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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



Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program – now open for new participants

Low-cost online study and formation for lay workers in parish and other ministries, employed or volunteers. Sacraments, scripture, youth ministry, liturgy, leadership - many subjects available – 5 weeks per subject. New subjects include The Mass. Next study cycle starts October 21, contact us by October 12. More info at
www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or amanda.smith@ballarat.catholic.org.au
ph. 5337 7125.

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 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: 11:00 am Kelaston
Friday: 10:00 am

Readings for next weekend:
Wis 2:12, 17-20
Ps 53:3-6. 8. R. v.6
Jas 3:16 – 4:3
Mk 9:30-37

16th September ~ 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

Focus on the Scriptures

'But you, who do you say I am?' This would have to be one of the most powerful questions of the gospels. It echoes down the centuries and is just as relevant today as it ever was. 'Who do you say I am?' Our answer to that question is perhaps the most revealing statement of our faith. Our answer no doubt changes over time as we grow in understanding and as we experience the ups and downs of life, but nonetheless, just like Peter in the gospel passage, our answer remains a clear statement of our faith. 'Who do you say I am?' Just a good guy who lived 2,000 years ago? A role model? A friend? God made flesh? The Word come down from heaven? Nobody? Everybody? Our saviour? An inspired man of God? The Messiah?

Perhaps you've never tried to actually answer the question yourself. It is a confronting question, 'Who do you say I am?' It's confronting because, as Christian people, we believe that our actions are a reflection of our beliefs and values. It's confronting because whatever we say in answer to that question has implications for the way we live. 'Who do you say I am?' You see, the question is in the present tense, not the past. It doesn't ask 'Who do you say I was?'; it asks, 'Who do you say I AM?' The very question asks us to recognise that Jesus was not just some guy who lived 2,000 years ago but rather someone who continues to be a presence in our lives today. And he stands before each and every one of us today and asks that same, demanding, confronting, purposeful question: 'Who do YOU say I am?'

© Greg Sunter

Responsorial Psalm: I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia! Alleluia! My only glory is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, which crucifies the world to me and me to the world. Alleluia!

Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Elaine Le Lievre, Paul Mahar

Anniversaries: We remember: Elizabeth and Edmund Goodger, Giuseppe Finocchiaro, Michael John Crowley, Joseph Davis, Nancy Davis, Basil Gregory, Walter Salo, Bill Armstrong, Chris Haintz Snr.

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

ST COLUMBA'S PARISH NEWS

Love, pray, serve, hope & follow Jesus



First Eucharist Today 41 children from the Parish and school will receive Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time. We pray that they will continue to grow in faith. Congratulations to Rex, Flynn, Lincoln, Grace, Billy, Edward, Abigail, Ella, Grace, Addison, Poppy, Eden, Sophie, Talia, Illy, Imogen, Harper, Beth, Will, Ella & Archie (Saturday) and Hudson, Alex, Beau, Madeleine, Marley, Tahlia, Finnigan, Lily, Eamonn, Hannah, Max, Isabella, Agatha, Joel, Lily, Finn, Gabriel, Connor, Charlie and Thomas (Sunday).

Congratulations to Josh and Emma Cannane on the arrival of Izaak James, a brother for Isabelle and Alexander



Missionary Society of St Columban Fr Robert McCulloch sends his thanks to all those who generously gave to the work of the Society in Pakistan during his recent visit to the Parish. \$1450 was raised over the weekend. This money will support the work of St Elizabeth Hospital.

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. The timetable of events is also on the noticeboard. The website is www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au to subscribe. More info is also available on Diocesan website.

End of Season of Creation 2018 An invitation is extended to a talk by Sr Adele Howard RSM who attended the two day conference at the Vatican on 5-6th July on the third anniversary of Laudato Si, titled "Saving Our Common Home and the Future of Life on Earth" at St Patrick's Hall, Ballarat on Saturday 29th September at 10.30am following 10.00am Mass at the Cathedral. All welcome, tea/coffee available.



Caroline Chisholm Society Victorian Election Statement The Caroline Chisholm Society supports mothers with babies and toddlers who are experiencing financial or emotional stress. The goal of the society is to offer a safe and nurturing environment for your kids. On Saturday, November 24, 2018, Victorians will decide who forms the next State Government. When deciding who gets your vote, please consider pregnant and new mums, babies and toddlers. Caroline Chisholm Society has heard the voice of over 1200 families who came to see us last year about the opportunities and challenges faced by families in raising their babies and toddlers. See flyer on notice board in the foyer.

