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**BALLARAT NEWS**

**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*

**Joy Spreading in Ballarat - Stacey Atkins special guest!**  
Stacey Atkins is the guest speaker at the next Joy Spreading event on Friday, Sept 14, 6.30pm - 9.00pm at Lake View Hotel, Ballarat. An opportunity for young Catholic adults (18-30yo) to share ideas and views in a friendly environment. Free event. This is a Year of Youth initiative - Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy. More info at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7125.

**Literacy is Freedom** The Australian Literacy & Numeracy Foundation (ALNF) is dedicated to raising language, literacy and numeracy standards in Australia and raises funds to develop, implement and sustain innovative projects for individuals, families and communities. Did you know that currently only 1 in 5 indigenous children living in very remote communities can read at the minimum standard? There are things we can do to help. For more information go to the ALNF website https://alnfn.org

**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  
(The office will be closed this week)

**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  
Wednesday: 9:30 am

**Mass times: Wendouree**  
Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm  
Sunday: 8:30 am Rural  
10:00 am OLHC  
Tuesday 5:00 pm  
Thursday 10:00 am  
Friday: 10:00 am

**Readings for next weekend:**  
Dt 4:1-2, 6-8  
Ps 14:2-5, R. v.1  
Jas 1:17-18, 21-22, 27  
Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

**26th August ~ 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

The decisions called for in today's readings are life decisions. The people at the time of Joshua had to decide which god they would worship. The disciples of Jesus had to decide if he was the one who would fulfill their messianic expectations. We have life decisions to make as well. How will we choose?

The choices we make determine the character of our union with God. God called us out of the slavery of sin and protected us throughout the journey of our lives. Jesus walked with us through the challenges of life and performed wonders for us. Why should we look elsewhere? Because we face new challenges. The new demands placed on us may be so great, or the commitment required of us may be so demanding that we feel that we can no longer walk with him. The church may be changing in ways we do not appreciate, or it may not be changing in the ways we believe it should, and so we may feel that we can walk with him no longer.

If we decide to commit ourselves, we will enter into a union with God that is deeper than anything we have previously known. However, this union will be based on faith. We may understand no more than we did in the past, things may be no more to our liking. But, 'to whom shall we go?' Jesus is God's holy one; he has the words of eternal life.

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**Responsorial Psalm:** Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.  
**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Your words, Lord, are spirit and life: you have the words of everlasting life. Alleluia!

**Recently Deceased:** We commend to God: All those who have died recently  
**Anniversaries: We remember:** John Brusaschi, John O'Connor, James Scanlan, Lena Walker, David Kotek, Adrian Mullaly  
**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 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.

**Welcome** this weekend to Fr Robert McCulloch SSC who will be celebrating both Masses at St Columba's.

**Baptisms** we congratulate Daisy Ellen Mason, daughter of Thomas and Molly; and Edward James Butler, son of Michael and Jane, who will be baptized on Sunday morning. We pray that they will grow in faith with the loving support of their parents, godparents and our parish community.



**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. The funding required for these commitments is ongoing.



**Congratulations** to Fr Marcello on his 17th anniversary ordination on Friday 31st August. We pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide you.

**St Columba's Arts Festival** students from St Columba's school will show their talents with their visual art creations. Wednesday 29th August 5pm-7.30pm in the School. See flyer in the foyer for more information.

**Catholic Earthcare Ballarat Diocese** is reminding all that the Season of Creation September 1st to October 4th (Feast of St Francis of Assisi) is an annual global Christian celebration of prayer and action to protect the environment. You are invited to join with us at the ecumenical service celebrating the start of the 2018 season being held at St Mathews Anglican Church, Wendouree (Corner of Howitt and Forest Street) on Sunday 2nd September at 2pm. Light refreshments to follow.

**Plenary Preparation in Ballarat Diocese 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. Your voice is important to shaping the future of the Church. Ballarat Diocese leaflet about this *Listening and Dialogue* process is available on the Plenary page of the Diocese website [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) or ph. 5337 7125. A Parish group is currently looking into a way to approach this. Watch this space.

Collections		We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 655.55		
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$ 1553.20	Average for this financial year	\$ 1728.39

  

NEXT WEEKEND	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	What's coming up:
	1st September	2nd September	
WELCOMER	Mary & Margaret Sullivan	Alison Thorpe	Please note the office will be closed next week, please leave any notices for the notice sheet on the answer phone or email. These will be cleared regularly during the week.
COMMENTATOR	Ruth Marquand	Terry Grano	
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD	Rosemary Fithall	Brian Kennedy	
SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD	Kate Lawry	Carmel King	
GIFTS	Volunteer please	Maureen & Hans	
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Ruth Marquand, Peter Marquand, Ann Lacy	Judy Brown, Kay Merbach, Carole Barr	
OVERHEADS	Troy Severino	Sharon De Beer	
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** The OLHC Parish and the community of St Joseph's Learmonth welcomes Victoria Grace Murray, along with her parents Alexandra and Sean through the Sacrament of Baptism. May Victoria and her family flourish in the love of God and our church 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)

**St Patrick's College 2020 Year 7 Information Evening** on Wednesday October 17, 2018 in College Chapel, 1431 Sturt Street, Ballarat, commencing at 7.30pm. All families are invited to attend the 2020 Year 7 Information evening to hear from the Headmaster, Mr John Crowley and Director of Junior School, Mr John Richards on the fantastic educational experiences awaiting your son at St Patrick's College. The evening will be followed by a College Tour as well as Supper and Question time with Teaching staff. Please register for this event at the following link for your attendance: <https://www.trybooking.com/XKXV> This is a very informative evening and will benefit all families seeking a Catholic education for their son. For further enquiries please contact the Registrar, Kathryn Mundy at [kmundy@stpats.vic.edu.au](mailto:kmundy@stpats.vic.edu.au)

**Parking in front of the church:** The hinges on the double gates are damaged and needs repair. Until this is repaired, the gates need to remain locked to prevent further damage. We apologize for any inconvenience.

**Reconciliation** on Tuesday for children preparing for First Eucharist. Please keep these candidates and families in your prayers.

Collections		We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 519	Loose money—2nd Collection	\$ 158
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish)	\$ 762	Weekly Average	\$

  

1st/2nd Sept	Sat 6 pm	Sun 10:00 am	What's coming up:
LEADER of SONG	Veronica Stott	Sue Searls	
MINISTER of the WORD	Kevin Murphy	Mario Cordioli	
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Lia Yu, Joyce Jackson + 3 volunteers	Margaret White, Christine Richardson + 2 volunteers	
SACRISTAN	Joyce Jackson	Peter & Deanna Osman	
COUNTERS		Brendan Curran and G & T Doery	
CHURCH CLEANING	Maxine Rousch, Catherine Clifford, Leonie Hogan		
<b>Rural Communities 8:30 am</b>	This Weekend - Learmonth	Next Weekend—Waubra	
Minister of Word:	Sharon Moran	James Molloy	
Minister of Eucharist :	Margaret McDonald	Clare Mullane	
Church Cleaning:	Bev Hayward	Kerryn & Lawrence Gallagher	