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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

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.

Compassion Walk - 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 Brulée 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 compassion-walk.ballarat@gmail.com

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
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:
Is 35:4-7
Ps 145:7-10. R. v.1
Jas 2:1-5
Mk 7:31-37

2nd September ~ 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

Focus on the Scriptures

If we have trouble understanding and coming to terms with the teachings of Jesus in the gospel, then we can take some comfort from the reaction of the disciples in John's community some decades after the death of Jesus. It seems that it was not only the members of the Jewish synagogue who were offended by his teaching, but also those Jews who had accepted Jesus as Messiah or Christ and had joined the community of believers. "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" they complain. They are referring to his teaching on the "bread" that he will give them. Once again, Jesus' response introduces new teaching, teaching that can only raise more questions in their minds. He links "spirit" with "life". Having used the term "flesh" of his body and of the life that he offers to those who eat of his flesh, he now introduces an element of doubt: flesh is now "useless"! We must be careful not to interpret this literally. It is typical of John to use the same word in a variety of ways. Here "flesh" is used negatively and metaphorically to refer to human weakness and sinfulness in contrast with "spirit" which evokes the creative spirit of God that moved over the waters at creation and the spirit of God that informed the word of the prophets.

The Johannine Jesus lays the ground for offering progressively deeper insights into his identity and destiny and into the meaning of the Christian life. The reference to his "ascending" recalls the earlier part to the gospel where he is presented as the pre-existent one, the one who comes from God and has already ascended to God (John 3:13). Once again, we are confronted with an ancient cosmology that places God in the heavens above. After his death, Jesus will tell Mary Magdalene that he has not yet ascended and instructs her to tell the disciples that he is ascending to God (20:17). It seems that John wants to keep emphasising the origins of Jesus as the eternal Word and the Wisdom of God. (Abridged)
Veronica Lawson RSM

Responsorial Psalm: The just will live in the presence of the Lord.
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The Father gave us birth by his message of truth, that we might be as the first fruits of his creation. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Huberdina "Betty" Stefanko, and all those who have died recently

Anniversaries: We remember: Peter Dan, Frank Robinson, Raymond Askwith, Cathe McArdle ,

We pray: for the sick of our Parishes, and for the success of the Plenary Council and the children preparing for First Eucharist

ST COLUMBA'S PARISH NEWS

Love, pray, serve, hope & follow Jesus

Happy Fathers Day to all our fathers, spiritual fathers and those who stand in the place of a father. We pray for young fathers, newly embracing their vocation; May they find courage and perseverance to balance work, family and faith in joy and sacrifice. We pray for our own Fathers around the world whose children are lost or suffering; May they know that the God of compassion walks with them in their sorrow. We pray for men who are not fathers but still mentor and guide us with fatherly love and advice. We remember fathers, grandfather, and great grandfathers who are no longer with us but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love. Amen

First Eucharist please continue to pray for the children preparing to receive the Sacrament of Eucharist over the weekend of 15th and 16th September.

RCIA Thinking of becoming Catholic? Or know someone who is interested? We are about to start the 2018/2019 RCIA sessions in the Parish. For more information or just to inquire into the process please contact Judith in the Office 5331 1012

Plenary Council the Parish has formed a reflection group looking at supporting parishioners in how to make submissions to the Plenary Council. We will be promoting this over the next few weeks. There will also be a box available from next weekend for any one who would rather make a written submission.

Ballarat Clergy Support Fund Collection for Sick and Retired Priests – this weekend. 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.

CHILD PROTECTION SUNDAY - SEPTEMBER 9 Each year the Australian Catholic Church dedicates the Sunday at the end of Child Protection Week as Child Protection Sunday. In 2018 the Australian Catholic Church marks Child Safeguarding Sunday on 9 September. Uniquely this year Child Protection Sunday follows on the heels of the formal response of the Australian Catholic Church to the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and the release of the advice provided to Church Leaders by its Truth Justice and Healing Council. Child Protection Sunday affords an Opportunity for Dioceses, Eparchies, Religious Institutes and Ministerial PJs to complement that National Catholic Response with factual information on how individual church entities are themselves active participants in the protection/safeguarding of minors and vulnerable adults. When the Australian Prime Minister offers the response of the Commonwealth Government in Parliament on 22 October we pray it may bring a further sense of how we, both as a Church and as a Nation have faced the terrible truth that we failed our children, but also as a church and as a nation we have now embarked on a new path.



OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS PARISH NEWS

WELCOMING ~ SPIRIT OF MISSION ~ CHURCH/SCHOOL LINKS

Sacraments of First Eucharist. Preparation for the Sacrament of first Eucharist is almost complete. This week these children received the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for their first community. Thanks to those members of the parish who have assisted in leading the preparation Dismissal sessions over the past four 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.

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 September, followed by a morning tea and presentation. All parishioners and supporters are invited to attend. Could parishioners please bring a plate of Morning Tea to share. A number of those who have worked with Fr Frank have been specifically invited to attend. Bishop Paul Bird will be the principal celebrant at this Mass. Those wishing to make a contribution to a gift for Fr Frank are asked to put donations in a marked envelope. There will be a leaving collection next weekend—September for those who wish to donate in this manner.



St Patrick's College 2020 Year 7 Information Evening—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 and other members of staff. **Please register for this event at the following link for your attendance:** <https://www.trybooking.com/XKXV>

Parking in front of the church: The hinges on the double gates into the playground are damaged and need to be repair. Until this is has occurred, the gates need to remain locked to prevent further damage. This matter is being attend-ed to shortly. We apologize for any inconvenience.

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

Parish Meeting: Thanks to those members of the community who attended last Sunday's Parish Meeting. Approximately 40 parishioners attended to hear various reports and to raise issues to be addressed by the Parish Pastoral Council over the coming months.



Happy Father's Day to all our dads, and those who are the significant men in our lives!

Collections		We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 723.85		
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$ \$1,781.75	Average for this financial year	\$ \$1,734.32
NEXT WEEKEND		SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		8th September	9th September
WELCOMER		Helen O'Loughlin	Dan & Mern
COMMENTATOR		Ann Lacey	Anne Rossiter
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD		Jim Kierce	Clara Geoghan
SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD		Frank Sheehan	Mandy Carroll
GIFTS		Jan Mullaly	Pat & Bernie
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST		Trish Simmons, Torie Waight, Maureen Eddy	Colleen Wakefield, Georgina Hinchey, Derek Streulens
OVERHEADS		Norah & Stephen	Judith
SACRISTAN		Norah	Anne
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.			

Collections		We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 476		
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish)	\$ 1326		
8th/9th Sept	Sat 6 pm	Sun 10:00 am	What's coming up:
LEADER of SONG	Vin Dillon`	Margaret White	Sun 2nd Cuppa after Mass organised by the Time Out Family Group,.
MINISTER of the WORD	Sue Calistro	Peter Dwyer	Sept 2nd Father's Day
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Des Lloyd, Mavis McNulty, Pauline Newman + 2 volunteers	Tony Bruty, Judith Potter, Helen Rieniets + 2 volunteers	
SACRISTAN	Pauline & Tony Newman	Joyce Jackson	
COUNTERS		Kath Leonard & Kaye Stringer	
CHURCH CLEANING	MAXINE Rousch and Leonie Hogan		NEXT WEEK:
Rural Communities 8:30 am	This Weekend - Waubra	Next Weekend— Learmonth	
Minister of Word:	James Molloy	Kerryn Gallagher	
Minister of Eucharist :	Clare Mullane	Bev Hayward	
Church Cleaning:	Kerryn & Lawrence Gallagher	Bev Hayward	