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**Prayer for Plenary Council**  
*Blessed are you, God of all creation. You have given us life and light and all the wonders of the world. You have sent your Son Jesus to be our Saviour and your Holy Spirit to be our guide. As we prepare for the Plenary council, we ask you to come into our hearts with your Son and Holy Spirit. Come to us and make your home in us. We pray for our local community, for the people of our diocese and for the Church throughout Australia. May your wisdom show us the way, for your word is a lamp for our feet and a light for our path. Come and fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in us the fire of your love, that we may live by your gospel and share your good news with all we meet. Holy Mary, Mother of our Saviour, pray for us. St Mary MacKillop, pray for us. Amen*

**PRAYER FOR RAIN**  
God of compassion, we wait and watch for your gift of rain to water the soil in drought effected regions and make the barren land come alive again. We wait and watch for the gift of salvation to free us from hatred, greed and fear so that we may live again as people of faith, hope and love. We make this prayer in the name of our Saviour who comes to be with us. Amen.

**Parishes of St Columba's and Our Lady Help of Christians**  
Communities of Ballarat North, Learmonth, Lexton, Miners Rest, Waubra, Wendouree

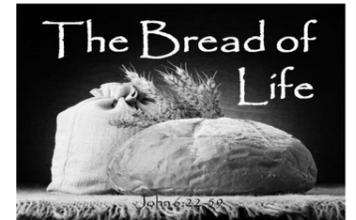
306 Gregory St, Ballarat North Phone: 5331 1012  
Email: ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au  
Parish Web: ballarat.catholic.org.au (Select parish)  
School Web: www.scballarat.catholic.edu.au  
Presbytery: Phone 5332 4324

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 Priests:** Fr Gary Jones  
Fr Anthony Nagothu  
Fr Sajan Mathew  
**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  
**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 Anointing Mass  
Wednesday: 9:30 am  
**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:**  
Jos 24:1-2, 15-18  
Ps 33:2-3, 16-23, R. v.9  
Eph 5:21-32  
Jn 6:60-69

**19th August ~ 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)**

**Focus on the Scriptures**  
In this week's gospel passage, we continue our reflection on John 6. John's gospel was written towards the end of the first century. The Bread of Life discourse probably reflects the interpretation of the gospel writer rather than the actual words of Jesus. This is important for making sense of statements in the discourse that would seem to be out of place from the lips of Jesus during his lifetime. The hearers of these words have lived and worshipped as followers of Jesus for some decades. They have gathered each week for the breaking of the bread and reflected deeply on the mystery of the Word made flesh, the mystery of life in Christ.  
If there were Eucharistic overtones subtly present in last week's gospel passage (John 6:41-51), they become quite overt as the Johannine Jesus responds to yet another objection from his opponents in this week's gospel. Like the Israelites of old in the desert wanderings, these people are more than ready to grumble: "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" (6:52). Jesus does not really respond to the question "How....?" Rather, he goes on to tell those who want to hear that "life" for them depends on their eating his flesh and drinking his blood. The Johannine Jesus uses the present as well as the future tense. The life they experience in eating his flesh and drinking his blood is a present reality for them as well as a promise of on-going life. Life for the Israelites was in the blood: blood poured out meant life poured out. Clearly "life" is being used in John 6 for the quality of life the believers have come to experience through their incorporation into the community of the baptised, the sort of life that is not destroyed by death. (Abridged)  
Veronica M. Lawson RSM



**Responsorial Psalm:** Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.  
**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! All who eat my flesh and drink my blood live in me and I in them, says the Lord. Alleluia!

**Recently Deceased:** We commend to God: All those who have died recently  
**Anniversaries:** We remember: Lesley Bigarelli, John Barbetti  
**We pray:** for the sick of our Parishes especially Blake Dridan (St Columba's school), for the success of the Plenary Council and for children preparing to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist.

## ST COLUMBA'S PARISH NEWS

*Love, pray, serve, hope & follow Jesus*

**Refugee and Migrant Week 20th—Sunday 26 August** *Welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating migrants and refugees.* Pope Francis echoes the words of the Gospel: "Every stranger who knocks at our door is an opportunity for an encounter with Jesus Christ, who identifies with the welcomed and rejected strangers of every age". (Matthew 25:35-43).<sup>2</sup> The Holy Father qualifies this "encounter" with four verbs and actions: "Welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating migrants and refugees"<sup>3</sup> and calls on all people to promote the culture of the encounter.

**Plenary Preparation in Ballarat Diocese – new leaflet** Plenary Council 2020 wants to hear from people around Australia. As part of the Plenary preparation process we are asked to consider and respond to three questions. Ballarat Diocese has prepared a leaflet giving information about this Listening and Dialogue process. You are asked to initiate this process in parishes and other communities and groups. Individuals can also respond. Your voice is important to shaping the future of the Church. Flyers are in the foyer for you to take.

**First Eucharist** we have commenced our preparation for First Reconciliation & First Eucharist. Please keep the children in your prayers. The celebration of First Reconciliation will take place on Wednesday and Thursday evening this week and reception of the Sacrament of First Eucharist will be on the weekend of 15/16 September.



