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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

### Nazareth House Ballarat Fete

Saturday, November 17th, 2018 at 10.00am. Homemade goodies, grab a bargain and win a prize on the very popular spinning wheel. We are continuing to collect donations of items for our spinning wheel or other home-made wares and food for selling at our stalls. Donations can be collected by contacting Margaret, ph. 0419 003415 or left at Nazareth House Reception.

**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  
Wednesday 2:00pm Funeral  
Thursday: 11:00 am Kelaston  
Friday: 9:15am

**Readings for next weekend:**  
Dn 12:1-3  
Ps 15:5. 8-11. R.v.1  
Heb 10:11-14, 18  
Mk 13:24-32



## 11th November ~ 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

**Focus on the Scriptures**

Whether the longer or shorter gospel reading is selected for today's liturgy, the literary context deserves attention. Jesus is teaching the crowds in the Jerusalem Temple. He knows the vulnerability of many of the people around him and issues a warning about the grandiose behaviour of the Jerusalem scribes. The scribes were generally learned men on whom the people relied for rulings in matters of sacred law as well as for drawing up contracts and other important documents. They commanded the respect of many of the people. Jesus is not impressed by the behaviour of some of the scribes. He sees their pomposity as a mask for dishonesty and exploitation: they will receive the "greater condemnation". They "devour the houses of widows" and hide behind the pretext of long prayers. Widows included women who had lost their husbands through death or divorce as well as single unmarried women. They were women alone without male protection in a patriarchal society and without the benefit of a social security system. They were dependent for survival upon the care of family and community. Jesus' words of condemnation are strong words that will understandably provoke a reaction. It is no surprise that the Jerusalem scribes are among those who later conspire to kill him (Mark 14:1).

It is easy enough to be taken in by the posturing of those who present as superior and who look for status recognition. It is also easy to miss the goodness of those on the edge even if it is happening before our very eyes. The context presents Jesus as attuned to the plight of the widows. He now notices and draws the attention of his disciples to the action of one particular "despised" widow. Her tiny contribution to the treasury of two copper coins for the upkeep of the Temple is far more significant than the big sums contributed by the wealthy out of their excess. Is this woman being presented as the victim of an unjust system that extracts from her what she cannot afford, as some commentators insist? Or is the Markan Jesus presenting her as a free agent, a model of discipleship, who offers everything she has to live on? It may not be necessary to choose between these two interpretations. It is clear that this woman's action provides a striking contrast to that of the scribes, like the action of another woman who, a little later in the story, breaks a precious jar and pours an abundance of healing ointment over the head of Jesus as he faces the prospect of death. As the gospel draws to a close, then, we find two stories of extravagantly generous unnamed women, stories told in memory of their gospel foolishness. Veronica Lawson RSM



**Responsorial Psalm:** Praise the Lord, my soul!  
**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs. Alleluia!

**Recently Deceased:** We commend to God: Leo McGoldrick, Basil Britt  
**Anniversaries: We remember:** Brian O'Sullivan, William Beddoe, Damien Rowan, Michael Sullivan  
**We pray:** for the sick of our Parishes, especially Blake Dridan, for the success of the Plenary Council and for those on the RCIA journey for 2018/2019.

## ST COLUMBA'S PARISH NEWS

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

**Remembrance Service** A time for families to remember loved ones who have died during the past year. Wednesday 14th November at 7pm in the Church. It will be a time to offer hope and consolation to those of us left behind. This will be followed by a light supper. All welcome.



**November Masses** During the month of November the Church traditionally remembers all those who have died. Rather than adding all anniversaries in the notice sheet during November, names will be recorded in a Memorial book. We invite you to add a new name to the blue book (you do not need to add if you have done so in previous years). These will be transferred to a permanent book which will be in front of the altar during November. All weekend Masses during the month will be offered for the deceased.



**Christmas lunch** will be held on Friday 30th November 12 noon Midlands Golf Club Fairways Room. \$28 a head for a two course Christmas themed meal. Bookings to Judith in the office or write your name on the list before the 14th November. All parishioners and friends from OLHC and St Columba's are welcome. Don't forget to reserve your place this weekend.

**Rosters** I will be preparing the next roster for January—April within the next couple of weeks. If you wish to join a ministry or make any changes to the current roster please let me know asap. Please also advise if you will be away during this period. Thank you. Judith 5331 1012.

**Advent booklets** we will be selling reflection booklets to help you in your spiritual journey in Advent as we head towards Christmas. These will be available after both Masses from next weekend. They will also be available from the Parish Office. The cost will be \$4.00—correct change will be greatly appreciated.

**Parish Census** over the weekends of 17/18 and 24/25 November cards will be distributed to update our Parish database.

**Garden Party - Asylum Seeker fundraiser** - On Sunday November 18th, the annual fundraiser for Asylum seekers/Refugees and vulnerable people will be held from 2 pm to 4pm at 30 Waller Avenue, Newington. Celtic Music, Irish dancing, children singing, Guest speaker, cake stall, plant stall, face painting. Drawing of Victor Harbour holiday competition. Mini auction. Lucky Dips. Entry \$20. Children free. All welcome.

