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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



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)

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18th November ~ 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

Focus on the Scriptures

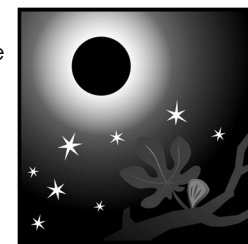
In the opening lines of today's gospel reading, there are clear echoes of two passages from the prophecy of Isaiah. The first passage reads, "For the stars of the heavens and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be dark at its rising, and the moon will not shed its light" (Isaiah 13:10). These images from Isaiah read like an unravelling of God's work in creation. The second passage likewise predicts a scenario that seems to reverse the Genesis creation account: "All the host of heaven [the constellations] shall rot away, and the skies roll up like a scroll. All their host shall wither like a leaf withering on a vine, or fruit withering on a fig tree" (Isaiah 34:4). The prophet is using powerful poetic imagery to speak of God's judgment on the people of Israel who have strayed from their covenant relationship.

The parallel images in Mark 13 are referenced to the aftermath of the "time of distress" associated with the destruction of Jerusalem, a time of intense suffering for the community of believers. Jesus tells his disciples that, after all their suffering, strange cosmic phenomena will signal his return in glory and usher in a new age for God's people when the faithful will be gathered in. The message is intended to give comfort and hope to Mark's persecuted community of the late sixties or early seventies of the first century. Just as the new leaves on the fig tree signal the approach of summer, so too will the strange signs in the heavens signal Christ's coming and the onset of a new era, an end to the "time of distress". The message is thus one of encouragement for the community as they face an uncertain future rather than one of judgment.

The strange apocalyptic imagery and the ancient cosmology that has Jesus returning on the clouds need not distract the modern and scientifically sophisticated reader from hearing the call to trust in God no matter what happens. This reading may remind some of us that the unravelling of God's work is more than a poetic image in our times. The freak storms, the cyclones, and other signs of global warming we have seen might well serve as reminders to attend more carefully to the preservation of planet Earth. We may also hear a call to pay closer attention to what the "other-than-human" Earth elements can tell us about God and God's ways.

Tim Winton's memoir, *Island Home*, offers a contemporary reminder of who we are as planetary beings, of what we have done to our planet and of how attentiveness to land and landscape is integral to being who we are. The wild fig or the black-flanked rock wallabies, for instance, may be more eloquent teachers than we had ever realised.

Veronica Lawson RSM



Responsorial Psalm: Keep me safe, O God: you are my hope.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Be watchful, and pray constantly, that you may be worthy to stand before the Son of Man. Alleluia!

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

Tuesday: 11:00 am Hailey

House Anointing Mass

Wednesday: 9:30 am

Mass times: Wendouree

Sunday: 8:30 am Rural

10:00 am OLHC

Thursday: 10:00 am

Friday: 10:00am

Readings for next weekend:

Dn 7:13-14

Ps 92:1-2. 5. R.v.1

Rv 1:5-8

Jn 18:33-37



Recently Deceased: We commend to God: Monica Breen, Doug Gillett, Phillip Auer, Jim Walters

Anniversaries: We remember: Cornelia Johanna van Raaphorst, Herbert Krusche, Jean and Felix Favalaro

We pray: for the sick of our Parishes, especially Saskiah Gallagher, 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



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.

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 this week. Please also advise if you will be away during this period. Thank you. Judith 5331 1012.

Advent booklets we will be selling reflection booklets from the Diocese of Wollongong 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.

Liturgy meeting will be held in the Parish meeting room on Tuesday 20th November at 7.30pm. New members most welcome.

