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BALLARAT NEWS

Joy Spreading in Ballarat - Stacey Atkins special guest! Stacey Atkins is the guest speaker at the next Joy Spreading event on Friday, September 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. A free Year of Youth event. More info at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7125

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



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

480a Gillies Street, P O Box 192 Wendouree Phone: 5339 2302

Email: ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Email: wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Parish Web: ballarat.catholic.org.au (Select parish)

Parish Web: ballarat.catholic.org.au (Select parish)

School Web: www.scballarat.catholic.edu.au

School Web: www.olhcwendouree.catholic.edu.au

Presbytery: Phone 5332 4324

School Phone: 5339 4726

9th September ~ 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

Focus on the Scriptures

The Gospel story of the healing of the deaf mute is striking because it is one of the few stories where the crowd makes the request of healing from Jesus. This is understandable given that the man cannot speak for himself, but the scene, as Mark writes it, is very touching. Mark tells us that the crowd brought the man to Jesus. 'They' beg Jesus to heal him, 'they' are ordered not to tell anyone about the miracle, but 'they' go straight out and tell everyone about it.

What happens there is what happens here every Sunday. Coming to Mass is not a private affair. It is not my Mass, my prayer, my Church. The pronouns we use reveal a lot about our attitudes. It's our Eucharist, our prayer and our Church. Within the Mass there are opportunities for private prayer, but Eucharist is, essentially, an action of the assembled community. In our own way we bring the deaf and the mute to Jesus each time we gather. This is what the Prayers of the Faithful are all about. This is why they are so important.

When we visit another parish we can tell a lot about it by the care with which the intercessions are composed and compiled. If they only attend to the needs of the parish and never with the wider Church or the world, if they focus on the needs of the Catholic world and never with the plight of those in crisis, who may not share our faith or may hold to another or no faith, it says so much.

The Church has always believed in the power of intercessory prayer. Not that God needs to be reminded what our world needs. God knows that better than we know it. But intercessory prayer sorts our priorities and establishes who has a claim on our affections and concerns. It also enables others to know that we stand in solidarity with them.

And miracles still happen when we are one with those for whom we hope and pray. Sometimes the first miracle that occurs is that we notice the needs of some group beyond our immediate circle. Their suffering moves us and we choose to help them.

Let's pray in this Eucharist that Christ removes our blindness, opens our ears and loosens our tongues so that we speak up for those who are most in need of a healing word that brings them justice and peace. (Abridged) © Richard Leonard SJ.



Responsorial Psalm: Praise the Lord, my soul!

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Maureen Webb, Marie Keenan

Anniversaries: We remember: May O'Donnell

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



Have YOU
Thought About
BECOMING
CATHOLIC?

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

Sew and So Thursday 13th September 2018 at 1.30pm in the Church Foyer. Come along for a chat and a cuppa. Enquiries Margaret 53314032.

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



Holy Hour and Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament Friday 14th September 7pm to 8pm in the Church. All most welcome.

Today is Child Protection Sunday Each year the Australian Catholic Church dedicates the Sunday at the end of Child Protection Week as Child Protection Sunday.

Plenary Council St Columba's The Parish reflection group which consists of Shirley Edgar, Irene Monigatti, Bill Hitchens, Frank Sheehan and Judith O'Sullivan, are currently working on assisting parishioners in making submissions to the Plenary Council. This weekend during both of the Masses there will be a slide show explaining what is a plenary council? There is also a box and reflection questions in the foyer for you to complete. Take the sheets home, reflect on the questions. You can then submit them on line or place in the box and someone will submit on your behalf. If you would like to be a part of this group please speak to one of the members after Mass.

Vacancy ~ Finance Officer for the Parishes of the Greater Ballarat Area. This is a full time position and will have responsibilities across 7 parishes. Applications close on Friday, 14th September. For more information go to <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au>

Clergy support appeal you are invited to make donations to support our retired priests. There are envelopes available on each pew.

