

BALLARAT NEWS

Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program – now open for new participants The Lay Pastoral Ministry Program offers low-cost opportunities for online study and formation for lay workers in the diocese, both employees and volunteers. A wide range of subject areas are offered: Scripture, Sacraments, Social Justice, Leadership skills, Youth Ministry, Pastoral Care and lots more. Study one subject or more - it's a flexible program! Registration for the April 2018 study cycle are open until 28 March. A study cycle means you do one subject over 5 weeks. You can start in any one of the 6 study cycles each year. More info or contact Amanda, ph: 5337 7125 or email amanda.smith@ballarat.catholic.org.au

"In the Footsteps of Mary McKillop" 2018 Pilgrimage from October 23rd to November 3rd. Information brochure is on display in the foyer.

Secondary School Reunions for Loreto, Damascus and St Patrick's colleges - Information on the notice board in the foyer.

Irish Heritage Exhibition: The Archives of the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat and the Ballarat Diocesan Historical Commission presents an Irish Heritage Exhibition on April 14 & 15, 2018 from 9.30am – 4.30pm in Ballarat

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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

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

Wed—Friday 9.00am -1.00pm

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

Tues: 5:00 pm

Readings for next weekend:

Acts 4:32-35

Ps 117:2-4, 15-18, 22-24, R. v.1

1 Jn 5:1-6

Jn 20:19-31



1st April 2018 Easter Sunday (B)

Focus on the Scriptures

Today's Gospel belongs to the empty tomb tradition. On Magdalene's urging, Peter and John run to the tomb, find it empty and come to at least an initial belief about the resurrection of Jesus.

We do not believe that God simply revived Jesus' corpse in the tomb, as our driver resuscitated the bunny in today's story. Easter Sunday does not celebrate the resuscitation of Jesus, but his Resurrection. We know his 'glorified body' was not the same as his human body because Jesus' presence could be encountered in several places simultaneously and he is reported to walk through walls and to vanish. The link between both resurrection traditions is the importance of Jesus' death. In the empty tomb accounts, as in today's gospel, the writers give us extraordinary details about the grave clothes. In the apparition narratives there are usually references to Jesus' wounds.

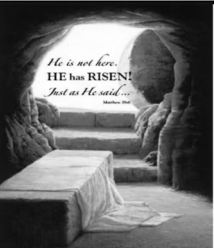
Whatever way they came to experience the Resurrection of Christ, the disciples knew that this was Jesus who actually died and was buried and that their personal encounter was with the one who was crucified.

What God did through the death and resurrection of Jesus is what Christians have done with local customs and festivals ever since: he entered into it, understood it, took it on board, domesticated it and vanquished its power. As a result we believe that God empathises with the full limitations of our human mortality and promises to remain faithful to us in death as he remained utterly faithful to Jesus.

That is why on this day 1,600 years ago St John Chrysostom could say on behalf of us all: 'O death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory? Christ is Risen, and you, O death, are destroyed! Christ is Risen, and evil is cast down! Christ is Risen, and angels rejoice! Christ is Risen, and new life is set free! Christ is Risen, and the tomb is emptied of its dead; for Christ having risen from the dead, becomes the first-fruit of those who have fallen asleep. To Him be Glory and Power forever and ever. Amen!' Abridged © Richard Leonard SJ.

Responsorial Psalm: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Christ has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with joy in the Lord. Alleluia!



Celebrate the resurrection of our Lord!
Happy EASTER

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Yvonne Cluff,

Anniversaries: We remember: Patrick McDonald, Anne-Marie McDonald, Brenden Love, Peter Leonard, Julianne Spicer,

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

ST COLUMBA'S PARISH NEWS

RCIA this weekend during the Easter Vigil Emma Barlow and Deborah Lambourn will receive full reception into the Catholic Church. Sophie Lambourn will also be Baptized. We congratulate them on this and invite you to help us celebrate with them after Mass. We would like to thank all those who have supported them in their journey so far. Please continue to uplift them in your prayers.

Easter Blessings wishing you all a Blessed and Happy Easter. "We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song" St Pope John Paul II

Thank you a big thank you for all who assisted in help make the Easter liturgies a blessed and special time for us all. And thank you to the Caring team and the school children for their assistance with the Anointing Mass last week. The parishioners enjoyed the interaction with the children and the delicious lunch.

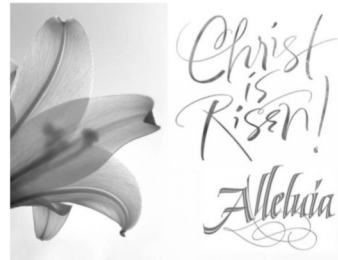
Defibrillator a kind, thoughtful and generous parishioner has donated a defibrillator to St Columba's Parish. The Parish extends it's sincere gratitude for enabling this to happen. Thank you to those who remained behind after the 10am Mass for training. Another opportunity for training will be given following a 6pm Mass in the near future,

Confirmation we will soon begin preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation (for children in Grade 3 and over who have been Baptized) which will take place on the weekend of 26/27 May. If you would like your child to receive this Sacrament please contact Judith (0417168 716) for more information.