The House of Welcome Garden Party are hosting a Garden Party in support of local people and families who are seeking asylum. Sunday, November 18, 2018 at 30 Waller Avenue, Newington, 2.00pm. For enquiries ph. 0401 175045 or email annekav@123@yahoo.co.uk

Joy Spreading The next Joy Spreading event for young adults (18–30 yo) will be held Friday, December 7, 2018 from 6.30pm – 9.00pm in the Cathedral Parish Office meeting room with guest speaker Fr Justin Driscoll. An opportunity for young Catholic adults to share ideas and views in a friendly environment. Festive snacks and drinks provided. Info: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph: 5337 7160.

June 2019 Cathedral Parish Holy Land Pilgrimage An information session will be held at 6.00pm on Wednesday, November 21, 2018 in the Ballarat Cathedral Presbytery for the June 9 – 22, 2019 pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Fr Justin Driscoll and Leonie Spencer from Lifestyle Travel in Ballarat invite interested people to 'come and see'. This pilgrimage will include Petra in Jordan, the Dead Sea, Mt Nebo, Madaba, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Capernaum, Cana, Sea of Galilee, Jerusalem, Ein Kerem, Jericho and Quamran.

Collections	We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 693.70	
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$ 1382.90	Average for this financial year \$ 1679.35

NEXT WEEKEND	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	What's coming up:
	24th November	25th November	
WELCOMER	Mary & Margaret Sullivan	Dan & Mern	Advance notice: Advent Anointing Mass will be held on Wednesday 12th December at 11am. Advent Reconciliation will be on Thursday 13th December at 7pm.
COMMENTATOR	Ann Lacey	Jo-Anne van der Voort	
FIRST MINISTER OF THE WORD	Tony Beggs	Terry Ranger	
SECOND MINISTER OF THE WORD	Eileen van der Laar	Kierce O'Loughlin	
GIFTS	Linley & Anne Caine	Maureen & Hans	
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Jennifer Adams, Kate Lawry, Troy Severino	Georgina Hinchey, Derek Streulens, Bruce Chapman	
OVERHEADS	Volunteer please	Harry	
SACRISTAN	Maree	Maureen	

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS PARISH NEWS

WELCOMING ~ SPIRIT OF MISSION ~ CHURCH/SCHOOL LINKS

Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Opening of the New Church Next Weekend November 24th / 25th November. There will be **NO 6.00pm VIGIL MASS on Saturday November 24th** at Wendouree. Country Mass as usual on Sunday morning. To celebrate our 20th anniversary of the opening of the Church we will have a shared Morning Tea following the 10.00am Mass on Sunday November 25th. It would be appreciated if everyone can bring something to share. At the Sunday Morning Mass, as a community we will have the opportunity to show our appreciation to those parishioners who have faithfully served in various ministries and are now concluding their involvement with the ministry.

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.



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 0438 448 942. **Bookings for lunch 0419 975 914.**

Catholic Mission Annual Appeal Thank you to those parishioners who have already donated. If you wish to contribute to the work of mission, it is not too late. Please place your donation into a clearly marked envelope and place onto the collection plate. Your prayers and financial support is greatly appreciated.

Rural Catholic Communities Christmas Luncheon on Sunday, 25th starting at 12 noon at Quoin Hill Winery, Waubra. Ring Anne 5343 6236 to book a seat.

Collections	We thank you for your generous support	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$ 520	Loose money (2nd collection) \$ 95
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish)	\$ 666	Weekly Average \$ 1463

24th/25th November	Sat 6 pm	Sun 10:00 am	What's coming up:
LEADER of SONG		Corrie Harbour	
MINISTER of the WORD		Ena Bruty	
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST		Christine Richardson, Marie McMillan, Maxine Rousch + 2 volunteers	
SACRISTAN		Peter & Sapphire Osman	
COUNTERS	Des Lloyd & John Calistro		
Rural Communities 8:30 am	This Weekend— Waubra	Next Weekend— Learmonth	
Minister of Word:	Cate Molloy	Julia Cini	
Minister of Eucharist :	Kerryn Gallagher	Bev Hayward	
Church Cleaning:	Phyllis & Pat Bourke	Bev Hayward	