Plenary Council - Preparations in Ballarat Diocese Update The Ballarat Diocese is holding Gatherings as part of preparations for Plenary Council 2020. Representatives from Parishes, school communities, Catholic organisations and all others who might be interested, are invited to attend. The Gatherings provide an opportunity to hear from and meet Ms Lana Turvey-Collins, Facilitator of the Australian Plenary Council 2020 Preparation Team. Details of Gatherings are website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7125. The timetable of events is also on the noticeboard.

Collections	We thank you for your generous support		
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 603.75	Clergy Support Fund	\$ 627
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$ 1445.90	Average for this financial year	\$ 1728.78

NEXT WEEKEND	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	What's coming up:
	15th September	16th September	
WELCOMER	Catherine Fara	Helen Linane	
COMMENTATOR	Shirley Edgar	Bruce Chapman	
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD	Tony Beggs	Terry Grano	
SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD	Eileen van der Laar	Irene Monigatti	
GIFTS	Margaret R & Anne Caine	Mandy Carroll	
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Kathleen Keogh, Jennifer Adams, Kate Lawry	Alison Thorpe, Shane Bruty, Anthea Hinchey	
OVERHEADS	Volunteer please	Megan	
SACRISTAN	Sullivan sisters	Megan	

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS PARISH NEWS

WELCOMING ~ SPIRIT OF MISSION ~ CHURCH/SCHOOL LINKS



First Eucharist Congratulations to the 22 children from this parish who will receive their first communion over the course of this weekend. Please keep these children and their families in your thoughts and prayers into the future. As a parish we welcome family and friends who have come to share the candidates special day, as the children are welcomed into the full life of the Catholic church.

Fr Frank Smith's farewell—next Sunday at the 10:00 am Mass, followed by morning tea. Bishop Paul Bird will be concelebrating this Mass. Parishioners and friends of Fr Frank are cordially invited to attend, and give thanks for the generous work of Fr Frank over many years in supporting the community in Wendouree West. A shared morning tea and presentation will follow. Parishioners are asked to bring a plate of finger food to share. Those parishioners wishing to donate toward a substantial gift for Fr Frank are invited to utilise the envelopes available on seats in the church or in the church foyer. There will be a leaving collection at next weekend's Masses.

Liturgy Meeting on Wednesday 19th September at 10:00 am in the Parish Centre.

Corpus Christi Seminary Raffle results: 1st: C. Slibrat (Holden Hills, S.A.) 2nd: Mr Lusky (Murrumbena, Vic), 3rd: M van Der Linden. 4th: G Duff (Port Fairy, Vic). Thank you for your support of our future priests. Better luck next time.

Plenary Council 2020. The Plenary Council 2020 is a gathering of the Church in Australia to make decisions for the future. Your voice is important. All people are invited to contribute to the Plenary Council agenda by sharing your experience of faith and of the church. See plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au for more information.



Insert: Information about.....

- i. Fr Frank Smith's Farewell
- ii. Plenary 2020
- iii. Richard Leonard's Mission

Collections	We thank you for your generous support		
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 520	Loose money	\$ 118
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish)	\$ 468		

15/16th September	Sat 6 pm	Sun 10:00 am	What's coming up:	
LEADER of SONG	Corrie Harbour	Veronica Stott	Sat 8th	First Eucharist
MINISTER of the WORD	Daryl Clark	Bill Keating	Sun 9th	First Eucharist
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Bev Hayward, Pat Dillon, John Bourke + 2 volunteers	Peter Briody, Coralie Kennedy, Harry Kennedy, + 2 volunteers	Next Week	
SACRISTAN	Pauline Howard	Helen Rieniets	Sun 16th	Fr Frank Smith's Farewell
COUNTERS		Kath Leonard & Kaye Stringer	Wed 19th	Liturgy Meeting @ 10am
CHURCH CLEANING	Glenda Muir and Melva Muir			PPC Meeting at 7 pm.
Rural Communities 8:30 am	This Weekend - Learmonth	Next Weekend— Waubra	Thurs 20th	Mass at Kelaston at 11am
Minister of Word:	Kerryn Gallagher	Kerri Mullane		
Minister of Eucharist :	Bev Hayward	Kerryn Gallagher		
Church Cleaning:	Bev Hayward	Kerryn & Lawrence Gallagher		