

BALLARAT NEWS

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Address: 1251 Doveton Street North, Ballarat, 3350
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Email: michael@professionalsballarat.com.au

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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: 53311012
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
pastoral@stcolumasparish.org
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
Mass times: Wendouree
Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm
Sunday: 8:30 am Rural
10:00 am OLHC
Tuesday: 5:00pm
Thursday: 7.30pm Miners Rest Community
Friday: 10:00 am
Readings for next weekend:
Acts 9:26-31
Ps 21:26-28. 30-32. R. v.26
1 Jn 3:18-24
Jn 15:1-8

29th April 5th Sunday of Easter (B)

Focus on the Scriptures

We are too familiar with today's gospel. Christ is the vine and we are the branches, sometimes in need of a good pruning. But God's purpose is not to produce a perfect vineyard. It is to produce a full-bodied wine at the end of history.

There is a foretaste of this at every Mass. The wine we offer – 'fruit of the earth and work of human hands' – becomes the spiritual drink which best serves the purpose of our Heavenly Father. How does this happen?

For the Jewish people observing an animal whose throat is cut, it is obvious that the life drains out with the blood. 'Life' and 'blood' became synonyms. So, when the Jewish Jesus says of the wine in the chalice at the Last Supper: 'This is my blood', amongst other things he is saying: 'This is my life force, this is my very life given unreservedly for you.'

So, when we drink from the chalice at Holy Communion, the life of the Risen Lord courses through our bodies just as the sap of the vine courses through its branches. We share the same ultimate vitality so that our bodily existence builds into the Body of Christ. He becomes truly 'full-bodied' as the Divine Vignerone desires.

We could take a moment to pray that we respond to the pruning and the tending and the pressing by our Heavenly Father so as to contribute our distinctive character to the vintage at the end of history, the spiritual drink of the Kingdom of Heaven.

© Fr Michael Tate

*I am the vine.
You are the branches.*
John 15:5

Responsorial Psalm: I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Elise Spencer, Reg Morgan, Sharon Kastin, Sr Dominic Foley RSJ, Sr. Paula Fleming SJG, Val Dooley
Anniversaries: We remember: Mary Smerdon, Monica Connellan, Rosemary O'Loughlin, Bryan and Nellie Keighrey
We pray: for the sick of our Parishes: especially Blake Dridan (pupil at St Columba's School). The children preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation and Baptism.

ALLELUIA

ST COLUMBA'S PARISH NEWS

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. To begin our preparation for this time of dialogue and discernment amongst all members of the Church in Australia, the Diocese of Ballarat will commence by Praying Towards 2020. Check the website for timetable of events over this week. We welcome Fr Antony Tran CSsR who is here with our Parish for these ten days. Please head along to any session of prayer and reflection that is advertised. Also the session on **Wednesday 2nd May at 10am and 7pm** will be very informative with opportunities to ask questions on the Plenary Council and we encourage all parishioners to attend one of these sessions. More details about the Plenary Council are available in the foyer this weekend.



Alpha – Adult Faith formation opportunity **What is Alpha?** Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that explore the basics of Christian faith. **Who is it for?** Alpha is for anyone who is curious to explore the big questions of life, faith and leaning. The talks are designed to encourage conversation and explore the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment. **How does it work?** Typically run over eleven weeks, no two Alphas look the same, but generally they have three key things in common; food, a short talk and a discussion where you can share your thoughts. There is no pressure and no follow up. **How much is Alpha?** There is no charge for Alpha. **When does it start?** Commencing May 9th from 6.00pm to 7.30pm in the Cathedral Presbytery. Enquiries to Judith or Maree in respective Parish office. The Ballarat city parishes are offering this for RCIA enquirers but it is open to anyone who is interested.

Rosters still needing someone prepared to operate the overheads once a month on a Saturday evening. If you can help please contact Judith in the Office.

Confirmation preparation has began for the children to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on 26/27 May. Please keep them and their families in your prayers during this preparation time.



Telephone We now have our land line reconnected but with a new number. Please take note of this for future use — it is **53311012**

St Alipius Parish Ballarat East invites applications for the part-time position (16 hours per week) of Parish Coordinator. A Position Description and Application Form can be accessed on their Parish website

Thanksgiving	We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 777.81	
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$ 1520.85	Average for this financial year \$ 1957.98

NEXT WEEKEND	SATURDAY 5th May	SUNDAY 6th May	What's coming up:
WELCOMER	Mary Dinning	Helen Linane	Tuesday 1st May Liturgy Committee Meeting 7.30pm Parish Office meeting room Plenary Council Praying towards 2020 sessions during the week include: * Wednesday 2nd May 10am and 7pm at the Cathedral Hall Informative session. * Friday 4th May— Come Holy Spirit—A vigil of prayer that we may listen to the Spirit and discern what God is asking of us in Australia. Commencing in the Cathedral with Mass at 12.05pm, continuing for 12 hours until midnight. The Cathedral will remain open for this vigil of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, with Evening Prayer at 6pm.
COMMENTATOR	Tom Keogh (Snr)	Irene Monigatti	
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD	Jennifer Adams	Mandy Carroll	
SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD	Ann Lacy	Terry Grano	
GIFTS	Volunteer	Mandy Carroll	
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Kate Lawry, Troy Severino, Jan Mullaly	Margaret Martino, Kay Merbach, Carole Barr	
OVERHEADS	Troy Severino	Sharon De Beer	
SACRISTAN	Volunteer	Josie	

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS PARISH NEWS

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.

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

Confirmation program has commenced. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers over the coming weeks.

Praying Towards 2020 Over the next week Fr Antony Tran CSsR will be present in this parish, working with Fr Marcello in preparing our parish community for the Praying Towards 2020. There are various opportunities available within the in Ballarat parishes to be informed and prepared for this important consultation process. Attached to this week's bulletin is a flyer detailing the various events available in this area.



Mass count The Annual Mass Count will be conducted over the next 3 weekends. Please be aware that this is happening in each parish within the Diocese of Ballarat.

Sr. Paula Fleming The Funeral Mass for Sr. Paula will be celebrated in St John of God Convent Chapel, 9 McCourt Street, West Leederville commencing at 9.30am on Tuesday May 1st. May she rest in peace.

Collections:	We thank you for your generous support		
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 655	Credit card	
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish)	\$ 918	Year to date	
	Loose Money \$ 45	Weekly average	\$ 1406

5th/6th May	Sat 6 pm	Sun 10:00 am	What's on this week
LEADER of SONG	Laureen Rhodes	Margaret White	Thurs May 3rd. Miners Rest community Mass Next Week: Please see the Bulletin insert for details of the timetable for Praying Towards 2020 .
MINISTER of the WORD	Kath Connors	Helen & Colin Feely	
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Pauline Newman, Pat Dillon, Trish Pearce + 2 volunteers	Christine Richardson, Elly Green, Sue Searls + 2 volunteers	
SACRISTAN	Joyce Jackson	Geoff & Marg McLean	
COUNTERS		Des Lloyd & John Calistro	
CHURCH CLEANING	Beth Clark & Margaret McLean		
Rural Communities 8:30 am	This Weekend - Lexton	Next Weekend— Waubra	
Minister of Word:		Fon Ryan	
Minister of Eucharist :		Tony McDonald	
Church Cleaning:		Trish & Steve Coleman	