Parish luncheon our next get together will be held on Thursday 12th April 12.30pm at the City Oval Hotel. Sheets are available to add your name to or contact Judith in the office. All welcome!

Overheads we are looking for one more person to operate the data projector for a Saturday 6pm Mass on a regular basis. If you are able to assist please contact Judith in the Parish Office.

Plenary Council 2020 Plenary Council 2020 Everyone is invited to reflect on the question: "What do you think God is asking of us in Australia?" www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au.



OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS PARISH NEWS

Parish Sacramental Program: The Sacrament of Confirmation will commence in mid April. The information meeting for parents will be held on **Wednesday April 18th**. The Confirmation ceremony will be held on **May 19th & 20th May**. Brochures are available in the foyer of the church. NB: Confirmation is available for children in Year 3 or older who have been Baptized!

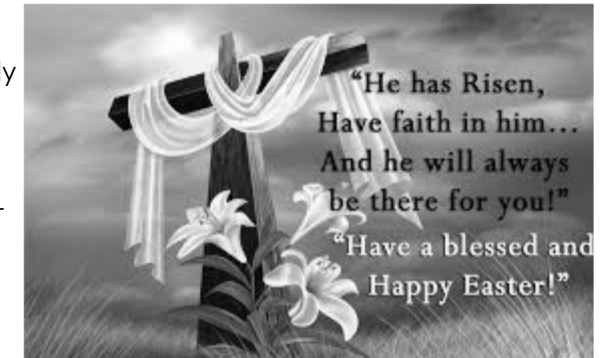
Miner's Rest Community: Prayers at Bill Loader's home on Thursday April 5th at 7:30 pm.



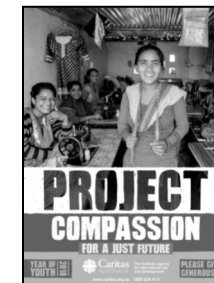
Save these Dates—October 27th—31st: Fr Richard Leonard will be presenting a Mission in OLHC Parish. This will be an opportunity for personal and community renewal. There are a few books written by Fr Richard available for borrowing from the church foyer. See display in foyer.

Parish Community Meeting: Advance Notice for Sunday July 29th after 10:00 am Mass.

Good Friday Collection: Bishop Paul would like to remind priests and parishioners of this collection which helps with the upkeep of the places in the Holy Land associated with the life of Christ and also provides support for the Christian communities there.



Thank you!



Caritas Australia would like to **THANK YOU** for supporting Project Compassion 2018. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please bring them back next week or visit www.caritas.org.au to make your donation online.

Through your generosity you are helping to empower our most vulnerable neighbours worldwide to build a just future for themselves, their families and their communities.

Thanksgiving	We thank you for your generous support		
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$	838.85	
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$	1521.60	Average for this financial year \$ 1990.71

NEXT WEEKEND	SATURDAY 7th	SUNDAY 8th	What's on:
	April	April	
WELCOMER	John Madigan Family	Pat & Bernie Kenna	Sunday April 8th Feast of Divine Mercy
COMMENTATOR	Shirley Edgar	Anne Rossiter	
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD	Tom Keogh Snr	Jim Kierce	
SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD	Rosemary Fithall	Richard Francis	Thursday 12th April 12.30pm Parish Lunch at City Oval Hotel
GIFTS	David & Catherine Fara	Lorna & Carmel	Wednesday 18th April Links Meeting 7pm School Board room
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Kate Lawry, Troy Severino, Jan Mullaly	Eleanor Kennedy, Margaret Martino, Kay Merbach	
OVERHEADS	Troy Severino	Judith O'Sullivan	
SACRISTAN	Volunteer	Josie	

Collections:	We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$	553
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish)	\$	681
	Loose Money	\$ 80

7th/8th April	Sat 6 pm	Sun 10:00 am	What's on this week
LEADER of SONG	Lauren Rhodes	Corrie Harbour	Thurs 5th: Miner's Rest community prayers
MINISTER of the WORD	Kath Connors	Deanna Osman	
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Mavis McNulty, John Bourke, Pauline Newman + 2 volunteers	Christine Richardson, Peter Briody, Val Bourke + 2 volunteers	
SACRISTAN	John & Sue Calistro	Geoff & Marg McLean	
COUNTERS		Bill Loader, Kevin Murphy	
CHURCH CLEANING	Maxine Rousch, Catherine Clifford, Leonie Hogan		
Rural Communities 8:30 am	This Weekend - Waubra	Next Weekend— Learmonth	
Minister of Word:	Sharon Moran	Kerri Mullane	
Minister of Eucharist :	Margaret McDonald	Tony McDonald	
Church Cleaning:	Phyllis & Pat Bourke	Bev Hayward	