**Baptisms** we congratulate Connie Noreen Devine daughter of Belinda and Rafael, who will be Baptized this Sunday. We pray that she will grow in her faith with the loving support of her parents and our parish community.

**World Day of the Poor** Pope Francis has called for 18 November 2018 to be the World Day of the Poor. The Holy Father has invited "priests, and in particular deacons, on whom hands have been laid for the service of the poor (Acts 6: 1-7), as well as religious and the lay faithful – men and women – who in parishes, associations and ecclesial movements make tangible the Church's response to the cry of the poor, to live this World Day as a special moment of new evangelisation". Read his message on the Diocesan website. Pope Francis concluded his message by saying that "the cry of the poor is also a cry of hope which manifests the certainty of being liberated".

Collections	We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 711	
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$ 1,678	Average for this financial year \$ 1648

	NEXT WEEKEND		What's coming up:
	SATURDAY 17th November	SUNDAY 18th November	
WELCOMER	Greta Kelly	Alison Thorpe	<b>Liturgy meeting</b> will be held in the Parish meeting room on Tuesday 20th November at 7.30pm. New members most welcome.
COMMENTATOR	Ruth Marquand	Pat Kenna	
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD	Jim Kierce	Irene Monigatti	
SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD	Frank Sheehan	Volunteer	
GIFTS	David & Catherine Fara	Lorna & Carmel	
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Trish Simmons, Kathleen Keogh, Shirley Edgar	Kay Merbach, Carole Barr, Colleen Wakefield	
OVERHEADS	Trish Simmons	Megan	
SACRISTAN	Trish Simmons	Megan	

## OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS PARISH NEWS

*WELCOMING ~ SPIRIT OF MISSION ~ CHURCH/SCHOOL LINKS*

**Appreciation Sunday - Feast of Christ the King (November 25<sup>th</sup>)** As previously advised the Parish Pastoral Council is compiling a list of names of parishioners who during the past twelve months have concluded their involvement in a parish ministry. The generosity and commitment of these parishioners, some of whom have served in the role for many years, will be suitably acknowledged at our Eucharist on the Feast of Christ the King. If you have a name you wish to put forward please speak with a PPC Member or ring the Parish Office (ph: 5339 2302)



**Celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Opening of the New Church** Sunday November 25<sup>th</sup> will mark 20 years since our new Church was blessed and opened on the Feast of Christ the King 1998. To celebrate this significant milestone we will be having a shared morning tea following the 10.00am Mass.

**Advance Notice:** Due to the Celebrations to mark the 20th anniversary of the Opening of the New Church there will be no Mass celebrated at OLHC on Saturday 19th November, so that the community can come together to celebrate at the Sunday Mass and gathering.

**Plenary 2020** Some further opportunities for Plenary 2020 Discussion Groups will be available during November. If you wish to have input into the Plenary 2020 process please put your name on the sheet in the church foyer.



**Memorial Notices:** Please advise the parish Office if you would like someone named in "Anniversaries".

**Parish Census:** Over the weekends of 17/18th and 24/25th of November cards will be distributed to update our Parish Data Base.

**St Vincent De Paul Christmas** products for sale: Cards (packets of 8) = \$5 per packet and Columban Calendars = \$9 each.

**OLHC Christmas Day Lunch 2018.** The planning for the Christmas Day Lunch is happening, would anyone have time to assist in areas such as **bookings, volunteer-helper organisation, shopping, correspondence?** Requests for assistance for the **setup, pre-Christmas meal preparation** will be made closer to the time. An invitation to assist with **supervising and packing away** on Christmas Day is also extended to anyone whose family "may be at the in-laws on Christmas Day", which is how supervisors and volunteers have been able to help out on Christmas day for many years now. If possible, please contact Sandra Dillon 53448442

Collections	We thank you for your generous support		
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 846	Loose money (2nd collection)	\$ 121
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish)	\$ 972	Weekly Average	\$ 1463

17th/18th November	Sat 6 pm	Sun 10:00 am	What's coming up:
<b>LEADER of SONG</b>	Sue Searls	Margaret White	
<b>MINISTER of the WORD</b>	Pauline Newman	Helen & Colin Feely	Thurs 15th Mass at Kelaston at 11 am
<b>MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST</b>	Bev Hayward, Joyce Jackson, John Bourke + 2 volunteers	Harry Kennedy, Coralie Kennedy, Pauline Howard + 2 volunteers	<b>Next Week</b>
<b>SACRISTAN</b>	John & Sue Calistro	Geoff & Marg McLean	
<b>COUNTERS</b>	Des Lloyd and John Calistro		
<b>Rural Communities 8:30 am</b>	This Weekend - <b>Learmonth</b>	Next Weekend— <b>Waubra</b>	
<b>Minister of Word:</b>	Anne Dalton	Cate Molloy	
<b>Minister of Eucharist :</b>	Sharon Moran	Kerryn Gallagher	
<b>Church Cleaning:</b>	Bev Hayward	Phyllis & Pat Bourke	