outcast to life in the community and the community itself to greater wholeness through this healing. The widespread report of Jesus' healing activity will incur the anger of some of the authorities. For our part, as followers of Jesus, we might reflect on the fact that sickness and disability are not only physical phenomena. They also have social and emotional impacts on individuals and the communities to which they belong. Healing enables people to live again, to be with others, to do the things they want to do. It brings new life and integrity to community. Jesus demonstrates that the combination of a compassionate word and a healing touch can work wonders. That was true in the ancient world. It is equally true for us today.



Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm: I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people. **Alleluia!**

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Barbara Melican, Delia Cupello

Anniversaries: We remember: Marsha Gallagher,

We pray: for the sick of our Parishes especially Blake Dridan (pupil at St Columba's School) For our RCIA and RCIA candidates who are preparing for reception of the Sacraments . And for our Grade 5 students preparing for Senior Reconciliation

ST COLUMBA'S PARISH NEWS

Ash Wednesday Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday 14th February in the Church at 9.30am with distribution of Ashes. The school will be joining us for Mass. If you are available to help with set up or other ministries please contact Judith on 0417 168 716.



Baptisms We welcome Emmy Therese, daughter of Susan and Robert Jamieson and Oliver Timothy John son of Laura and John Valentan, who will be baptized on Sunday morning. May they grow in faith with the loving support of family, friends and the Parish Community.

Office Ruth Marquand has concluded her time as secretary in the Parish Office. We thank her and wish her well in her future endeavours. Ruth would like to thank the Parishioners for all their support over the past 15 months.

Station of the Cross will be offered on Fridays during Lent starting on Friday 23rd February at 6.30pm. This will be followed by a time of reflection and sharing on the upcoming Sunday's Gospel. All welcome to join in this wonderful preparation for Easter. For further information please contact Judith on 0417 168 716



Can you help? - We are looking for more volunteers to take Holy Communion to those who are unable to attend regular weekend Masses. If you would be available regularly on a fortnightly or monthly basis or on a casual basis or would like to know more, please contact Judith in the Office 0417168 716.

RCIA—This weekend our two adult and four children will make the next step in their journey towards full acceptance into the Church by signing the Book of Enrolment. This Book is then taken to the Rite of Election next Saturday at the Cathedral (12.30pm—all welcome) and is presented to the Bishop. At this rite, upon the testimony of sponsors and catechists and the catechumens' affirmation of their intention to join the Church, the Church makes its "election" of these catechumens to receive the Sacraments of Initiation. Now the catechumens are called "the elect". They now begin a Period of Purification and Enlightenment — the final, intense preparation for the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation. Our candidates are Emma Barlow, Deborah Lambourn and Sophie Lambourn.



Thanksgiving	We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$	805.90
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$	1953.00
	Average for this financial year	\$1958.05

NEXT WEEKEND	SATURDAY 17th February	SUNDAY 18th February	What's on:
v	Linley von Bibra	Louisa Godbold	Wednesday 14th 9.30am Ash Wednesday Mass
COMMENTATOR	Eileen van de Laar	Joanne van der Voort	Thursday 22nd 7pm PPC meeting
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD	Ruth Marquand	Richard Francis	Friday 23rd 6.30pm Stations of Cross
SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD	John Kennedy	Carmel King	
GIFTS	Lewis/Moloney Family	Colleen Wakefield	
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Ann Lacy, Maureen Eddy, Kate Lawry	Anthea Hinchey, Alison Thorpe, Gerard Macklin	
OVERHEADS	Trish Simmons	Megan Bourke	
SACRISTAN	Sullivan Sisters	Megan Bourke	

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS PARISH NEWS

PROCLAIM Conference 2018—Sponsorship opportunity The Diocesan Foundation has again offered sponsorship for six people from the Diocese to attend the PROCLAIM 2018 Conference in Brisbane from July 12-14 (www.proclaimconference.com.au) Further information is available on the Diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au Applications close Friday, February 16, 2018.

Parish Rosters for the next 4 months will be finalised shortly. If you would like to volunteer for any ministry (Reading, Communion, Music, Counting, Sacristan, church cleaning etc) please contact the Parish Office 5339 2302 or wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au or the leaders of each ministry group. If there are any changes to availability to assist please also contact the office.

Ash Wednesday Mass, to make the commencement of the Lenten Season will be celebrated at 10:00 am. in OLHC parish. All Welcome.

Damascus College Update: copies of the quarterly update of events at Damascus college are available in the foyer.

Lenten Resources There are some excellent Lenten reflections available on-line from the pray.com.au website free of charge. You may also purchase your own downloadable "Surrender" booklet from the Catholic Diocese of Wollongong <http://www.dowshop.org.au/>. **Lenten Reflection Group** at OLHC Church commencing on Thursday 15th from 7—8:30 throughout Lent. All Welcome. Enquiries Laureen 0405 277 778.



Nazareth House Auxiliary Irish Music Afternoon — all welcome

Where: Nazareth House Hall **When:** Friday 16th March **Time:** 1:30pm – 3:00pm

Admission: \$5 **Details:** Entrance prize, afternoon tea, raffle and a cake stall.

Mwangaza Children's Choir: The "Light Up Tour" featuring the Mwangaza Children's Choir from Uganda will be performing in Ballarat on March 2, 2018 in support of the Child Celebration Network, which runs a school for homeless and underprivileged children and supports children in palliative care. Flyer in the foyer.

RCIC. Three children from this parish will be participation in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Children . Please keep Jake Shillito, Riley Shillito and Amelia Williams in your prayers over the coming weeks.

Collections:		We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$	744	
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish)	\$	934	
	Loose Money	\$	193

NEXT WEEKEND	6 pm	10:00 am	What's on this week
LEADER of SONG	Laureen Rhodes	Margaret White	Sun 11th Vigil prayers for Barbara Melican—7pm.
MINISTER of the WORD	Trish Pora	Peter Dwyer	
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Bev Hayward, Joyce Jackson, Mavis McNulty + 2 volunteers	Maxine Rousch, Val Bourke + 3 volunteers	Mon 12th Funeral for Barbara Melican 10:30 am
SACRISTAN	Tony & Pauline Newman	Joyce Jackson	Wed 14th Ash Wednesday 10:00 am
COUNTERS		Brendan Curran, Trish & Geoff Doery	Thurs 15th Mass at Kelaston 11:00 am.
CHURCH CLEANING	Beth Clark & Margaret McLean		
Rural Communities 8:30 am	This Weekend — Learmonth Next Weekend — Waubra		
Minister of Word:	Roy Rhoderick	Cate Molloy	
Minister of Eucharist :	Bev Hayward	Sharon Moran	
Church Cleaning:	Bev Hayward	Kerryn & Lawrence Gallagher	