Collections	We thank you for your generous support			
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 626.45	Clergy Support Fund (to date)	\$	1,388.00
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$1,203.25	Average for this financial year	\$	1,681.00

NEXT WEEKEND	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	What's coming up:
	22nd September	23rd September	
WELCOMER	Ruth Marquand	Geraldine Mugavin	
COMMENTATOR	Rosemary Fithall	Pat Kenna	
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD	John Kennedy	Terry Ranger	
SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD	John van de Laar	Terry Ranger	
GIFTS	Tom & Greta Kelly	Sharon de Beer	
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Shirley Edgar, Troy Severino, Jan Mullaly	Bruce Chapman, Judith O'Sullivan, Mary Kennedy	
OVERHEADS	Trish Simmons	Judith	
SACRISTAN	Maree	Maureen	

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS PARISH NEWS

WELCOMING ~ SPIRIT OF MISSION ~ CHURCH/SCHOOL LINKS



Plenary Council 2020. Preparations for the Plenary Council 2020 begins with **Open Listening and Dialogue**. It is the first step to preparing the agenda for the Plenary Council. Your experience of faith and the Church is important. Read about how you can **#shareyourstory** at plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au. Parishioners will be also invited to host or join a parish discussion group. Lana Turvey-Collins, facilitator of the Plenary 2020 team will be in Ballarat on October **Wed 10th at 7pm** and **Thurs October 11th at 10 am** Further information to follow.

Welcome Bishop Paul, who celebrate Mass on Sunday to mark the retirement of Fr Frank Smith from the Exodus Community. Parishioners are invited to join together for Morning Tea to thank Fr Frank for his years of service to this community. There will be a presentation to Fr Frank during this occasion.

Parish Pastoral Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 19th in the Parish Centre.

Thank you to all the parishioners who have supported the 22 candidates who received their First Communion last weekend. Hannah, Sunni, Millie, Zoe, Freya, Harry, Gemma, Lexi, Leo, Charlotte, Chad, Ruby, Samuel, Marleisha, Jacob, Blair, Gawer, Lachlan, James, Gabriel, Georgia, Molly and their families have appreciated your prayers and the support they have received from OLHC parish. Thanks to those parishioners who led the weekly preparation dismissal sessions



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. Members of the Ballarat community are invited to join in this renewal experience.



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

Australian Catholic Social Justice Statement 2018-2019: "A Place to Call Home" We will celebrate Social Justice Sunday on September 30. This year, the Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement is entitled: **A Place to Call Home: Making a home for everyone in our land.** This is a response to the growing problem of homelessness in Australia. For further details, a copy of the statement and relevant resources, visit the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council website www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/publications/social-justice-statements#SJS2018 or call (02) 8306 3499.

Found: a set of car keys were found after last week's Masses. Please phone the parish office to re-claim.

Collections	We thank you for your generous support			
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 618	2nd Collection (Last week's giving for up-keep of Parish)	\$	749
Clergy Support Fund (to date)	\$ 317	Loose money	\$	156

22nd/23rd Sept	Sat 6 pm	Sun 10:00 am	What's coming up:	
LEADER of SONG	Corrie Harbour	Sue Searls	Wed 19th	Parish Pastoral Council meeting at 7:00 pm
MINISTER of the WORD	Kath Connors	Helen & Colin Feely		
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Lia Yu, Joyce Jackson + 3 volunteers	Pauline Howard, Marie McMillan, Maxine Rousch + 2 volunteers	Thurs 20th	Anointing Mass at Kelston at 11:00 am.
SACRISTAN	John & Sue Calistro	Geoff & Marg McLean		
COUNTERS		Peter & Deanna Osman		
CHURCH CLEANING	Glenda Muir & Melva Muir			
Rural Communities 8:30 am	This Weekend - Waubra	Next Weekend— Learmonth		
Minister of Word:	Kerri Mullane	Bev Hayward		
Minister of Eucharist :	Kerryn Gallagher	Tony McDonald		
Church Cleaning:	K & L Gallagher	Bev Hayward		