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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

**End of Season of Creation 2018 talk:**  
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, title "Saving Our Common Home and the Future of Life on Earth" at St Patrick's hall, Ballarat on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September at 10.30am-12.00 following 10.00am Mass at the Cathedral. All welcome, tea/coffee available.

**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 Sajjan 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: 2:00 pm Funeral  
Thursday: 10:00 am  
Friday: 10:00 am

**Readings for next weekend:**  
Nm 11:25-29  
Ps 18:8. 10. 12-14. R. v.9  
Jas 5:1-6  
Mk 9:38-43. 45. 47-48

**23rd September ~ 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)**

**Focus on the Scriptures**

More focussed on personal recognition and status, the "twelve" engage in a childish argument about who is the greatest among them. They are inside "the house" in Capernaum, the home of Jesus. They are understandably silent when Jesus questions them about the discussion they had "on the way". They have much to learn and he needs their attention if they are to understand who he is and what it means to be his disciple. They need to learn that being first has nothing to do with seeking the limelight, with hierarchy or status, with power or adulation. It has everything to do with engaging in ministry without distinction or discrimination, with being "servant of all". Like us, they may also have much to learn from "the way" itself, the path they tread through the land.

An engaging scene follows this discussion. They are "inside the house", an open house where all are welcome. Jesus places a child in their midst. The child is unnamed. We might give this child a name so that she or he is a real person for us. Jesus seemingly gathers the twelve in a circle around him. Taking the child in his arms, he tries to show them that gospel leadership resides, not in privilege, but in the welcome offered to those whose voices are rarely heard and whose needs are frequently ignored.

Jesus, the suffering Messiah, actually identifies with a defenceless child, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me". His identification with the defenceless is as intimate as his identification with God, "the one who sent me". As a church, we might well hear today's gospel story as a call to respond with compassion and justice to those who have suffered the indignity and injustice of abuse in their childhood. We might hear it as an invitation to listen to the cry of our sisters and brothers who continue to seek the dignity and justice that belong to all of God's people. We might learn from the five high profile Australians, the "filthy rich and homeless", who lived for a time with the nation's most vulnerable and called us all to commit to ways of being that might enable all to live in dignity and hope.

(Abridged) Veronica Lawson RSM

**Responsorial Psalm:** The Lord upholds my life.  
**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! God has called us with the gospel to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

**Recently Deceased: We commend to God:** Peter Baier (friend of Polly Borg), John Molony (Canberra), Kathleen Moran

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Steven Molloy, Mick McNamara, Kath Sullivan, Leonie Kelly, Jack Clancy

**We pray:** for the sick of our Parishes, especially Blake Dridan and for the success of the Plenary Council

## ST COLUMBA'S PARISH NEWS

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

**Baptism** this weekend we welcome Charlie Powell, son of Andrew and Emma into our faith community. We pray he will grow in faith with the love and support of his family, godparents and our parish community.



**Plenary Council St Columba's** The Parish reflection group, which consists of Shirley Edgar, Irene Monigatti, Bill Hitchins, Frank Sheehan and Judith O'Sullivan, are currently working on assisting parishioners in making submissions to the Plenary Council. If you would like to be a part of this group please speak to one of the members after Mass. This weekend there will be a short video presentation at the conclusion of the homily. Please take home a reflection sheet to enter your submission online or return to box in the foyer.

**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](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) or ph. 5337 7125. The timetable of events is also on the noticeboard.

**Parish Mission** all parishioners are invited to the Wendouree Parish Mission with Fr Richard Leonard which will be held from the 27-30 October timetable of events on the noticeboard.



**Mens' group** will meet again on Thursday 27th September at 1.45pm at Bodega Café in Howitt Street. All men welcome to attend for a cuppa and a chat. If you need transport please contact the Office.

**Can you help?** We are looking for more people to help with Communion to the housebound. If you are able to assist either on a weekend or weekday, regular or as a fill in, please contact Judith ph: 5331 1012

**Also** if you would like to assist on any of our rosters, we will be doing the next roster in early December, so think about it now. Training will be given to anyone wishing to join one of the teams. We particularly need more Sacristans, Readers, Overhead operators and Ministers of Eucharist mostly for 6pm Mass.