**Ballarat Clergy Support Fund** Collection for Sick and Retired Priests – 1-2 September. Creating a secure retirement future for the priests of the diocese is a duty and care in which we can all participate. Fifteen retired priests are currently supported by this Fund. Some live privately, some are retired in units in Ballarat or elsewhere, others live in supported accommodation. The funding required for these commitments is ongoing. Thanks to your generosity, this collection has raised nearly 1.8 million dollars since its inception in 1991, including nearly \$48,000 last year. Along with the priests' own contribution of approximately \$37,000 per year, this annual collection has allowed the Fund to continue to support our sick and retired clergy. A credit card facility is available for your convenience, and contributions over \$2.00 are tax-deductible.

**Social Justice Support Survey** This very short survey will collect valuable information about the support people need to enable them to action social justice initiatives within their communities. The information gathered will inform the design of an online resource accessible to all. The purpose of the survey is to find out what you want and need for learning about and living out social justice. There are only 12 statements to answer yes or no to. To complete the survey go to <https://goo.gl/forms/LSaONqXBRCcmLjwv1>

Collections		We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 650.15		
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$ 1095.40	Average for this financial year	\$ 1616.91

NEXT WEEKEND	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	What's coming up:
	25th August	26th August	
WELCOMER	Greta Kelly	Pat & Bernie	First Reconciliation Wednesday 22nd and Thursday 23rd August at 7pm
COMMENTATOR	Trish Simmons	Judy Brown	
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD	Carmel McCormick	Min Myers	
SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD	Shirley Edgar	Jo-Anne van der Voort	
GIFTS	Madigan Family	Colleen & Judith	
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Jan Mullaly, Rosemary Fithall, Annette Madigan	Irene Monigatti, Eleanor Kennedy, Margaret Martino	
OVERHEADS	Volunteer	Harry Chapman	
SACRISTAN	Maree	Maureen	

## OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS PARISH NEWS

*WELCOMING ~ SPIRIT OF MISSION ~ CHURCH/SCHOOL LINKS*



**Sacraments of First Eucharist & Reconciliation** Preparation for these sacraments has commenced in this Parish. Children and their families are in the process of preparing to receive their first experience of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, followed by receiving their First Communion. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers over the coming weeks.

**Parish Mission 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 Meeting** This informative meeting has been re-scheduled for **Sunday 26th August** following the 10:00 am Mass. Please mark this date in your diaries. This will be your opportunity to become better informed about the working and commitments of this parish community.

**Fr Frank Smith—thankyou and farewell.** Following many years of service to the Exodus Community, Fr Frank Smith has retired. The parish will celebrate his work and service with a Parish Mass on Sunday 16th Sept, followed by a morning tea and presentation. All parishioners and supporters are invited to attend. Those wishing to make a contribution to a gift for Fr Frank are asked to put donations in a marked envelope.

**Baptisms** we welcome Evie and Koby Dannatt, children of Rebecca Smith and Andrew Dannatt who will be baptized this weekend. May they grow in faith with the love and support of their loving parents, godparents and the Parish Community.



**Church Maintenance** If you notice anything broken or requiring mending in and around the church facilities, please contact Maree at the Parish Office (5339 2302) or email details to [wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

**Compassion Walk:** Come join us in this community event promoting and celebrating compassionate actions in Ballarat on Sunday, September 16, 2018. This event is linking into the work of Compassionate Ballarat, who are enrolling Ballarat as a Compassionate City. Participate in experiential activities as you walk around the lake and enjoy food and entertainment in the main area near the rotunda and Pipers by the Lake. The event will feature Barry Gilson, Men's Shed, Amie Brûlée with band, Peter Daffy, the HanzOn Percussion Group, The Bandits, Lisa Wood and more! Registrations at 10.00am for 10.30am start and concluding at 1.00pm. Register at <https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=404489>. For enquires please contact Steph via email [compassionwalk.ballarat@gmail.com](mailto:compassionwalk.ballarat@gmail.com)

Collections		We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 520	Loose money—2nd Collection	\$ 78
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish)	\$ 1121.30	Weekly Average	\$

25th/26th August	Sat 6 pm	Sun 10:00 am	What's coming up:
LEADER of SONG	Corrie Harbour	Margaret White	
MINISTER of the WORD	John Bourke	Anne Briody	Wed 22nd St V.de P.-11:45 am
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Pauline Newman, Pat Dillon, John Bourke + 2 volunteers	Marie McMillan, Maxine Rousch, Sue Searls + 2 volunteers	NEXT WEEK:
SACRISTAN	Pauline Howard	Helen Rienets	
COUNTERS		Des Lloyd & John Calistro	
CHURCH CLEANING	Maxine Rousch, Catherine Clifford, Leonie Hogan		
<b>Rural Communities 8:30 am</b>	This Weekend - <b>Waubra</b>	Next Weekend— <b>Learmonth</b>	
<b>Minister of Word:</b>	Cate Molloy	Sharon Moran	
<b>Minister of Eucharist :</b>	Sharon Moran	Margaret McDonald	
<b>Church Cleaning:</b>	Anne Dalton	Bev Hayward	