**Spring clean** now we are heading into Spring, it is a good opportunity to give our Church a bit of a tidy. Please let Judith if you are available to help clean windows, dust and tidy on any day that suits you.

**Palms Australia** Considering an assignment abroad? Could your skills assist communities overseas? What to know more? Then come to the Info night Tuesday 16 October 5.30pm Ross House, Jenny Florence Room, 247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne. Find out more at [www.palms.org.au/events](http://www.palms.org.au/events) or 02 9560 5333.

| Collections   | We thank you for your generous support |                                 |            |  |
|---|--|---------------------------------|------------|--|
| 1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese) | \$ 995.45                              | Clergy support (to date)        | \$ 1443    |  |
| 2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)  | \$ 1493.35                             | Average for this financial year | \$ 1647.87 |  |

| NEXT WEEKEND                | SATURDAY  | SUNDAY                                      | What's coming up:  |
|-----------------------------|---|---|--|
|                             | 29th September                                    | 30th September                              |  |
| WELCOMER                    | John Madigan Family                               | Catherine Fara                              | Men's group Thursday 27th 1.45pm Bodega (please note an earlier time due to Bodega closing at 3pm) |
| COMMENTATOR                 | John van der Laar                                 | Jo-Anne van der Voort                       |  |
| FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD  | Jennifer Adams                                    | Kierce O'Loughlin                           |  |
| SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD | Ann Lacey   | Anne Rossiter                               |  |
| GIFTS                       | Glenane Family                                    | Lorna & Carmel                              |  |
| MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST      | Rosemary Fithall, Annette Madigan, Peter Marquand | Irene Monigatti, Kathy Bennetts, Judy Brown |  |
| OVERHEADS                   | Kathleen Keogh                                    | Sharon De Beer                              |  |
| SACRISTAN                   | Volunteer   | 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](http://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 **Wednesday, October 10th at 7pm** and **Thursday, October 11th at 10 am** Further information is provided in the insert accompanying this Bulletin.



**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.

**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](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/publications/social-justice-statements#SJS2018) or call (02) 8306 3499. There are a few copies of this statement available in the foyer.

**Fr Frank's Farewell.** Thankyou to parishioners and friends who made generous donations towards Fr Frank's gift—an orthopaedic chair. Truly appreciated. Thank you also to those members of the OLHC community who provided wonderful hospitality and an abundance of food to mark this event. This was a fitting tribute to Fr Frank who has made a significant contribution to the community in Wendouree West. Those members of our community who spoke paid fitting tribute to the work of Fr Frank over the past fourteen years in establishing and leading the Exodus Community.



**Ticket Sales for Rotary Car Raffle** —proceeds to support OLHC church development. Books of tickets are available from Pauline Newman in the church foyer.

| Collections   | We thank you for your generous support |   |          |  |
|---|--|---|----------|--|
| 1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese) | \$ 648                                 | 2nd Collection (Last week's giving for up-keep of Parish) | \$ 748   |  |
|   | Loose Money \$ 174                     | Average for this financial year                           | \$ 1,469 |  |

| 29th/30th Sept                   | Sat 6 pm  | Sun 10:00 am  | What's coming up:                         |
|----------------------------------|---|---|---|
| LEADER of SONG                   | Vin Dillon  | Margaret White  |   |
| MINISTER of the WORD             | Jan Godfrey   | Eileen Franklin   | <b>Sun 30th</b> Mass at Lexton at 8:30 am |
| MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST           | Mavis McNulty, Des Lloyd, Pauline Newman + 2 volunteers     | Christine Richardson, Sue Searls, Val Bourke + 2 volunteers | <b>Next Week:</b>                         |
| SACRISTAN                        | Joyce Jackson   | Peter & Deanna Osman  |   |
| COUNTERS                         |   | Peter & Deanna Osman  |   |
| CHURCH CLEANING                  | Helen Rieniets & Robert Rhodes                              |   |   |
| <b>Rural Communities 8:30 am</b> | This Weekend - <b>Learmonth</b> Next Weekend— <b>Lexton</b> |   |   |
| <b>Minister of Word:</b>         | Bev Hayward   |   |   |
| <b>Minister of Eucharist :</b>   | Tony McDonald   |   |   |
| <b>Church Cleaning:</b>          | Bev Hayward   |   |   |